

II & III John – “I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth...”

1. Author – “The elder...” [II John 1; III John 1]

- Traditionally thought to be John, the son of Zebedee, one of the 12 apostles of Jesus.
- Early speculation about the place of these letters in the NT canon, but no doubt by 4th century.

2. Date and place – probably written between 60-100 A.D., from Ephesus?

- Strong historical tradition that John went to Ephesus late in life and he may have written his gospel and letters from that city.

3. Destination

- II John – “...to the elect lady...”
- III John – “...to the beloved Gaius, whom I love...”
- Both letters may have been intended to circulate to the 7 churches of Revelation.

4. Purpose

- II John – *“to warn believers of early false teachers and their false teaching concerning Jesus.”*
 - *True Christianity not about vague “new age” spiritual ideas – but truth vs. error/lie.*
 - *Truth is found in Jesus – His person and His words.*
 - *We can choose to walk in truth – or embrace a lie.*
- III John – *“to encourage Gaius in his walk with Jesus Christ and warn him about Diotrophes!”*

5. Text of the morning – II John 4-6 “I rejoiced greatly...some of your children walking in truth...”

- Walking in truth is about loving one another [v. 5]
- Loving one another is about obedience to the Father [v. 6]
- Obedience to the Father brings prosperity to the soul! [cf. III John 2]