

EPISTLE OF 2 JOHN
DECEIVERS AND THEIR DOCTRINE
2 JOHN 7-13

Introduction

The Apostle John speaks here of the importance of DOCTRINE—
ESPECIALLY AS IT RELATES TO THE DOCTRINE OF CHRIST!
In fact we need to understand that this is a subject that should be VITALLY
IMPORTANT to each and every one of us!

Along with the need for a godly walking in TRUTH and LOVE as we saw
last time, John revealed here the need for **an awareness of the deception that
was prevalent in their day.** The need for that awareness had to do with
something the Apostle Paul told the Corinthian Church:

*1 Corinthians 15:33 Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good
manners.* (i.e. Wrong doctrine is going to adversely affect the way you live!)

**I. HE WARNED ABOUT DECEIVERS WHO ERRED IN THEIR
DOCTRINE! (Vs 7)**

Deceivers were present in that day and time, just as there are with us
today! There have always been those who denied the TRUTH of God,
seeking another way and preaching another way.

The enemy always seeks to present a counterfeit to the TRUTH!

We shared some of what was happening when we were in John's first
epistle. Understand that in the Apostle John's day, there were some
false teachers who believed and taught that SPIRIT WAS GOOD AND
MATTER WAS EVIL. So, they reasoned that Jesus could not have
been both GOD AND MAN. However, they were flawed in their
reasoning and consequently they were ERRING FROM THE
SCRIPTURES AND THE PROPER DOCTRINE OF CHRIST!

**Most heresy that exists in both the cults and other false religions
has to do with THE DOCTRINE OF JESUS CHRIST!**

(i.e. "Doctrine" simply means "Teaching.")

If someone errs from the doctrine of Christ, not only are we not to
listen to them, but we aren't to have close fellowship with them!

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The question about just exactly Who Jesus Christ is happens to be one
of the most important questions that folks need answered correctly!
Because how one answers the question can affect their eternal destiny!

The LORD Jesus Christ Himself posed a question to His own disciples
in **Matthew 16:13**, "*Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?*"

Now understand that there were a wide diversity of opinions among
folks in Jesus' day about who He was, just as there are today!

Some believed Jesus to be John the Baptist risen from the dead.
Some believed that Jesus was Elijah laying the pathway for the
Messiah as prophesied by Malachi.

Some believed that Jesus was Jeremiah who had come back
from the dead to restore the temple.

Some believed that Jesus was yet just another prophet sent from
God.

And we read in other places in Scripture that some believed he was
nothing more than just a mere man, the son of Joseph and Mary.

But Jesus claimed to be both the Son of God and the Son of Man!
And Jesus declared to be both the Son of God and the Son of Man!

The Son Of Man – When He suffered, and bled, and died on the
cross of Calvary!

The Son Of God – Not only by the many miracles He
performed during His ministry, but also when He arose
from the grave on the third day as He said He would!

The real question to us though is the same one that Jesus asked His
disciples in *Matthew 16:15* when he asked them, "*But whom say ye
that I am?*" **Jesus wants to know who you and I say that He is!**

**Do you agree with Who Jesus said He was? There are a lot of
people that don't!**

Do you agree with what the Bible, God's Holy Word, teaches and
reveals that He was? Again, there are a lot of people that don't!

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Heresies regarding the person of Christ abounded in the days of the Apostles just as they do today. If anything, I would venture to say that there are probably more heresies around today!

There was a heresy in the early days of the Church called **Arianism**, which said that **Jesus Christ was just another creature**. **Some believed it and may have been very strong in their belief, but they were very wrong in that belief!**

And today, there are those who hold that same or other wrong beliefs! **Unitarianism** and some of the other cults, including the **Jehovah's Witnesses** do not believe that Jesus is God! I will tell you that they are wrong because God's Word shows that they are wrong! **And, listen, if you do not believe that Jesus is God, you are also wrong!**

Listen, **it took MORE than just another creature to redeem man!** If the blood of bulls and goats was inadequate (and it was according to the book of Hebrews) then, the blood of any other creature that might have come into the world would also be inadequate. **It took a Man to redeem mankind!**

But not only a man, it took a special Man to redeem mankind! Jesus was that special Man!

Another popular heresy during this time as we have said before was **Gnosticism**. **The Gnostics believed that Jesus Christ was not God but just another emanation of many emanations of God.**

But listen, **it took more than just an emanation from God to redeem man—otherwise God could have sent an angel to be the object of our redemption**. But, angels don't have blood and the Bible says that without the shedding of blood there is no redemption! **It took a Man to redeem mankind!**

But again, it took more than just a man to redeem mankind!

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It took a SINLESS and HOLY MAN! It took the PERFECT, SINLESS SON OF GOD! It took THE ONLY GOD-MAN THERE HAS EVER BEEN! It took JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD!

But these deceivers that John says "*are entered into the world*" did **NOT** have a proper teaching (doctrine) about Who Jesus is! And sadly, **some folks were being drawn away from the Truth of Christ.**

So that meant that these folks were not only deceivers, but John said they who did this were *an antichrist!* (Not THE antichrist, but *an antichrist!*) **They were against the Christ as revealed to us in Person of Christ and as is recorded in God's Word!**

HE WARNED ABOUT DECEIVERS WHO ERRED IN THEIR DOCTRINE

II. HE ENCOURAGED HIS READERS TO TAKE HEED TO THEMSELVES! (Vs 8)

The idea here is **that they not allow themselves to be affected by these deceivers and their false doctrine.**

This elect lady and her children (to whom this epistle is addressed to) had **heard the truth**, had been **saved by the truth**, were **both walking in truth and growing in the truth.**

The verse from the Apostle Paul that I shared earlier comes to mind here, *1 Corinthians 15:33 Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.*

The context of that verse in 1 Corinthians 15 is that some were teaching false doctrine with regard to the resurrection in the Corinthian Church. And he was saying that **there is a tie-in between doctrine and living**. **What one believes affects how they live!**

If one believes right doctrine it will cause them to live the right things and pursue the right things in their life!

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But if one believes wrong doctrine it will cause them to back away from the sound doctrine they may have used to follow and live in a manner contrary to what the LORD would have them to do!

When one steps away from right doctrine and toward false doctrine it can keep them from receiving a full reward!

That is the Apostle John's point here as well in *verse 8*.

Look at *Philippians 3:12ff.* (Especially vs. 16)

**III. WATCH FOR ERRORS IN THE DOCTRINE OF CHRIST.
(Vs 9)**

That is a tell-tale sign of deceivers!

A. Those Who Transgress By Not Abiding In The Biblical Doctrine Of Christ, Are Not Of God!

- 1. His Vital Deity!**
 - a. Preexistence As God In Eternity Past!**
 - b. His Being Actively Involved In Creation!**
- 2. His Virgin Birth!**
- 3. His Virtuous Life!**
- 4. His Vicarious Suffering!**
- 5. His Victorious Resurrection!**
- 6. His Visible (And Imminent) Return!**

B. Those Who Abide In The Biblical Doctrine Of Christ, Are Of God!

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IV. CLOSE FELLOWSHIP WITH AND/OR BLESSING DECEIVERS AMOUNTS TO PARTAKING IN THEIR EVIL DEEDS. (Vs 10-11)

Cf. Galatians 1:6-9

Ephesians 5:11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.

Conclusion

So we are to walk in TRUTH and LOVE!

We are to be careful in the DOCTRINE we receive and those we FELLOWSHIP with!