

# 2 John 1:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For the truth's sake, which dwelleth in us, and shall be with us for ever.

## Analysis

**For the truth's sake, which dwelleth in us, and shall be with us for ever.**

John explains why he loves the elect lady and her children: "for the truth's sake" (Greek *dia tēn alētheian*, διὰ τὴν ἀλήθειαν). This causal phrase reveals that Christian affection is not arbitrary or sentimental but grounded in objective reality—the truth of the gospel. The definite article "the" emphasizes that truth is specific, revealed, and absolute, not subjective or relative.

The truth "dwelleth in us" (Greek *menousan en hēmin*, μένουσαν ἐν ἡμῖν) uses the present participle of *menō* (μένω), John's favorite verb meaning to abide, remain, or dwell. This same word appears throughout John's writings to describe the mutual indwelling of Christ and believers (John 15:4-7, 1 John 2:24, 3:24). Truth is not merely believed intellectually but inhabits believers, transforming their nature and governing their lives. This indwelling is the work of the Holy Spirit, called the Spirit of Truth (John 14:17, 15:26, 16:13).

"Shall be with us for ever" (Greek *estai meth' hēmōn eis ton aiōna*, ἔσται μεθ' ἡμῶν εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα) declares the eternal permanence of this truth. Unlike human philosophies that rise and fall, or cultural values that shift with time, the truth of God's revelation in Christ remains unchanging throughout eternity. This provides assurance: believers possess not temporary insight or provisional understanding but eternal, unshakable truth that forms their identity forever.

## Historical Context

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The late first-century church faced intense pressure from Gnostic teachers who claimed special, secret knowledge (gnōsis) superior to apostolic teaching. These heretics taught that truth was esoteric, available only to spiritual elites through mystical experiences or hidden wisdom. They denied that truth could be objectively known or permanently possessed.

Against this backdrop, John's assertion that "the truth" dwells in all believers permanently was revolutionary and countercultural. He democratizes access to truth—it is not for spiritual elites but for all who receive apostolic testimony about Christ. The indwelling truth comes not through mystical ascent or secret initiation but through the Holy Spirit given to all believers at conversion.

The phrase "for ever" would have provided powerful assurance to churches facing persecution and heretical infiltration. While false teachers came and went with their novel doctrines, the truth believers possessed through the Spirit's indwelling remained constant. This truth transcended cultural change, outlasted persecution, and would endure eternally—a foundation unshakable by any temporal circumstance. The early church's confidence in possessing eternal truth enabled them to resist compromise and maintain doctrinal purity under tremendous pressure.

## Related Passages

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**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

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1. What does it mean practically that truth "dwells in us" rather than merely being something we believe?
2. How should the eternal permanence of truth shape our response to cultural pressure to revise or update Christian doctrine?

3. In what ways does the Holy Spirit as the Spirit of Truth guide believers into deeper understanding of the truth we already possess?

## Interlinear Text

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διὰ	τὸν	ἀλήθειαν	τὸν	μένουσιν	ἐν	ἡμῖν	καὶ	μεθ'
For	which	the truth's sake	which	dwelleth	in	us	and	with
G1223	G3588	G225	G3588	G3306	G1722	G2254	G2532	G3326
ἡμῶν	ἔσται	εἰς	τὸν	αἰῶνα				
us	shall be	for	which	ever				
G2257	G2071	G1519	G3588	G165				

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 John 2:17** (Parallel theme): And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

**1 John 2:14** (Parallel theme): I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one.

**1 John 1:8** (Truth): If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.