



Truth Matters... So Look Out for the Truth! Part 1

Lesson 7 • 2 John 4-9

Big Idea	The Message of 2 John: Truth Matters in a World of Lies! LONG for the Truth and Make it a PRIORITY in ALL of LIFE!			
Sections	Truth Matters to God's Elect Leaders & Churches [Truth and True Believers in the Church] 1-6		Truth Matters in a World of Lies & Liars [Truth and False Teachers in the World] 7-13	
Truth & Abiding	Walk in the Commandments <i>Prove the Truth Abides in You by Loving and Obeying!</i>		Watch for the Counterfeits <i>Prove You Abide in the Truth by Being Inhospitable to Error!</i>	
Truth & Loving	Truth Promotes Love for One Another		Love Protects Truth with One Another	
Lesson	LOVE by the Truth! 1-3	LIVE in the Truth! 4-6	LOOK OUT for the Truth! 7-11	LEARN the Truth! 12-13
Focus	Truth's PROVISION	Truth's PURPOSE	Truth's PROTECTION	Truth's PURSUIT

How Do God's Elect People Look Out for the Truth?

By Protecting One Another from False TEACHING (7-9) and False TEACHERS (10-11).

Three Ways We as God's Elect People Protect One Another from False Teaching

1. BE DILIGENT to live in Truth on a daily basis.

"For many deceivers have gone out into the world..." 2John 7

"I say this because many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world... (NIV2011)

Tests of Life	Authentic Christians Pass These Tests	False Teaching and False Teachers Fail These Tests
DOCTRINAL Test	They habitually walk in the truth as a pattern of life.	Truth is TWISTED . <i>God's truth is subtly distorted or outright denied.</i>
RELATIONAL Test	They habitually walk in love for one another as a pattern of life.	Love is LACKING . <i>God's love for the local church is dismissed or deemed unnecessary or even dangerous.</i>
MORAL Test	They habitually walk in obedience to all of God's commands as a pattern of life.	Obedience is OPTIONAL . <i>Godly obedience is optional or outright rejected.</i>
CHRONOLOGICAL Test	They persevere in what they have received from the beginning as a pattern of life.	Perseverance is PASSING . <i>Godly perseverance in truth, love, and obedience is not permanent as they distort the gospel and seek to deceive God's elect people.</i>

- Be diligent to DELIGHT in the truth in order to better discern what is false.
- Focus on **learning, loving, and living** the truth and know **just enough** about the false to RESIST AND REFUTE it. *Romans 16:19; Titus 1:9-11; 2Timothy 3:16-17; Jude 17-23*

2. BE DISCERNING when it comes to the lies and liars who promote false teaching.

"For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist." 2John 7

Learn to Discern the Lies that Are Told and the Liars Who Tell Them:

- **The Lies:** False teaching is a subtle DISTORTION or outright DENIAL of gospel Truth that is taught as if it is true.

"**COMING**" is in the present tense...

"**CHRIST**" is the gospel!

- **The Liars:** False teachers share the characteristics of the DEVIL HIMSELF: They are **deceivers** and **antichrists!**

The devil is a **DECEIVER** and so are false teachers!

The devil is **ANTICHRIST** and so are false teachers!

"Learn to discern false teaching for what it is: Deception that is Antichrist!"

3. BE DETERMINED to stay alert in light of what's at stake.

"Watch yourselves, that you do not lose what we have accomplished, but that you may receive a full reward. Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son." 2John 8-9

What Is at Stake When It Comes to Protecting One Another from False Teaching?

- Rewards are LOST when true believers **fail** to resist false teaching. (v. 8)

1) Churches can lose the privilege of being a light for the gospel.

2) True believers can lose the rewards that they had so diligently worked for. *1 Corinthians 3:10-17*

- Salvation is MISSED when **anyone** goes beyond the bounds of the gospel and fails to abide in the teachings of Christ. (v. 9; *Galatians 1:6-9*)

1) RESIST the temptation to go beyond the teaching **from** and **about** Jesus Christ in search of salvation, sanctification, and future glorification.

2) REMAIN within the bounds of the teaching **from** and **about** Jesus Christ in both your belief and behavior. *2Timothy 1:11-14; Jude 17-23*

WATCH YOURSELVES and RESIST FALSE TEACHING!

Be **DETERMINED** to stay alert in light of what's at stake by being **DILIGENT** to live in Truth on a daily basis and, thereby, growing in being **DISCERNING** when it comes to the lies and liars that promote false teaching.

"See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ. For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority;" Colossians 2:8-10

"Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God; and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world. You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world. They are from the world; therefore they speak as from the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God; he who knows God listens to us; he who is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error". 1John 4:1-6