

**GOSPEL** of *Grace*  
FELLOWSHIP

**2 John 7-8**

**Guard Against Deception**

*by Bob DeWaay*

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**Real Danger Abounds**

**2 John 7a (LEB)**  
For many deceivers have **gone out into the world**. . . .

- “For” links this to the need to obey God and love one another
- Departure from the truth will create harsh rejection of true believers
- In John’s categories, to leave “abiding in Christ” is to go into the lawless world

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**Failure to Preach Christ**

**2 John 7b (LEB)**  
those who do not confess Jesus Christ coming in the flesh

- This implies a failure to consistently proclaim the Incarnate Christ
- Their ‘anointed’ one is immaterial
- The false Christ of the deceivers is not the transcendent Creator John preaches in John 1:1-18

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### Antichrist Deceivers

#### **2 John 7c (LEB)**

This person is the deceiver and the antichrist!

- The definite article in this context marks out a 'category of persons'
- These 'antichrists' abound (1 John 2:18)
- Deceivers often promote a "Christ-consciousness" rather than Jesus Christ coming in the flesh

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### Watch Yourselfes!

#### **2 John 8 (LEB)**

Watch yourselves that you do not lose what we have worked for, but receive a full reward.

- "Watch" is a present active imperative
- It is every Christian's personal responsibility to guard against deceivers
- "Yourselfes" is a reflexive pronoun in the Greek

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### Implications and Applications

- Loving one another implies guarding against deceivers
- Beware false Christs
- Stop believing whatever has a spiritual source and use discernment

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**Rejecting Error Is Loving**

**2 Corinthians 11:3 (LEB)**  
But I am afraid lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds may be led astray from the sincerity and the **purity of devotion** to Christ.

- Paul is using a betrothal analogy (vs 2)
- The “super-apostles” use words to deceive like Satan did to Eve
- Pure devotion is not merely a feeling

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**Irony! They Tolerate the False**

**2 Corinthians 11:4 (LEB)**  
For if the one who comes proclaims **another Jesus** whom we have not proclaimed, or you receive **a different spirit** which you did not receive, or **a different gospel** which you did not accept, **you put up with it well enough!**

- The true gospel is grounded in the preaching of the person of Christ
- The Holy Spirit confesses only the truth

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**Beware False Christs**

**John 8:58 (NASB)**  
Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am.”

- “I AM” describes God in His essential nature (eternal, non-contingent existence)
- Those who claim Jesus lost or laid aside His deity imply He is not “I AM”
- This refers to Exodus 3:14

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**Beware Deceiving Spirits**

**1 Timothy 4:1 (NASB)**  
 But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to **deceitful spirits** and **doctrines of demons**,

- Paul also warned Ephesus about this is Acts 20:29, 30
- “Paying attention” is *prosecho* which is a nautical term for holding to a course
- Spirits have deceitful doctrines: watch out!

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**Test the Spirits**

**1 John 4:1 (NASB)**  
 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many **false prophets** have gone out into the world.

- There are two imperatives: “stop believing” but “start testing” spirits
- Not everything “spiritual” is good
- Enthusiasts claim direct spiritual inspiration

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