

Lessons From II John

Biblical Hospitality

(II Jn 7-11)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Morning
 - a. Greeting...
2. Series of "Lessons From II John."
 - a. What we have learned so far...
 - i. John in this letter stresses both truth and love.
 1. Love is found four times in the first six verses.
 2. Truth is found five times in the first six verses.
 - ii. Last week we looked at verse 4-6.
 1. Praise for walking in truth.
 2. Exhortations to love one another.
 - b. There is no doubt that we should according to John walk by truth and love.
 - i. What if some comes our way however teaching false doctrine?
 1. Should our desire to "walk in love" permit us to receive and support those that teach such error?
 2. Could we do so and still be "walking in truth?"
3. With these questions in mind let us examine what John writes in **II Jn 7-11**.

I. There Are False Teachers In The Church (7)

- A. Jesus taught this very thing
 1. **Mt 7:15** "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves."¹
 2. **Mt 24:11, 23-25** "And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray...23 Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There he is!' do not believe it. 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. 25 See, I have told you beforehand."
- B. Paul taught this as well
 1. **Ac 20:29-31** "I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; 30 and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. 31 Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears."
 2. **I Ti 4:1-3** "Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, 2 through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared, 3 who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth."

¹ All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted. If other translations are used this is not necessarily an endorsement of the translation.

Lessons From II John

- C. Peter mentions this in his second letter
 - 1. **II Pt 2:1-3** "But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. 2 And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of truth will be blasphemed. 3 And in their greed they will exploit you with false words. Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep."
- D. John, as well it appears, is dealing with this in his day
 - 1. **II Jn 7** "For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. Such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist."
 - 2. **I Jn 4:1-3** "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2 By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, 3 and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already."
- E. Thus wolves in sheep's clothing do exist unfortunately and because of this we must understand that...

II. We Must Watch Ourselves (8)

- A. This too is nothing new
 - 1. **Mk 13:5** "And Jesus, answering them, began to say: "Take heed that no one deceives you." (NKJV)
 - 2. **Mk 13:9** "But watch out for yourselves, for they will deliver you up to councils, and you will be beaten in the synagogues. You will be brought before rulers and kings for My sake, for a testimony to them." (NKJV)
 - 3. **Mk 13:23** "But be on guard; I have told you all things beforehand."
 - 4. **Mk 13:33** "Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is." (NKJV)
 - 5. **II Co 13:5** "Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test!"
- B. The reason this is not new is because the danger is real
 - 1. John didn't want them to "lose" those things they had worked hard for.
 - i. **II Jn 8** "Watch yourselves, so that you may not lose what we have worked for, but may win a full reward."

Lessons From II John

2. This is exactly what the Hebrew writer was worried about.
 - i. **He 3:12-4:1** "Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. 13 But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. 14 For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end. 15 As it is said, "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion." 16 For who were those who heard and yet rebelled? Was it not all those who left Egypt led by Moses? 17 And with whom was he provoked for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? 18 And to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient? 19 So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief. 1 Therefore, while the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us fear lest any of you should seem to have failed to reach it."
- C. Therefore because false teachers exists we must all the more watch ourselves and be on guard against such people which is done by understanding...

III. We Must Abide In The Doctrine Of Christ (9)

- A. There is some question about the phrase "doctrine of Christ"
 1. This phrase is in the genitive and thus the question is raised is it subjective or objective? In other words...
 - i. Is it the doctrine about Christ?
 - ii. Is it the doctrine taught by Christ?
 2. The truth is it doesn't really matter because John teaches both truths.
 - i. It is paramount to hold to the "truth" concerning the proper views about Christ.
 - a. **II Jn 7** "For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. Such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist."
 - ii. It is equally paramount to hold to the "truth" concerning the commandments of Christ.
 - a. **I Jn 3:24** "Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us."
 3. Thus either can apply here.
- B. The need to abide in the doctrine of Christ
 1. To many today say "just preach Jesus" with the understanding of "doctrine" is not important.
 - i. I just recently heard it said that "doctrine is not as important as a ministering spirit is."

Lessons From II John

2. If we do not abide in the "doctrine" or "teachings" of Christ we...
 - i. Do not have the God.
 - a. **I Jn 1:6** "If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth."
 - b. **I Jn 2:3-5** "And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. 4 Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, 5 but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him:"
 3. Those that do abide in the "doctrine" or "teachings" of Christ...
 - i. Do have the Godhead.
 - a. **Jn 14:21, 23** "Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him...23...If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him."
- C. And what we find then is that as long as we abide in the doctrine of Christ we have no need to fear being misled by deceivers or losing our reward
1. Thus we find the "reason" it seems for this entire letter...

IV. Do Not Show Hospitality To False Teachers (10-11)

- A. Supporting a teacher means you are a fellow worker with him who teaches
 1. That could mean that you are a fellow worker for the truth if the teacher is teaching truth.
 - i. **III Jn 8** "Therefore we ought to support people like these, that we may be fellow workers for the truth."
 2. That could mean that you are a fellow worker for evil if the teacher is teaching false doctrine.
 - i. **II Jn 11** "for whoever greets him takes part in his wicked works."
- B. Thus the admonition to the elect lady and her children is to not receive or greet/support any false teacher
 1. That doesn't mean we are not to study with those that are erring as they may repent and come to be obedient to the truth.
 2. But to those that only want us to "acquiesce" to their false doctrine without studying and proving their teachings then we are to not bid them God speed.

CONCLUSION

1. Brethren it is vital to our "walk with God" that we understand the dangers that false teachers pose to us the what "Biblical Hospitality" truly is.
 - a. Biblical Hospitality is being hospitable to those that are teachers of the truth so that your hospitality allows you to become workers of truth with them.
 - b. Let it be said of us that we are not hospitable or in support of anyone that would teach those things contrary to Scripture.
2. Question: Are you abiding in the doctrine of Christ?

Lessons From II John

3. Invitation

- a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.
 - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
- b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.
 - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
 - ii. Believe Jesus Is The Christ **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
 - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
 - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
 - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
 - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**