

CAN'T SAY IT ENOUGH -- WATCH OUT FOR DECEIVERS

Sunday, July 17, 2022 -- 2nd JOHN series -- Msg 5 -- Pastor Andrew Coleman

2nd JOHN 1:1-13

English Standard Version (ESV)

Importance of
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1 The **elder** to **the elect lady and her children**, whom I **love** in **truth**, and not only I, but also all who know the **truth**, **2** because of the **truth** that abides in us and will be with us forever:

3 Grace, mercy, and peace will be with us, from God the Father and from Jesus Christ the Father's Son, in **truth** and love.

4 I rejoiced greatly to find some of your children walking in the **truth**, just as we were commanded by the Father. **5** And now I ask you, dear lady—not as though I were writing you a new commandment, but the one we have had from the beginning—that **we love one another**. **6** And **this is love**, that we walk according to his commandments; this is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, so that you should walk in it. **7** For **many deceivers** have gone out into the world, those who do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. Such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist. **8** Watch yourselves, so that you may not lose what we have worked for, but may win a full reward. **9** Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. **10** If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting, **11** for whoever greets him takes part in his wicked works.

12 Though I have much to write to you, I would rather not use paper and ink. Instead I hope to come to you and talk face to face, so that our joy may be complete.

13 **The children** of your **elect sister** greet you.

1) Notice the slightly strange transition in verse 7: **“FOR many deceivers have gone out...”** What does this mean? One conclusion is that false teachers can be known by the fact that they do not _____ the _____ or _____ in _____.

2) Notice the _____: The presence of **DECEIVERS** or **FALSE TEACHERS**. This is the _____ John is writing this letter.

‘deceivers’ = πλάνοι = *planos* which literally means ‘a _____’.

- This is speaking of those who wander from the truth. Then they _____.
- We see this problem presented THROUGHOUT God’s Word.
- Satan has opposed God’s truth from the beginning. (see Genesis 3:1, 4ff)
- Satan’s emissaries do the same. They are _____.

MATTHEW 7:15-17 (Jesus speaking...)

15 **“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves.** **16** You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? **17** So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit.

7 For **many deceivers** have gone out into the world, those who do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. Such a one is **the deceiver** and **the antichrist**.

8 Watch yourselves, so that you may not lose what we have worked for, but may win a full reward. **9** Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. **10** If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting, **11** for whoever greets him takes part in his wicked works.

HOLY SCRIPTURE CAN'T SAY IT ENOUGH...

MATTHEW 24:23-25 (Jesus speaking...)

23 Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There he is!' do not believe it. 24 For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect. 25 See, I have told you beforehand.

ACTS 20:29

29 I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; 30 and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. 31 Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears. 32 And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

2 CORINTHIANS 11:13

12 And what I am doing I will continue to do, in order to undermine the claim of those who would like to claim that in their boasted mission they work on the same terms as we do. 13 For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ.

1 TIMOTHY 4:1 *Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons,*

1 JOHN 4:1-3 *test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out...*

JUDE 4, 11-15

*4 For **certain people** have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, **ungodly people**, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ... 11 Woe to them! For they walked in the way of ^aCain and abandoned themselves for the sake of gain to ^bBalaam's error and perished in ^cKorah's rebellion. 12 These are **hidden reefs** at your love feasts, as they feast with you without fear, **shepherds feeding themselves; waterless clouds**, swept along by winds; **fruitless trees** in late autumn, twice dead, uprooted; 13 **wild waves of the sea**, casting up the foam of their own shame; **wandering stars**, for whom the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved forever.*

14 It was also about these that Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of his holy ones, 15 to execute judgment on all and to convict all the ungodly of all their deeds of ungodliness that they have committed in such an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things that ungodly sinners have spoken against him."

^aGenesis 4:3-8

^bNumbers 31:16

^cNum. 16:1-3, 31-35

7 For **many deceivers** have gone out into the world, those who do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. Such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist.

8 Watch yourselves, so that you may not lose what we have worked for, but may win a full reward. **9** Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. **10** If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting, **11** for whoever greets him takes part in his wicked works.

GALATIANS 1:6-9 (Paul writes...)

6 I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— **7** not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. **8** But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. **9** As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.

3. Notice that the false teachers were denying the _____ of Jesus Christ.

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

- they were denying his _____.
- this was incipient (early) Gnosticism
 - Gnosticism was a heresy that would become a significant threat in the 2nd century.
 - Gnosticism was a mix of Greek philosophy, pagan, Jewish and quasi-Christian ideas.
 - Gnosticism taught that all **matter** (flesh) is _____ and all **spirit** is _____.
 - Gnosticism inferred that if Jesus was God then he couldn't have become _____.
 - By rejecting Christ's humanity, they rejected his _____ death on the cross.
(vicarious, substitutionary atonement = 'Christ died in my place to pay for my sins')
 - These false teachers often used their teachings to justify sexual exploits, greed and all kinds of carnality and hedonism. (flesh/bad, spirit/good)
 - The same thing happens today... denial of essential doctrines

4. Notice the _____ to watch yourself! vs 8

Again, not a suggestion or a mild recommendation.

5. Notice what is at stake: The _____ . vs 8

- Following false doctrine can obstruct the reward of coming to _____.* (2 Tim. 4:8)
(* to be clear, once received, one's true salvation cannot be lost)
- Following false doctrine can obstruct the reward for _____ in _____.
Yes, the Bible teaches that believers will be rewarded for their service to Christ.
See Matt. 5:12; 10:41-42; Luke 6:35; 1 Cor. 3:10-15; 4:3-5; 2 Cor. 5:10; Col. 3:24; Rev. 22:12

There will be _____ and there will be _____ in heaven. *What determines this?*
One's level of genuine _____ and _____ to Christ and His Kingdom.