

“Zealously Guard the Truth”
2 John 1:7-13

- “For many deceivers have gone out into the world....”
 - The devil lies to people about the truth (John 8:44-47) and deceives people into rejecting the truth (Revelation 20:10). In the same way that is the goal of the false teacher/deceiver. The root of all false teaching is the Devil (1 Timothy 4:1-2).
 - The Word of God is the standard in which we test teaching. If someone rejects the teaching of scripture and gives you a non-biblical teaching, that teaching is an error (1 John 4:1-6).
 - In this context, and even today, the warfare ultimately was over Jesus and whether He was actually fully God and fully man (1 John 4:2-3; John 1:1 & 14).
- “Watch yourselves....so that you may win a full reward....”
 - There are rewards to be gained and lost for the Christian (2 Corinthians 5:9-10). One of the battlefields is fighting for sound doctrine (Jude 1:3-4).
 - There are also rewards given for faithfulness, obedience, and diligence, and all of this is centered around sound doctrine (2 Timothy 4:8; 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20; 1 Corinthians 3:11-15).
- “Not abiding in the teaching of Christ....abides in the teaching of Christ...”
 - Endurance and perseverance in true doctrine is a mark of true salvation. You can start off “believing and practicing” what is right and walk away (2 Peter 2:19-22; 1 John 2:19).

“You can have an accurate awareness about Christ without having a saving knowledge of Christ. They seek personal improvement and success through spiritual and religious experience (Matthew 7:21-23).” (John MacArthur)

- Spiritual growth and endurance is marked in abiding in God’s Word. Growing in our knowledge of Christ and practicing it gives us confidence in our faith and a rich reward in eternity (2 Peter 1:8-11).
- You cannot know the Father without knowing the Son. You cannot be saved without affirming the Biblical teaching on both (1 John 2:23).
- “Do not receive him....do not take part in his wicked works....”
 - False teachers are setting out to destroy the bride of Christ (Acts 20:27-30). There is nothing innocent about false teaching and should never be excused.
 - To welcome a teacher into your home and life is to affirm and submit to his teaching. To house him is to promote him and his teaching. Empowering a teacher who desires to destroy the church is not the definition of loving your enemy biblically. Correcting and rebuking them is loving them (Romans 16:17-18; Ephesians 5:11; Matthew 7:15; Titus 3:10-11; Titus 1:9 & 13).
- “Instead I hope to come to you....”
 - True joy in Christ is found in participating in one another’s lives. We cannot enjoy Christian community through paper, or the internet, or over the phone. There is a distinct joy found in the physical community.

“Face-to-face connection is supreme to all other communication. The kind that involves sitting with, looking at, sharing with, and experiencing each other. No other communication (text, social media, email, phone call, letter) has the same effect.” (Dave Harvey)

Worship: So I Will Trust You (Sovereign Grace Music)

As the Deer (Various Artists)