

THE PRIMACY OF

Truth

Guard the Truth

Sunday, November 24, 2024

2 John 7-13

(Matthew 7:15-20, 24:23-27; Jude 17-18; 2 Peter 2, 3:3)

The Bible makes it very clear, the evil one (Satan/devil) is a liar! Since creation, he has sought to mislead and deceive many.

“You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.” John 8:44 (NASB95)

In the early church, false teachers arose teaching falsehoods. Paul warned the elders of the church in Ephesus, “I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves’ men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them.” Acts 20:29–30 (NASB95)

In the same way, John encouraged Christians to know the truth, to walk in truth, and to guard the truth. John joined his voice with both Paul and Peter to warn that there are deceivers in the world. The word *deceiver* implies much more than teaching false doctrine. It also includes leading people into wrong living. John has already made it clear that *truth and life go together*. What we believe determines how we behave. Wrong doctrine and wrong living always go together. In the 2 John 4-6, John challenged believers to GUARD THE TRUTH! In these verses, we are given four clear ways to guard the truth:

IDENTIFY (verse 7)

A false teacher or a wolf is someone who snatches up sheep (John 10:12), draws disciples away from the gospel (Acts 20:28), opposes the truth (2 Timothy 3:8), and leads people to make shipwreck of the faith and embrace ungodliness (1 Timothy 1:19-20; 2 Timothy 2:16-17).

- o False teachers
- o False teaching



THE PRIMACY OF Truth

WATCH (verses 8-9)

- o The danger of falling back (v. 8)

- o The danger of going too far (v. 9)

REJECT (verses 10-11)

“Here we see very clearly the danger which John saw in these false teachers. They are to be given no hospitality; and the refusal of hospitality would be the most effective way of stopping their work. John goes further; they are not even to be given a greeting on the street. This would be to indicate that to some extent you had sympathy with them. It must be made quite clear to the world that the church has no tolerance for those whose teaching destroys the faith.”

RELATIONSHIP (verses 12-13)

In the last 2 verses, John speaks of his desire to see them face to face and also the concern from fellow believers in another church. Relationships with other believers is important for spiritual protection, spiritual accountability, spiritual health, and spiritual growth.

Take away:

1. Devote yourself to a local church where Biblical truth is taught/preached consistently, completely, and clearly.
2. Devote yourself to the study of God’s Word.
3. Devote yourself to Biblical community with others who are seeking to know God’s Word, hold one another accountable, and passionately pursue Jesus Christ!