

## Fast Facts #21 – 2<sup>nd</sup> John 1:1-3

1. The Elder, presumably his readers knew who he was, is believed to be John by Christians throughout the ages. We believe that he was 90 years old in age, so the term “elder” is not referring to a position in the church but to his age.
2. We aren’t sure if the Elect Lady was a specific person or a symbolic way of addressing a particular congregation. His letter, as we read it, is a way to warn and encourage.
3. John may not have used particular names, because it was a time of persecution. I receive letters from missionaries, who are careful not to use specific names. They refer to Jesus as “J.C.”.
4. Whoever this “Elect Lady” was, she was loved by all who knew the truth. In his writings, John focuses on the idea of truth. He used the word 37 times in his writings.
5. Here is the truth, the truth about Jesus Christ. This is what binds us together as brothers and sisters in Christ. It’s not social, political or class, but His truth. He says in John 14:5 that He is the “truth” ...the truth about everything.
6. The truth will be with us forever and the truth will never change. The truth will be with us for eternity.
7. Now in verse 3, we have an expanded version of the standard greeting in the New Testament. John didn’t just wish them grace, mercy, and peace. He bestowed them by saying they will be with you from God the Father. Truth and love: John was saying apart from God, we will never have grace, mercy, and love.
8. When he says they are from Jesus Christ, he is emphasizing that Jesus came in the flesh, born of a virgin, conceived by the overshadowing of the Holy Spirit. Jesus Christ was a real person. This doctrine is essential to our salvation.