

# Truth & Love's War & Witness

2<sup>nd</sup> John 1:7-11

December 1, 2019

- INTRO:** Let me ask you a few questions as we begin...
- Prepare for some potentially painful questions...
  - What's the **biggest mistake** you've ever made?
  - What's the **biggest deception** you've **fallen for**?
  - Not just when you were deceived... **but when you committed to doing wrong, thinking it was right?**
  - What's the **best warning** you've **ever heard?**
  - What's the **best warning** you **ever ignored?**

**CONTEXT:** Hebrews to 2<sup>nd</sup> John... per 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> John...

**BIG IDEA:** *2<sup>nd</sup> John is a warning & an exhortation, a call AND a command... to clearly contrast those who **Deceive** vs. those who **Disciple!** - JDP*

**This little letter is a biblical blueprint for Christian living!**

*2<sup>nd</sup> John addresses the same basic historical events as 1<sup>st</sup> John: false teachers were assaulting the congregations under John's care (v. 7). Having left the fellowship/koinonia of believers (1 John 2:19), the heretics were traveling from church to church, **taking advantage of Christian hospitality as they spread their venomous lies**. – NET Bible*

## PREVIEW:

1. **Warning** (v.7)
2. **Watch-out!** (v.8)
3. **We are Word-defined** (v.9)
4. **Wolves & weeds are warned of** (v.10)
5. **Wicked-works & witness-warfare!** (v.11)

Today... 2<sup>nd</sup> John 1:7-11

- **LOVERS = 1-6 vs. LIARS = 7-11**
  - 1-6 = **Abide-in**
  - 7-11 = **Abandon**

**T/S:** Let's look back at love before we lock horns w/ the liars

### **QUOTE - Life Application Study Bible**

*And... what about love?*

*Our world is filled with its words... Real love, selfless, giving, caring, sharing & even dying; however, is scarce. We yearn to love and be loved, but we see few living examples of real love.*

*Christ is... truth and love in person... Therefore, all who claim loyalty to him must be committed to these ideals—following the truth and living the truth, reflecting love and acting with love toward one another.*

*The apostle John had seen Truth and Love firsthand—he had been with Jesus. So affected was this disciple that ALL of his writings, from the Gospel of John to the book of Revelation, are filled with this theme: Truth and love are vital to the Christian and are **inseparable in the Christian life.***

# I. WARNING (v.7)

*7 For many deceivers have gone out into the world,*

- Remember all the **warning texts** from last week...
- Emphasize **"MANY"**
- Define **"deceivers" (seducers)**
- See Acts 1:8 in **"into the world"** (locally, regionally, globally)

*In the strong language which John here and elsewhere uses, respecting those who deny or pervert the truth, we hear the voice of the "son of thunder," ever jealous about whatever touched the honor of his Lord. Such hatred of error was the outcome of a firm grasp, and profound love, of the truth.*

**- Pulpit Commentary**

*7b ...those who do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh...*

- Here we **I.D. the deceivers** & the antichrist!
- Key in on CONFESS & CHRIST!
  - First... **Christ** = Messiah, LORD, King...
  - Now... **Confess** is a bit more complicated...

**Our roots are revealed by our fruit of confessing/walking:**

*Who is walking in the commanded truth & love?*

- Worship
- Working
- Witnessing

- See **Judas...**
- Titus 1:16 *"...but with their actions"*
- Luke 6:46: *Why do you call Me, Lord, Lord, & do not do what I say?*
- John 3:36; 14:15; 20:21
- Matthew 28:18-20

***"in the flesh"*** = Gnostics... Agnostics... Antagonists....

*Actions & attitude are both affirming & accountable.* - JDP

*Professing to believe that Jesus is the Christ, while not living under His authoritative & loving Lordship is worse (for you & others) than overtly denying & defying Him... the devilish difference is the dark & destructive deception.* - JDP

### 7c ***Such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist.***

- ***"Such a one"***
  - Who defines & how are such ones defined?
  - What if people don't like that?
  - 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- ***"IS the deceiver AND the antichrist"***
  - Who are they?
    - Per 1<sup>st</sup> John:
      - *Liars!*
      - *Darkness...*
      - *Children of the Devil!*

- Per Titus: *good for nothing good*
- Per Jesus: they are *enemies of God...*

○ **What does this all mean?**

*The deceiving “**error-ist**,” a.k.a. the “antichrist,” is the biblical version of a spiritual “terrorist.” - JDP*

*John was warning... of the false teachers who were becoming prevalent in some of the churches.... False teachers were a dangerous problem for the church to which John was writing. His warning against showing hospitality to false teachers may sound harsh and unloving to many today. Yet these men were teaching heresy that could harm many... —for eternity.*

- **Life Application Study Bible**

***Deceivers aren't just wrong, they're WICKED!***

***They're not just the weeds, they're the WOLVES!***

***Deceivers are the Devil's human helpers.*** - JDP

**VIDEO:** *The Satan & Demons*

T/S: “So what?” Answer: see v.8...

## II. WATCH-OUT! (v.8)

**8 Watch yourselves, so that you may not lose what we have worked for, but may win a full reward.**

➤ “Watch yourselves” = “Watch out!”

