

## A Warning for Us Today

### *Beware of Those Who Deceive by Not Teaching the Doctrines of Christ*

Text: **2 John**

#### Introduction:

1. The Apostle John's second epistle (or *letter*) is written to *insist upon the truth* and as **a warning** against a deception by those who do not teach the doctrine of Christ – (*Especially about Jesus Christ Himself*)
2. It is also a letter of encouragement as well as a letter of warning.
  - A. Encouraged in knowing the truth.
  - B. Encouraged in knowing that Jesus is the Christ the Son of the living God.
  - C. Encouraged in knowing that if we abide in the teachings of Christ that we also have God the Father.
3. The apostle John in this letter tells us today how we are to combat or ward off such deception.
4. We can do this by the following:
  - **By walking in the truth**
  - **By being aware of deceivers**
  - **By abiding in the teachings of Christ.**

#### I. **We Are To Walk In The Truth (4-6)**

- A. In order to walk in the truth we **must KNOW** the truth – (*Knowing God's Word*).  
– **Romans 10:17**
- B. Not only are we to know the truth, but we **must WALK** in it (*which means obedience also*).
  1. Because, truth *refutes* falsehoods.
  2. Because, the truth shall set you free – **John 8:32**
- B. The truth will *always be* the truth – it is not so with falsehoods (*falsehoods are ever changing*).
- C. We **must** love the truth.
- D. The truth includes the love of God.
- E. The truth includes the love of His commandments.
- F. The truth includes the love of His teachings (*doctrines*).
- G. The **TRUTH IS** that Jesus is the Son of God.
  1. *And that* He came down from heaven in the form of a man, born of a virgin in the little town of Bethlehem.
  2. *And that* He lived amongst mankind, nearly 2,000 years ago.
  3. *And that* He was the perfect Lamb of God without blemish (*without sin*).
  4. *And that* He died on the cross for our sins, was buried and rose again the third day never to die again.
  5. *And that* He broke down the barrier between mankind and God once and for all.
  6. *And that* He is the only way to God – the only way to walk. – **John 14:6**
  7. *And that* He has shown us that we can learn from His examples (*for He was without sin*)
  8. *And that* He fulfilled **ALL** prophecy about Himself as shown in the Old Testament.
  9. *And that* He fulfilled the law.

*Not only are we to walk in the truth, but we are to beware of deceivers who will try and deceive us.*

## **II. We Are To Beware Of Deceivers (7-8)**

- A. BEWARE - Be on watch – A WARNING - (7)
1. Likened as a soldier on guard – watching and vigilant looking out for the enemy – (*our very soul depends upon it*).
  2. **Forever** vigil – knowing that Satan goes around like a roaring lion seeking those whom he may devour – **1 Peter 5:8** (*separating from God, deceive*)
  3. Steadfast **knowing** the Word of God – His Word the Holy Scriptures.
  4. Knowing that we **CAN** be deceived – yes we can be deceived – *many have*.
  5. Knowing that we **CAN** resist the devil and he will flee from us – God has told us so – **James 4:7**.
  6. Knowing that we **CAN** persevere – as many others who have went on before us – (**Hebrews 11** – *the chapter of faith*)
- B. BEWARE – Because there are those who say that Christ **DID NOT** come in the flesh (*deceivers*)
1. By saying that Christ is **NOT** God in the flesh
    - a. By saying that Christ did not come to save sinners.
    - b. By saying that Christ is not the way back to God, even though, Jesus said “...*I am the way*.....” – **John 14:6**
    - c. By saying that Christ did not die for us on the cross for our sins – even though the Scriptures tells us that “...*Christ died for us*” – **Romans 5:8**
    - d. By saying that Christ is not who He says that He is. Even though He is the Alpha and the Omega in Revelation.
    - e. By saying that the prophecies of the Old Testament did not tell of His coming.
  2. By saying that Christ is *just another man* as some would have it
  3. By saying that Christ is *just another prophet* as some would have it.
- C. BEWARE – Because deceivers weave a web of deception to cause confusion amongst Christians.
- D. BEWARE - Deceivers that are called ‘*antichrist*’ – (*one who is against Christ one who is a deceiver and a rival to Christ*)
1. Who do not believe that Christ appeared in the flesh
  2. Denying Christ and the Father – **1 John 2:22**
  3. Denying that Christ is from God – **1 John 4:3**
- E. Yes, this is a **stern warning** for us today in that we may be deceived by those who do not know the truth or care about the truth.

*Not only are we to walk in the truth, being aware of deceivers who try and deceive us, we must abide in the teachings of Christ.*

## **III. We Are To Abide In The Teachings Of Christ (9-11)**

- A. A **WARNING** for us today – if we **DO NOT** abide in the teachings of Jesus Christ we **DO NOT** have God. (**v9**)

- B. A **WARNING** for us today – **IF** anyone comes to you and **DOES NOT** bring Christ’s teachings then we are to have no part with them. (**v10-11**) (*For the one who gives him a greeting participates in his evil deeds*)
1. We *are not* to aid in their instruction.
  2. We *are not* to receive them into our houses as religious teachers.
  3. We *are not* to recommend them to others.
  4. We *are not* to give them any reason to use our names or influence in spreading error.
  5. But, we are to teach them the truth – for God is not willing that any should perish but wants all to come to repentance.
- C. It is the teachings of Christ **IN TRUTH** that has set us free from the false religious teachings that permeate this world of ours today.
1. It is the standard by which we encounter and **STAND FIRM** against false teachings.
  2. It is our very foundation (the **KNOWING, BELIEVING** and **OBEYING** the **TRUTH** of Christ’s Teachings) that gives us the strength to combat deception and remain faithful to the One who paid the Ultimate price for us at Calvary (**His Life**).
- D. Some of the teachings (*doctrines*) of Christ that **WE MUST** abide in:
1. Believing that God is the truth and it is shown in His Son Jesus Christ who has the truth and brought it down to mankind.
  2. Believing that He was in the beginning with God.
  3. Believing that He was instrumental in the Creation of the world and all that is found in it.
  4. Believing that it is He who the prophets of old told about of being the Messiah.
  5. Believing that He is from God – for He said, “*unless you believe that I am He you will die in your sins*” – **John 8:24**
  6. Believing that it is He who died for our sins on that cruel old cross, was buried and rose again the third day never to die again.
  7. Believing that **WE MUST** believe that He is the Christ (**John 8:24**), repent of our sins (**Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38**), confess His name before men (**Matthew 10:32**), be immersed (*baptized*) for the remission of our sins to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (**Acts 2:38**) and remain faithful until the end to have eternal **LIFE** (**Revelation 2:10**).
  8. Believing that He has given us all that is necessary to live a bountiful and godly life here on earth.
  9. Believing that someday Christ will return and receive unto Himself those who love Him by obeying His commandments (**1 John 5:2-3**) and have remained faithful till the end. (**Revelation 2:10**)

### **Conclusion:**

1. We must truly understand and believe that we can withstand the onslaught of those who teach falsely, especially about our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, by walking as God wants us to walk, by being aware of those who try and deceive and by abiding in the teachings of Christ.

2. This epistle should serve as a warning for us today about deceivers who will try any and all means to deceive the very elect. Satan will use any and all means to accomplish his goal to separate mankind from God for all eternity.
3. It is up to each and every one of us in this audience today to make sure that this does not happen to us personally.
4. But, God has not left us alone to fight the battles by ourselves, for He has given us **His Word** and **His promises** that **if** we (1) walk in the truth, (2) be ever diligent in our awareness of false teachings, and (3) abide in the teachings of Christ, that we will persevere until the end and be victorious.