

**January 11, 2023**

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**1 John 2:26-27**

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**These things I have written to you concerning those who try to deceive (seduce) you.**

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John referred to false teachers as antichrists. Antichrists who try and deceive/seduce the faithful from the truth and lead them into dangerous error. John is reminding his readers that wolves are among them, and they will not spare the flock.

**Matthew 24:4-5 And Jesus answered them, “See that no one leads you astray. For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and they will lead many astray.**

**Matthew 24:24 For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect.**

**Acts 20:29 I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock.**

Concerning those who try to deceive (seduce) you

*Ladies, define deceive.*

The Greek definition of the word deceive/seduce is a wandering whereby those who are led astray roam here and there and is always used of mental strain, wrong opinion, error in morals or religion.

*The King James Bible Dictionary states, “To mislead the mind: to cause to err, to cause to believe what is false, or disbelieve what is true; to impose on; to delude; ensnare, corrupt especially by mingling the truth of God’s Word with false doctrines and so handling it with deceit.”*

**2 Thessalonians 2:11-12 Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.**

*Have you ever been deceived in life?*

I have been deceived by false advertising on the internet. Click bait gets your attention, you click on the product only to discover you have been totally deceived. For example, I received an email from Michaels stating I have just received 50% off. Michaels used to have coupons for 50% off a single item of your choice. As I open the email to get my coupon, there is no coupon, just an advertisement stating certain items that Michaels had decided were 50% off. What they offered was completely different than what was advertised.

In the same way, people will try and deceive believers from the true gospel and give them half-truths or outright lies to cause one to believe what is false.

### **We can be deceived by others**

*How can we keep from being deceived by people?*

Trust God's truth rather than blindly trusting what someone else is claiming. Weigh the words of a person against the Word of God. When God is putting a warning in our spirit, we must obey the truth of what God's Word says.

### **God's Word says:**

**James 1:16 Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers.**

**Romans 16:17-18 I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them. For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive."**

**2 Peter 3:17 You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability.**

**1 John 3:7 Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous.**

### **We can deceive ourselves**

*How can we deceive ourselves?*

We can lie to ourselves and tell ourselves we are not sinning; when in fact, God's Word says we are.

**James 4:17 So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.**

Our hearts are deceitful that we can easily fool ourselves. Our pride always blinds us to the truth because pride competes with God for control and glory, it is therefore the root of all sin.

**Jeremiah 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?**

**Proverbs 16:18 Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.**

**Galatians 6:3 If anyone thinks they are something when they are not, they deceive themselves.**

**1 John 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.**

*Give an example in the Bible of someone who was self-deceived.*

**God's Word says:**

**Galatians 6:7 Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.**

**James 1:22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.**

**We can be deceived by Satan**

The devil is the “father of lies.” He is the original liar and the ultimate source of deception. His name means, “the deceiving one.” There is no truth in him!

**John 8:44b 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.**

**Revelation 12:9 And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.**

**God's Word says:**

**Ephesians 4:27 And give no opportunity to the devil.**

**Ephesians 6:11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.**

**James 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.**

**1 Peter 5:8-9 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.**

*How can we guard ourselves from being deceived from others, self, or the devil?*

Remembering the Word of God and continuing in the Word is what changes character and self-delusion. The Word of God will always show us the truth. When our faith is secured in the Bible we are protected against any deception. The Lord will never lead us in a direction that is not in perfect alignment with His Word. By prayer, we can ask God to open our eyes to see when we are being deceived. By not living in the will of God, we leave ourselves unprotected and open to the attacks of the devil to deceive and destroy us. Satan hates the Lamb of God and all His followers. Therefore, he actively wages war against those who seek to obey God's Word above all else! Let us remain alert and vigilant to the devil's schemes. Satan is a defeated enemy and if we resist him through the power of God's Word and His might, he will flee from us!

