

First John 2:4

First John 2:4 – “Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him,”

3588 [e]	3004 [e]	3754 [e]	1097 [e]	846 [e]	2532 [e]	3588 [e]	1785 [e]	846 [e]	3361 [e]	5083 [e]	5583 [e]	1510 [e]	2532 [e]	
ho	legōn	hoti	Egnōka	auton	kai	tas	entolas	autou	mē	tērōn	pseustēs	estin	kai	
4	ὁ	λέγων ,	ὅτι	Ἔγνων	αὐτόν ,	καὶ	τὰς	ἐντολὰς	αὐτοῦ	μὴ	τηρῶν ,	ψεύστης	ἐστίν ,	καὶ
The [one]	saying	-	I have known	him	and	the	commandments	of him	not	keeping	a liar	is	and	
Art-NMS	V-PPA-NMS	Conj	V-RIA-1S	PPro-AM3S	Conj	Art-AFP	N-AFP	PPro-GM3S	Adv	V-PPA-NMS	N-NMS	V-PIA-3S	Conj	

1722 [e]	3778 [e]	3588 [e]	225 [e]	3756 [e]	1510 [e]
en	toutō	hē	alētheia	ouk	estin
ἐν	τούτῳ	ἡ	ἀλήθεια	οὐκ	ἔστιν ;
in	him	the	truth	not	is
Prep	DPro-DMS	Art-NFS	N-NFS	Adv	V-PIA-3S

- This verse is the negative (or, false statement made by those leaving the apostolic doctrine) of John’s positive (the apostolic truth) statement in 2:3.
- “I know him” must have been a slogan of the false or misled believers. (They are the same claiming to have fellowship with God, 1:6, and existing without sin.
- To “know God” means you fear his commands. A true believer does not dismiss God’s commands.
- John has said the false teachers:
 - Do not have truth (1:8)
 - Do not know God (2:4)
 - Do not have fellowship with God (1:6)
 - Do not have God’s word (1:10)
 - Commit sins that they do not identify as sin (1:6)
 - Omit commands that they do not identify as God’s commands (2:4)

First John 2:5 – “but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him:”

3739 [e]	1161 [e]	302 [e]	5083 [e]	846 [e]	3588 [e]	3056 [e]	230 [e]	1722 [e]	3778 [e]	3588 [e]	26 [e]	3588 [e]	2316 [e]	
hos	d’	an	tērē	autou	ton	logon	alēthōs	en	toutō	hē	agapē	tu	Theou	
5	ὅς	δ’	ἂν	τηρῆ	αὐτοῦ	τὸν	λόγον ,	ἀληθῶς	ἐν	τούτῳ	ἡ	ἀγάπη	τοῦ	Θεοῦ
whoever	however	anyhow	might keep	his	-	word	truly	in	him	the	love	-	of God	
RelPro-NMS	Conj	Prtcl	V-PSA-3S	PPro-GM3S	Art-AMS	N-AMS	Adv	Prep	DPro-DMS	Art-NFS	N-NFS	Art-GMS	N-GMS	

5048 [e]	1722 [e]	3778 [e]	1097 [e]	3754 [e]	1722 [e]	846 [e]	1510 [e]
teteleiōtai	En	toutō	ginōskomen	hoti	en	autō	esmen
τετελείωται .	Ἐν	τούτῳ	γινώσκομεν	ὅτι	ἐν	αὐτῷ	ἐσμεν :
has been perfected	By	this	we know	that	in	him	we are
V-RIM/P-3S	Prep	DPro-DNS	V-PIA-1P	Conj	Prep	PPro-DM3S	V-PIA-1P

- 2:3-5 is a group:
 - 2:3 – John’s states his truth
 - 2:4 – John’s states the false
 - 2:5 – John restates his truth presented in 2:3

- 2:5 is John’s words confirming his readers that they can be assured they are in him.
- Notice that “God’s commands” in 2:3 are now identified as “God’s word.” This includes:
 - obeying God’s commands
 - believing God’s promises
 - Note: to be able to obey and receive promises we have to be able to identify sin.
- What does the “love of God” refer to?
 - God’s love for man (as in 4:9)
 - Man’s love for God (as in 2:15 and 5:3)
 - Our love for God is a reflection of God’s love for us
 - Our keeping (obeying, believing) God’s word would be an indication of our love for God.
 - God’s kind of love
 - Is “love of God” a parallel with “knowledge of God” found in 2:3?
- All three are possibilities
- “Truly” indicates this is a reality or a real possibility. Not a vain claim made by those who do not know God, love his word or have fellowship with him.
- “Made complete” refers to “entire” and “mature.” So, a mature Christian would have perfect love.
 - Yet, there is always room for growth. So, perfect love does not mean finished growing
 - And, we are still sinners. So, perfect love would not be perfectly sinless. Which means according to 1:8 perfect love would not be able to claim sinlessness.
- “This” is not clear if it:
 - points back to:
 - keeping his word
 - experiencing fullness of love (This would make 2:6 a restatement of 2:5a)
 - points forward to 2:6:
 - living in him
 - walking as Jesus did

First John 2:6 – “whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.”

