THE SECOND EPISTLE OF JOHN.

THE STRUCTURE OF THE EPISTLE AS A WHOLE.

| 1—3. | ELECT LADY AND CHILDREN: BENEDICTION |
| 4—6. | CHILDREN WALKING ACCORDING TO THE FATHERS COMMANDMENT. |
| 7—8. | WARNING AGAINST DECEIVERS. |
| 9—11. | TRANSgressORS REJECTING CHRIST’S TEACHING. |
| 12, 13. | JOY FULFILLED: CHILDREN OF THE ELECT SISTER. SALUTATION. |

THE SECOND AND THIRD EPISTLE OF JOHN NOTES.
THE SECOND AND THIRD EPISTLES OF JOHN.

NOTES.

The likeness of these two epistles indicates that both were by one writer, and in each case the internal evidence supports the traditional belief that both were written by the apostle John. Several of the early “fathers” quote the Second Epistle, certain passages of which so closely resemble parts of the First Epistle as to confirm the view of its being by the same writer.

The Second Epistle is addressed “unto the elect lady and her children”, and some have understood a certain church and its members Alford, however, gives good grounds for believing that an individual is meant.

The Third Epistle is to “Gaius the beloved”, a notable believer. The name was a common one, and the bearer may not be of those mentioned in Acts, &c.

The probability is that both epistles were written from Ephesus and about the same time, but nothing is known definitely as to either place or time of writing.

The reader will readily see the Structure of these two short epistles. Each takes the form of an Introversion, the intermediate members marking exhortation and warning. The Third Epistle contains a personal element, commendation of Gaius and Demetrius, and condemnation of Diotrephes.

THE SECOND EPISTLE OF JOHN.

1 THE elder to the elect lady and her children, whom I love in truth; and not I only, but all they also that have known truth;

2 On account of the truth, which abideth in us, and shall be with us for ever.

3 Grace shall be with you, mercy, and peace, from God the Father, and from Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.

4 I rejoiced greatly that I found one of thy children walking in truth, as we received a commandment from the Father.

5 And now I ask thee, lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment to thee, but that which we had from the beginning, in order that we love one another.

6 And this is love, that we walk after His commandments. This is the commandment, that, as ye heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it.

7 For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not Jesus Christ coming in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist.

8 Look to yourselves, in order that ye lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward.

9 Whosoever goeth before, and abideth not in the doctrine, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.


2 For, &c. = On account of (Ap. 104. v. 2) the truth.

dwelleth = abideth. Gr. meno. See p. 1511.


be = shall be. &c. = known. Only here in John.


4 rejoiced. Cp. 3 John 3. Several of Paul's epistles open with thanksgiving.

greatly. Gr. lian. Only here and 3 John 3 in John's writings.

of. Ap. 104. vii. Not implying that there were others who did not so walk, but referring to such as he had met. have. Omit.

5 beseech = ask. Ap. 134. i. 3.

new. Gr. kainos. See Matt. 9. 17.

from the beginning. Gr. ap' arches. See 1 John 1. 1.

that = in order that. Gr. hina.

6 have. Omit. In this verse is the Fig. Antimetabole, "walk ... commandments—commandment ... walk".


that, &c. = Lit. Jesus Christ coming in the flesh. The present participle is used, as in Rev. 1. 4. In 1 John 4. 2. 3, the perfect is used, referring to His first coming. This refers to His second coming. Cp. Acts 1. 11.

8 Look to. Ap. 133. i. 5. we. The texts read "ye" in both occ.

lose. Gr. apollumi. See John 17. 12.

have wrought. I. e. the truth and love resulting from John's teaching.

reward. Gr. misthos.


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II. JOHN.

10 If any one cometh unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, and bid him not God speed [say Hail!]:

11 For he that biddeth him God speed partaketh of his evil deeds.

12 Having many things to write to you, I would not write by means of paper and ink: but I hope to come unto you, and speak face to face, in order that your joy may be full.

13 The children of thy elect sister salute thee. . . .

our. The texts read "your".

joy. See 1 John 1. 4.

full. See 1 John 1. 4.

13 greet = salute.

Amen. The texts omit.

10 there . . . any = any one (Ap. 123. 3) cometh.

neither, &c. = and . . . not (Ap. 105. 11).


11 is partaker = partaketh. Gr. koinoneo. See Rom. 15. 27, 1 Tim. 5. 22.


12 would. Ap. 102. 3.


paper. Gr. chartes. Only here.

ink. See 2 Cor. 3. 3.

trust = hope.


face, &c. Lit. mouth to (Ap. 104. xv. 3) mouth.