

The Elect Lady - Biblical Commentary of the Book of II John (New Testament Commentary 27)

Earl Cripe



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D. Earl Cripe, Ph.D (1934-2011) held firmly to Historic Orthodox Christian Theology that the Bible is the only guide to the faith and practice of the Church. Towards that end during his more than forty-seven years of ministry he penned numerous volumes of expository Bible commentaries. In them he takes the reader verse-by-verse through the chosen book of the Bible, explaining the original meanings and intentions along with the applications to the life of the serious believer of Christ in simple language that anyone can grasp. They are essential reading for the serious Christian looking to further their understanding of the Holy Scriptures.

This volume is a verse-by-verse study of the Book of Second John.

Who was the Elect Lady to whom the letter of II John is addressed? There are only two positions on this, of which I am aware in any case. One is that there was actually a woman acquaintance of St. John, along with her family, to whom this letter was addressed. The other position is that the phrase the Elect Lady is a way of identifying the Church, and in this instance a church in specific. Many non-Roman-Catholic Christians object to that position out of hand because they feel that it brings them too close to Roman doctrine. As I have studied this issue rather carefully through the years, I believe that there are many more reasons to think that John was addressing a church. It is a fully documented biblical position that the Church is to Christ what the woman is to the man. The Church is the Bride of Christ (c.f. Ephesians 5:23-32). St. Paul refers to the Church as a Chaste Virgin being prepared for presentation to the Groom (c.f. II Corinthians 11:2). In Revelation 21:2 St. John calls the Church a bride adorned for her husband. Perhaps St. John was drawing upon this very experience (II Corinthians 12:2 tells us that the Revelation vision took place many years before).

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