The elder to the electe lady and her children, whom I loue in the trueth: and not I onely, but also all that haue knowne the trueth, for the truthes sake whiche dwelleth in vs and shall be in vs for euer. With vs shall be grace, mercie, and peace from god the father, and from the Lorde Iesus Christ the sonne of the father, in trueth & loue. I reioysed greatly, that I founde of thy children walkynge in trueth, as we haue receaued a commandement of the father. And now beseche I thee lady, not as though I wrote a newe commandement vnto the, but that same which we haue had from the beginninge, that we should loue one another. And this is the loue, that we should walke after his commandement. This comandement is (that as ye haue heard from the begynning) ye should walke init. For many deceauers are entred into the world, which confesse nor that Iesus Christ is come in the fleshe. This is a deceauer and an Antichrist. Loke on your selues y• we lose not that we haue wrought, but that we may haue a ful reward. Whosoeuer transgresseth & bydeth not in the doctrine of Christ, hathe not God. He that entreureth in the doctrine of Christ, hath both the father & the sonne. If there come any vnto you, & bring not this learning, him receauue not to house: nether bid him god spede. For he that byd|deth him god spede, is partaker of his euil dedes. Behold, I haue tolde you before, y• ye should not be ashamed in the day of the Lord. I had many thinges to write vnto you, neuerthelessse I would not wryte with paper & ynke: but I trust to come vnto you, and speake with you mouth to mouth, that oure ioye maye be full. The sonnes of thy electe syster grete the. Amen.

Iohn being an elder wryte vnto the electe lady, and to her sonnes also, whome I loue sincerely, nether doe I thus alone, but al that are with me which haue knowē the trueth of the Gospelle: nether doe they loue them for any other cause, but that they vnderstande the syn|cerite of the Gospelles profession, which we folowe, to remayne in vs, and shall remayne in vs for euermore. Grace, mercie, and peace be alwayes encreased from God the father, and from the Lorde Iesu Christe, vnto you that perseuer still in the trueth of the Gospelles doctrine, and in mutuall loue one to an|other. I was wonderfully glad, whan I perceaued that thy sonnes folow|ing theyr mothers godlynes, contynued still in the truthe of the Gospelles doctrine, and not gaue herkenyng ne|to false doctours, that goe about to turne many awaye from it: where the father gaue vs thys in comandement, that we shoulde geue eare to the doctrine of hys sonne, and that we shoulde not goe out of his fotesteppes. Therfore it is no nede nowe, ladye, for me to instructe thy godlynes with new comandementes: only let vs continue still in that, whiche was deliuered from the begynninge, that we shoulde loue eche one other with a mutual and a true Christian loue. But this beneuolence, the consent and all one facion of godly life amonge oure selues must procure: that we may lyue in all one purposed studies after the
commandement of God, which enioined vs nothing so diligently, as mutuall loue
amonge our selues. There is no true loue amonge the wiked, nor among them
that be of vnlike facions. Therfore I geue no new commandement, but I geue
you warninge diligently, to continue still in that, which

you have already receaued longe a goe, and not to suffre youre selues by any
subtilties of the false prophetes to be plucked awaye. For in dede there are
manye deceauers in the worlde, whiche denye that Iesus is Christe, whiche
shoulde come into the worlde accordinge to the prophetes prophesienges. He
that teacheth thus, is a deceauer, and Antichriste him self, Christes adversarie.
Let every one take hede to hym selfe, leste if he forsake that whiche he hathe
well begonne, he lose all the frute of those thinges, whiche he hathe hitherto
done well: but let vs geue diligence, that we may receaue the full hyre, which
happeneth not, but to then that perseuer still vnto the ende. Whosoeuer
swarueth from the truth, and abydeth not still in the doctrine of Christe, he is
estraunged also from God the father, in that he swarued from the soune. But he
that constauntly foloweth his doctrine, is in his so doinge, dearely beloued both
vnto the father and to the soune. The one canne nether be had nor forsaken,
without the other. Thys is the true doctrine, whiche you have receaued of true
recore beaours from the belgynnyng. But if any man come vnto you, and
bringeth a contrary doctrine to this, to carie you away from the Gospelles
veritie, you ought not onely to take no hede vnto him, but also he ought not so
muche as be admitted in to your house if he desyre lodging: nor to be bidden,
\textit{God spede}, if he chaunce to mete you in the way. For it is danger lest he infecte
the household with his familiaritie: and for his lodging, requite an euill turne:
and lest of bidding him \textit{God spede}, there arise communicacion. And in dede euil
communica\textit{cio} corrupteth good maners. To be shorte, he that saluteth and
kepeth company with such a maner deceauour, he semeth to be a compaynon of
his euill dooinges. For he geueth a courage vnto the wicked, whan he seeth him
selfe any whit regarded with them, whome he goeth about to subuerte: and
gueth an outerwarde shewe of euill vnto other, as though he semed to favoure the
naughtynes of hym, whose familyaritie he doeth not abhorre. There were many
other thinges, whiche I was desyrous to wryte vnto you concerning these
matters, howbeit I had rather open them to you presently, than to put them in
wryting: For I truste shortly to come see you and talke with you presently mouth
to mouthe, that the joy, whiche I haue conceaued of youre constaunt synceritie,
maye bee more pleynenteous and full, when I shall bothe presently see in you,
that which now beinge absent I heare of you: and you againe shall see with your
eyes the loue that I beare towardes you. Thy nephewes, thy sisters sonnes,
whiche is a christian woman commend them vnto the.

Thende of the seconde epistle of Iohn.