3588 [e]	3004 [e]	1722 [e]	846 [e]	3306 [e]	3784 [e]	2531 [e]	1565 [e]	4043 [e]	2532 [e]	846 [e]	3779 [e]	
ho	legōn	en	autō	menein	opheilei	kathōs	ekeinos	periepatēsēn	kai	autos	houtōs	
6	ὁ	λέγων	ἐν	αὐτῷ	μένειν	, ὀφείλει	, καθὼς	ἐκεῖνος	περιεπάτησεν	, καὶ	αὐτὸς	οὕτως
The [one]	claiming	in	him	to abide	ought	even as	he	have walked	also	himself [was]	in the same way	
Art-NMS	V-PPA-NMS	Prep	PPro-DM3S	V-PNA	V-PIA-3S	Adv	DPro-NMS	V-AIA-3S	Conj	PPro-NM3S	Adv	

4043 [e]
peripatein
περιπατεῖν .
to walk
V-PNA

First John 2:7 – “Beloved, I am writing you no new commandment, but an old commandment that you had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word that you have heard.”

27 [e]	3756 [e]	1785 [e]	2537 [e]	1125 [e]	4771 [e]	235 [e]	1785 [e]	3820 [e]	3739 [e]	2192 [e]	575 [e]
Agapētoi	ouk	entolēn	kainēn	graphō	hymīn	all'	entolēn	palaiān	hēn	eichete	ap'
7 Ἀγαπητοί , οὐκ ἐντολὴν καινὴν γράφω ὑμῖν , ἀλλ' ἐντολὴν παλαιὰν , ἣν εἶχετε ἀπ'											
beloved	not	a commandment	new	I am writing	to you	but	a commandment	old	which	you have had	from
Adj-VMP	Adv	N-AFS	Adj-AFS	V-PIA-1S	PPro-D2P	Conj	N-AFS	Adj-AFS	RelPro-AFS	V-IIA-2P	Prep

746 [e]	3588 [e]	1785 [e]	3588 [e]	3820 [e]	1510 [e]	3588 [e]	3056 [e]	3739 [e]	191 [e]
archēs	hē	entolē	hē	palaiā	estin	ho	logos	hon	ēkousate
ἀρχῆς . ἡ ἐντολὴ ἡ παλαιὰ ἐστὶν ὁ λόγος ὃν ἠκούσατε .									
[the] beginning	the	commandment	-	old	is	the	word	that	you have heard
N-GFS	Art-NFS	N-NFS	Art-NFS	Adj-NFS	V-PIA-3S	Art-NMS	N-NMS	RelPro-AMS	V-AIA-2P

First John 2:8 – “At the same time, it is a new commandment that I am writing to you, which is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining.”

3825 [e]	1785 [e]	2537 [e]	1125 [e]	4771 [e]	3739 [e]	1510 [e]	227 [e]	1722 [e]	846 [e]	2532 [e]	1722 [e]	4771 [e]	3754 [e]	3588 [e]
palin	entolēn	kainēn	graphō	hymīn	ho	estin	alēthes	en	autō	kai	en	hymīn	hoti	hē
8 πάλιν ἐντολὴν καινὴν γράφω ὑμῖν , ὃ ἐστὶν ἀληθὲς ἐν αὐτῷ καὶ ἐν ὑμῖν , ὅτι ἡ														
Again	a commandment	new	I am writing	to you	which	is	TRUE	in	him	and	in	you	because	the
Adv	N-AFS	Adj-AFS	V-PIA-1S	PPro-D2P	RelPro-NNS	V-PIA-3S	Adj-NNS	Prep	PPro-DM3S	Conj	Prep	PPro-D2P	Conj	Art-NFS

4653 [e]	3855 [e]	2532 [e]	3588 [e]	5457 [e]	3588 [e]	228 [e]	2235 [e]	5316 [e]
skotia	paragetai	kai	to	phōs	to	alēthinon	ēdē	phainei
σκοτία παράγεται , καὶ τὸ φῶς τὸ ἀληθινὸν ἤδη φαίνει .								
darkness	is passing away	and	the	light	-	TRUE	already	shines
N-NFS	V-PIP-3S	Conj	Art-NNS	N-NNS	Art-NNS	Adj-NNS	Adv	V-PIA-3S