*Let us not think it strange, that there are deceivers and opposers of the Lord Christ's name and dignity now, for there were such, even in the apostles' times... The more deceivers and deceits abound, the more watchful the disciples must be.*

– Matthew Henry

- Deceivers are **deceptive**
- Deceivers are **dangerous...**
- Deceivers are **destructive.**
- Deceivers are **DEADLY!!!**

*Think of deceivers & their deceitful deceptions... the same way you do drug-dealers & the deadly drugs they distribute... Heresy & hurt-filled lies are the spiritual heroin that the liars spread & seek to sell inside the Church & amongst the faithful Christ-followers.*

*Therefore... again... watch out! - JDP*

*To paraphrase a familiar saying: "All that is required for Deception to triumph is for the people of the Truth to do nothing."*

*Clever is not the solution to cunning...  
clarity is the solution to cunning.*

**\*\*\* Read ALL 2 Corinthians ch.4!**

- *“won’t lose”* (opposite of “will win”)
  - CONSEQUENCE...
  - Forfeit... give away
  - Possession is lost (thus cannot be salvation)
  
- *“what we”* = joint effort, thus not salvation)
  
- *“worked-for”*
  - > Definition first...      gained vs. grace
  - > Implication second...    reward vs. redeem
  - > Ramification third...    ...tension again!
  
- *“but”* = contrasting conjunction
  
- *“winner’s reward”* = *earned blessings* in heaven

### III. **WORD**-defined (v.9)

9 *Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide  
in the teaching of Christ, does not have God.*

*Abiding begins with obeying!* – JDP

*Menō (abides) is one of John's favorite terms, appearing more than sixty times in his writings. It is used in a theological sense to refer to the truth that resides in believers (1 John 2:14, 24-27; cf. John 5:38)*

- **ABANDON** = “does NOT abide in” (cf. [Hebrews](#))
  - Drift, Disconnect, D.D., Disobey, Defy & Deny
  - Disrespect, Disregard, Disobey!
  - **WRONG** worship, walk, work, witness!

*Unbelievers are: "men of depraved mind and deprived of the truth" (1 Tim. 6:5), who "oppose the truth" (2 Tim. 3:8) and "turn away their ears from the truth" (2 Tim. 4:4) because "they exchanged the truth of God for a lie" (Rom. 1:25).*

*In a world of lies, the church is called to be the "pillar & support of the truth" (1 Tim. 3:15).*

*...throughout its history, the true church has clung tenaciously to the truth, despite the storms of persecution, the sting of rejection, and the assaults of enemies, both from inside and outside its ranks (cf. Acts 20:29-30).*

*...countless thousands have suffered martyrdom rather than compromise or abandon the truth.*

**9b *Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son.***

- **ABIDE-IN** = accepts & applies this teaching
  - **Head** - faithful obedience to truth & love
  - **Heart** - faithful obedience to truth & love
  - **Hands** - faithful obedience to truth & love
  
- See Jesus' teaching in **John 15!**
  - **We abide because we are adopted!**
  - **We abide by miraculous grace & power!**
  - Only those who persevere to the end are His
  - Lips lie... lives tell the truth! - JDP

*God's purposes will never be accomplished by compromising His truth; love for souls is never manifested by minimizing the truth. - MacArthur*

#### **IV. WOLVES & weeds are warned of (v.10)**

***10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting,***

- ANYone, ANY-time, ANYwhere..
- Alters ANY-aspect
- Avoid ANY union ALL-together

*If deception and error slip into a fellowship, the results are always tragic and devastating.* - New American Commentary

- ***“If ANYONE”***
  - Galatians 1:6-9
  - Matthew 10:16
  - John 7:24
  
- ***“comes to you & does not bring THIS teaching”***
  - Great Commandments
  - Great Commission
  - Great Combat (cf. Ephesians 6:10ff)
  - Great Christian (witness)
  - Great Church (ambassadors)
  
- ***“do NOT receive him into your house”***
  - Do not **welcome** them in...
  - Do not think ***“I can handle this...”***
  
- ***“OR” = duplicating the emphasis***
  
- ***Do NOT “give him ANY greeting”***
  - See **2 Corinthians 6:14**

*Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness?*
  - See **Matthew 18**
  - See **1 Corinthians 5:11**

*But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler — not even to eat with such a one.*

- Do not **encourage** them...
- Do not **validate** them...
- Do not **support** them...
- Do not **align with** them...
- Do not **complement** them...
- Do not **confuse** them (or others)...
- See **Romans 16:17-18**

*Now I urge you, brothers, keep your eye on those who cause division/dissensions and hindrances/obstacles contrary to the teaching which you learned, and avoid/turn away from them. For such men are slaves, not of our Lord Christ but of their own appetites; and by their smooth and flattering speech they deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting.*

*Because salvation requires belief in the truth, it is critically important for the church to proclaim the right message. A simple, accurate presentation of the gospel is sufficient, through the transforming power of the Holy Spirit, to bring about salvation.*

*On the other hand, the most carefully crafted, smoothly polished presentation of anything less than the gospel will not save. - MacArthur*

## V. WICKED-works & Witness-warfare

*11 for whoever greets him takes part in his wicked works.*

**Did you hear that?!?!**

- *Whoever-Welcomes*
- *Works-With*
- *Wicked-Workers*
- **Warning, Warning, Warning!**
  - *“for”* = purpose... explanation...
  - *“whoever”* = this means **YOU** (*anyone really*)
  - *“greet him”*

*Greeting* = aiding & abetting crimes and criminals against Christ!

- *“takes part in”*

*Greeting* = accomplice IN the crime with the criminals... against Christ!

*(It's like being the get-away driver in a bank robbery!)*

➤ “his WICKED works.”

*Greeting* = active & aggressive aggression against  
The Almighty & His adopted children – the true,  
Christ-following Church

**CLOSE:**

**QUOTE:** *Grace, mercy, and peace “flourish in an environment where truth and love prevail. Truth unites the Christian community when it faces the common foe of falsehood; it is evident among Christians when they demonstrate their unity in showing love toward one another.”*

*To maintain a healthy and growing community, the church must exhibit a fidelity to the truth that knows no compromise, and they must love one another in a way that knows no boundaries. - Dr. Danny Akin*

**Let's PRAY!**