

The Second Epistle of John

BYU New Testament Commentary Translation

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BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY
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About the Brigham Young University New Testament Commentary Series

Welcome to the BYU New Testament Commentary (BYUNTC), a project by a group of Latter-day Saint (LDS) specialists offering to readers a careful, new look at the biblical records that witness the life and ministry of Jesus Christ and the first generation of his Church. The commentary series seeks to make the New Testament more accessible to LDS general readers and scholars by employing much of current biblical scholarship while reflecting important LDS insights. At the same time, this effort may also be helpful to interested readers of other faiths who want to learn how a group of LDS scholars understands the Bible. A fundamental article of faith for Latter-day Saints (Mormons) affirms the Bible “to be the word of God” while adding, understandably, that it needs to be “translated correctly” in order for it to be accurately comprehensible to modern language speakers (A of F 1:10).

These objectives have helped shape the purposes and parameters of this commentary series. Serious LDS readers of the Bible search the scriptures, looking for depth and breadth in passages whose meanings and mandates may ultimately be plain but not shallow. Such readers and interpreters are served by treatments that unite faith and research, reason and revelation, in prayerfully confronting profound and difficult issues that arise in the texts and affect one’s path of progression. The New Testament has served as an influential guide to Western civilization for centuries. As such, its records have long been studied by lay people and scholars alike, resulting in a rich reservoir of information that illuminates the New Testament era culturally, historically, and linguistically. Selectively, the BYUNTC builds upon this vast body of knowledge, resting on the Greek texts of the New Testament and connecting helpful elements of linguistic, literary, historical, and cultural research and traditional scholarship together with LDS scriptures and doctrinal perspectives. The combination of all these

features distinguishes the BYUNTC from other commentaries, which are readily available elsewhere and which readers may also want to consult for more encyclopedic or specialized discussions.

The tone of the BYUNTC aims to be informative rather than hortatory, and suggestive rather than definitive in its interpretation. The opinions expressed in this series are the views of its contributors and should not necessarily be attributed to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; Brigham Young University, where many of those involved here are headquartered; or anyone else, though these works have benefited from input and guidance from a number of colleagues, advisors, editors, and peer reviewers.

Each volume in this series contains a new working translation of the New Testament. Calling it the “BYU New Testament Commentary Translation” ties it to the Commentary series and clarifies that it does not seek to replace the authorized KJV adopted by the LDS Church as its official English text. Rather, it aims to enhance readers’ understanding conceptually and spiritually by rendering the Greek texts into modern English with LDS sensitivities in mind. Comparing and explaining the new Translation in light of the KJV then serves as one important purpose for each volume’s notes, comments, analyses, and summaries. This effort responds in modest ways to the desire President J. Reuben Clark Jr. expressed in his diary in 1956 that someday “qualified scholars [would provide] . . . a translation of the New Testament that will give us an accurate translation that shall be pregnant with the great principles of the Restored Gospel.”

2 John

¹ The elder³ to the lady Eclecte and her children, whom I love in truth, and not only I but also all who know the truth, ² because the truth abides in us and will be with us forever. ³ Grace, mercy, and peace will be with us from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.

⁴ I was overjoyed because I have found some of your children walking in truth, just as we received a commandment from the Father.

⁵ And now I entreat you, lady, not as though I were writing a new commandment to you, but rather the one we had from the beginning, that we love one another. ⁶ And this is love, that we walk in accordance with his commandments; this is the commandment, just as you heard from the beginning: thus, you should walk in it.

⁷ For many deceivers have gone out into the world who do not acknowledge that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh; such a person is a deceiver and an antichrist. ⁸ Be on guard so that you do not lose what we worked for, but that you may receive a full reward.

⁹ Every person who does not abide in the teaching of Christ and goes beyond it does not have God; the person who abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. ¹⁰ If someone comes to you and does not bear this teaching, do not receive that person into your home and do not say to them “greetings”; ¹¹ for the one who says to that person “greetings” shares in their evil deeds.

¹² I have many things to write to you, but I do not wish to through paper and ink;⁴ instead, I hope to visit you and speak face to face,⁵ so that our joy may be full. ¹³ The children of your elect sister greet you.

3. Or presbyter.

4. Literally, papyrus and ink.

5. Literally, mouth to mouth.