

Transforming Daily
“ . . . *this is a deceiver and an antichrist . . .*”
2 John 1:7

Second John is one of the five books in the New Testament that John wrote, and second in a series of three titled 1, 2, and 3 John. It is believed that John was either writing to a specific woman and her children or to the membership of a local church about the dangers of false teachers and their doctrine. John is very pointed about what he thinks about false teachers and their doctrine when he calls them deceivers and antichrists. When John uses the term “antichrist” here he is not referring to “the Antichrist,” but to the spirit of antichrist that indwells all unbelievers and false teachers against the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

False teachings and false teachers were evidently very prominent in and about the early church and Peter wanted the “elect lady” to be forewarned and prepared for the inevitable conflict. He tells the church that the indication of a true believer is the love that we have for one another. Peter then says, “This is love, that we walk according to His commandments.” Therefore, the distinction between a believer and an unbeliever is that the believer will keep God’s commandments and abide in the doctrine of Christ (v.6, 9), and the unbeliever will not confess Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh (v.7).

A pastor friend of mine and I were at a convention in Utah. There we were witnessing to some local folks. There were three young ladies in particular that we shared our faith with and listen to them share theirs. As they shared what they believed, one young lady shared her belief and then was very quick to reject the presentation of the gospel. She pleasantly excused herself (went back into the temple), and left the other two young ladies there to continue our discussion. One of the two remaining ladies argued very strongly for her belief, but against the gospel. Her argument was well thought out, rational and logical, but that was the problem, she could not refute matters of faith with reason. She left in a huff when she realized that she couldn’t persuade us to accept her false doctrine over that of the gospel. And then there was one. The third young lady seemed to be earnestly seeking the truth. As a matter of fact she said so. She told us what she believed and that she did so because it is what her family believed. She said that she was there on a mission and if it wasn’t God’s truth, she would know and respond accordingly. She thanked us for caring and then also returned to the temple. I don’t know if she came to faith through the truth of the gospel, but I’d like to think that all three of them eventually did (or will).

Are you confident about your belief in and of the gospel? If a false teacher came to you and refuted your belief in the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, could you defend your testimony? Are you strong enough to resist the witness of one who does not confess Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh? Remember, this is a deceiver and an antichrist.