

1 John 1:5–2:2

Textual Variants

Leaving aside a few differences in word order, which matter little in Greek, we note the following textual variants.

1.5

From the 4th century, some manuscripts spell the word “message” (αγγελια) with a prefix (επαγγελια); and two manuscripts read, “love (αγαπη) of the message,” an apparent copyist’s mistake.

1.7

The earliest surviving manuscripts provide a conjunction (δε) at verse 7: “*But* if we walk in the light.” Other manuscripts do not have a conjunction, and it remains hard to know if the conjunction is original.

Some early manuscripts insert “Christ (Χριστου) after “Jesus (Ιησου).”

From the 8th century, some manuscripts replace “cleanses” (καθαριζει) with “will cleanse (καθαρισει).”

1.8

From the 12th century, a couple of manuscripts insert “of God” after “the truth.”

1.9

From the 4th century, some manuscripts read “our sins” instead of “sins”.

From the 5th century, some manuscripts spell “cleanse” (καθαριση) a little differently (καθαρισει).

1.10

From the 10th century, a couple of manuscripts read, “we did not sin” (ημαρτομεν) instead of “we have not sinned” (ημαρτηκαμεν).

2.1

From the 10th century, two manuscripts read, “stop sinning” (μη αμαρτανητε) instead of “not sin” (μη αμαρτητε).

2.2

From the 4th century, a few manuscripts read, “only (μονων, an adjective) ours” instead of “ours only (μονον, an adverb).