

Apr 26, 2015



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks
Baptist Church
Grand Prairie, Texas

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:
God's truth is the best protection
against Satan's lies

POEM FOR THE WEEK:
The shield of faith protects us
From Satan's fiery darts; And he
cannot deceive us With God's
Word in our hearts. —Sper

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:
4 Now this I say lest anyone
should deceive you with persua-
sive words. 5 For though I am
absent in the flesh, yet I am with
you in spirit, rejoicing to see your
good order and the steadfastness
of your faith in Christ.

(Col 2:4-5 NKJV)

(From "Our Daily Bread", Apr 4, 1994)

Series: THE SPIRIT COMES

UNIT: The Community of
Beloved Disciples

NEXT WEEK

**Work Together
for the Truth**
(3 John 1:1-14)

Watch Out for Deceivers 2 John 1:1-13

Aim and Application of the Lesson

The lesson warns us to **Watch Out for Deceivers**. The **study's aim** is to learn how to identify deceivers who lead believers away from God's truth and to stand firm in God's truths, discerning those in error. The **study's application** is to practice Christian love, realizing it does not include accepting false teachers.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

Lesson Introduction and Background

We have three epistles that were written by the apostle John, the former Galilean fisherman (see Mark 1:16-20). We do not know the order in which these were written; they are simply arranged by length in the New Testament. There are connections among all three as well as with the Gospel of John (and, to a lesser extent, with the book of Revelation, also written by John). Early tradition associates all five works by John with the churches in and around the great city of Ephesus, a leading metropolitan center of the Roman Empire of the first century AD. John probably wrote his letters in the AD 80s or early 90s. Therefore the recipients included the second generation of believers since Paul's time in the area (see Acts 19). Troubling things had happened since then. Toward the end of his life, Paul wrote two letters in this regard to his younger colleague Timothy, who was in Ephesus to help the church with doctrinal and organizational matters. Thus the battle for truth was already being waged there in the AD 60s. It is after this period that Ephesus seems to have become a center for a burgeoning Christian heresy called gnosticism. This movement claimed to have special knowledge of Christ (the word gnosis means "knowledge"). The gnostics taught that Jesus had not been fully human but was a divine visitation of deity to earth, something like in the legends of the Greek gods. Since a nonhuman, immortal Jesus could not really die on the cross, the gnostics did not teach that Jesus' death was an atoning sacrifice for sins. Instead, they taught that salvation came from secret knowledge, from being enlightened to esoteric truths that Jesus had taught only to the innermost circle of his disciples. Gnosticism seems not to have developed fully as a rival version of Christianity until after the end of the first century AD, but its seeds were being sown in John's day. Thus his need to address in his letters gnostic-type falsehoods.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

We live in a world of instant media saturation regarding the most trivial of things. We are given information about celebrities beyond any healthy need to know. Some of these reports are so bizarre that they strain credibility, but they are accepted as truth by fascinated fans. In politics, unsubstantiated rumors are started on blogs and sometimes repeated enough so that a lie gains credibility, becoming almost impossible to quash. These are examples of daily deceptions that we must sift through in order to protect ourselves from untruth. Whom should we believe? Whom should we trust? These are questions we should not have to ask within the church. We should have leaders who teach correct doctrine, not deceptive heresies. The church should be a place of truth, not a place for deceivers to roam freely. This is why John advises such severe tactics when it comes to those who would distort the gospel by denying Christ's true humanity, atoning death, etc. Such teachers must themselves be denied any place of influence within the church. This applies whether they are on speaking tours, writing books, or hosting television shows. May our leaders guard us from error so that our gatherings are times of joy, not dangerous indulgences of falsehood.

(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

BASIS OF TRUTH (2 JOHN 1:1-3)

Loving in truth (1)

Loving in truth through obedience (1 Peter 1:22-23)

Loving in truth through actions (1 John 3:18)

Loving in truth through faith (Col 1:4-5)

Living in truth (2-3)

Living in truth through holding on to the word of God (John 8:31-32)

Living in truth through the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit (2 Thess 2:13)

Living in truth because no lie comes from the truth (1 John 2:21)

PATHWAY OF TRUTH (2 JOHN 1:4-6)

Walking in the truth (4)

Walking in the truth through the light in the Lord (Eph 5:8-9)

Walking in the truth through working together for the truth (3 John 1:8)

Walking in the truth through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit (John 16:13-15)

Love one another (5)

Love one another as God has loved us (John 13:34)

Love one another as a sacrifice to God (Eph 5:2)

Love one another through Jesus making love increase (1 Thess 3:12)

Obedience to the truth (6)

Obedience to the truth by not distorting God's word (2 Cor 4:2)

Obedience to the truth by working together for the truth (3 John 1:8)

Obedience to the truth by being established in the truth (2 Peter 1:12)

PERIL TO TRUTH (2 JOHN 1:7-13)

Refusing Jesus as Christ (7-8)

Refusing Jesus by disowned disowning Him before men (Matt 10:33)

Refusing Jesus because of hardening of the heart (Eph 4:18)

Refusing Jesus by not being one of His sheep (John 10:26)

Disobedience to God (9-10)

Disobedience that comes from the influence of Satan (Eph 2:1-3)

Disobedience that will receive just punishment (Heb 2:2)

Disobedience that keeps one from entering God's rest (Heb 4:6)

Fellowship with unbelievers (11)

Fellowship with unbelievers can cause loss of purity (1 Tim 5:22)

Fellowship with unbelievers can cause consequences (Rev 18:4)

Fellowship with unbelievers can cause divisions and obstacles (Rom 16:17)