



Faithfully Watching

2 John 1:7-13

Main Point: Faithfully watch your faith, abiding in the teaching of Jesus until his return.

Know that deceivers deny the truth about Jesus, doing the work of the antichrist (7-11).

- They are everywhere (7a).
- They do not have God (9).
- Their work is wicked (11).

In protecting the truth in love, John warned the elect lady and her children about the danger of false teachers. This world is full of deceivers who deny the truth about Jesus. Their work is the very work of the deceiver and the antichrist. Anything and anyone that is against the truth of Jesus is against (anti) Christ. At the time that John wrote this letter, one of the prevailing denials was that Jesus would not return in the flesh. John wanted believers to know that false teachers were everywhere and that the way to identify them was through the truth of Jesus Christ. The Lord made it very simple to understand: Those who do not abide in the teaching of Christ do not have God. The work they do in deceiving others is wicked or evil. It's demonic. They continue the work of Satan in the Garden of Eden by twisting God's Word and deceiving people in order to lead people away from the truth that leads to life. The world is still full of deceivers. They are everywhere. They do not have God, and their work is wicked.

1. John connects the work of deceivers to the work of the antichrist. What are other passages in 1 John that reinforce this truth about the work of the antichrist? Research, and discuss.
2. How do you see the work of the antichrist in the world today? Use specific examples from people and organizations in the world around us. Are deceivers everywhere?
3. If they do not have God, what do they need in order to receive God? How does the answer to this question impact your focus on how to respond?
4. What is wicked or evil about the work of those who deny the truth about Christ?

Watch yourselves carefully to protect your faith (8-11).

- You can lose what you've worked for (8).
- You can diminish your reward (8).
- You will affirm that you have God as you abide in the truth of Jesus (9).
- You will protect your faith by not allowing deceivers into your life (10-11).

John's primary exhortation to the elect lady and her children is to "watch yourselves." In the language of the New Testament, the word for watch can literally mean "to see," and it can figuratively mean "to perceive" or "to discern." John's intent includes both. He's calling the believers to see the conduct and fruit of their lives and to perceive or to discern the reality of the faith in their hearts. He's encouraging them to pay close attention to themselves to make sure that they are continuing in the faith. Why is this important? Because there are so many

deceivers out there looking for any and every opportunity to deceive and to lead the faithful to question and to stumble in their faith. John warned them that there's a chance of losing what he and they had worked for. There's also a chance of diminishing their reward. In other words, unfaithfulness will bring damage to their witness and to the cause of Christ. The witness of years of faithfulness to the Lord can be destroyed by one unfaithful act. We see this all the time in the lives of leaders in Christianity who fall because of moral failure in their lives. The fullness of the reward of following Christ is diminished when this happens. So the Lord's encouragement is to watch yourself. True faith is affirmed by a faith that continues to abide in the truth of Jesus. Protect true faith in order to avoid losing what you've worked for and diminishing the reward in Christ. To do this, John told believers to avoid deceivers. Don't let deceivers into your life and into your home. Don't open the door to even entertain the possibility of being deceived. Guard and protect the truth in love by watching yourselves carefully to protect your faith.

1. What are we working for? As the church, what is our work?
2. Can we really lose what we've worked for? If so, what are some examples of how this has happened?
3. What is our reward? Is there a reward on earth in this life and in the life to come? Which one is the focus here? How can the fullness of that reward be diminished?
4. What does it mean to abide in the teaching of Jesus? Why is persistence in abiding the real affirmation of the genuine presence of the Lord in someone's life?
5. What are some practical ways that you need to protect your life and home from deceivers?