**Psalm 119:11 I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.**

## 1 John 2:27

**But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.**

But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you

*“John is guarding Christians against deceivers and seducers, principally by that anointing - that spiritual light and discernment which they had received from God; and also by comparing the doctrine of these men with what they had heard from the beginning. The anointing here mentioned seems to mean the spirit of illumination, or great knowledge and discernment in spiritual things. By this they could readily distinguish the false apostles from the true.” Adam Clarke’s Commentary*

**1 John 2:20 But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and you all have knowledge.**

It is the work of the Holy Spirit given by the Lord that guards and guides a believer into truth. The truth we receive is not our own wisdom or the opinions of others but from the anointing of the Holy Spirit. He is the One who permanently abides within and keeps one from dangerous error. It was the promise of Christ that the Spirit should teach and guide all believers into truth.

**John 16:13 However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.**

**John 6:45 It is written in the prophets, ‘And they shall all be taught by God.’ Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me.**

*Something to ponder: Am I listening to the Holy Spirit as He guides and guards me?*

But as the same anointing

Believer, you are anointed (set apart) by God by His grace and through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. His anointing teaches believers the truth and all things necessary to our knowledge of God in Christ and the glory of the gospel. The Holy Spirit is truth and reminds us of the Lord’s Word. It is through the Holy Spirit’s work that we can abide. We should respond and choose the teaching of the Holy Spirit for He is the Only One who guides us in all truth.

**John 14:26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.**

**John 15:26 But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.**

**John 16:12-15** “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

Teaches you concerning all things and is true, and is not a lie

John is reminding them that they have no need of receiving such teaching as their false teachers offered to them. Nor of any other teaching that was different from that teaching of the Spirit of God. The Spirit of truth will not lie and because the Holy Spirit is truth, He will never deceive us.

*“The Holy Ghost continues to teach them the good and the right way, and to incline them to walk in it. When they deviate from it, he leads them to think on their ways, and turn their feet unto God’s testimonies. Thus he works in them to will and to do, while they work out their salvation with fear and trembling, and so keeps them by his mighty power, through faith and obedience, unto eternal life.”* Family Bible Notes

*Why is the Holy Spirit important in the life of the believer?*

By knowing the truth a believer will be able to discern immediately when it is false doctrine. Believers, be aware and sure that you are rooted in the gospel and in the knowledge of who Jesus Christ is. The truth is available to all who will seek it!

**Psalm 119:66** Teach me good judgment and knowledge for I trust in your commandments.

**Psalm 119:125** I am your servant; give me discernment that I may understand your statutes.

God’s Word is truth. Because His Word is truth, it will never deceive us. His Word has never been proven to be in error scientifically, morally, or historically. God’s Word is the only thing that you can stake your life on! Anything and everything that does not align with God’s Word is a lie!

**Psalm 18:30** His way is perfect; the word of the Lord proves true; He is a shield for all those who take refuge in him.

**Psalm 119:160** The sum of Your word is truth, and every one of Your righteous ordinances is everlasting.

**Colossians 1:5** Because of the hope laid up for you in heaven, of which you previously heard in the word of truth, the gospel.

God Himself is absolute truth! Because He is truth, He will never change and can always be relied upon. He will never deceive us.

**Jeremiah 10:10 But the Lord is the true God; he is the living God and the everlasting King. At his wrath the earth quakes, and the nations cannot endure his indignation.**

**John 17:3 And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.**

*How do we know if we are responding to God's truth?*

Jesus is truth. Because Jesus is truth, He will never deceive us.

**John 1:17 For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.**

**1 John 5:20 And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.**

*Something to ponder: Am I responding to the Lord's truth He is teaching me?*

And just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him

The responsibility of a believer is to abide (to stay, remain) and walk (obedience) in the truth, persevere (endure, persist) in faithfulness (constancy, devotion), and sound doctrine by continuing in the truth taught of God. Those who truly abide, continue in the faith and fellowship with fellow believers.

**John 8:31-32 So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."**

**1 John 2:24 Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father.**

**2 John 4 I rejoiced greatly to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as we were commanded by the Father.**

**3 John 4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.**

*"The same Spirit who endues (empowers) the elect with the knowledge of the truth and sanctifies them, gives them the gift of perseverance, to continue to the end." 1599 Geneva Bible Notes*

*Something to ponder: Am I walking in the truth, persevering in faithfulness and sound doctrine?*