



Tweets from Heaven

#7 II John: Part 2

I. Introduction: A warning against deceivers (vs. 7-11)

- A. Antichrists: See 1 John 2:18, 4:1
- B. Other titles: "Man of Sin" (2 Thes. 2:3-4), The Beast (Rev. 13:5-8), "Contemptible Person" (Dan. 11:21)

II. The specific warning: Avoid those who do not confess that Jesus, the Messiah has come in the flesh (vs. 7)

1 John 4:2-3 "This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world."

1 John 2:22 "Who is the liar? It is whoever denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a person is the antichrist—denying the Father and the Son."

Titus 3:9-11 "But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and arguments and quarrels about the law, because these are unprofitable and useless.¹⁰ Warn a divisive person once, and then warn them a second time. After that, have nothing to do with them.¹¹ You may be sure that such people are warped and sinful; they are self-condemned."

III. The broader injunction: Abide (remain) in the "doctrine of Christ."

Consider the "Christ Hymn" in Col. 1:15-20.

- A. Col. 1:15-20 – Christ's supremacy

Three profound statements concerning Christ:

1. Regarding His Diety: "the image of the invisible God" (vs. 15)
"manifestation": The nature and being of God are perfectly revealed in Him
 2. Regarding His dominion over creation: All things came to be "in" Him, "through" Him, and "for" Him.
 3. Regarding His position as the Head of the Church (see Eph. 1:22-23, 4:15). The church: the "called out assembly" – the redeemed people of God.
- B. "Orthodoxy": "Conforming to the Christian faith as represented in the creeds of the early church."

1. The Nicene Creed – developed out of the council of Nicene (present day Iznik, Turkey) in 325 AD

*We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and unseen.*

*We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, light from light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, one in Being with the Father.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,*

By the power of the Holy Spirit he was born of the Virgin Mary and became man.

*For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
He suffered, died and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in fulfillment of the Scriptures;
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.*

*We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father (and the Son)
Who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified.
Who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.*

2. The Apostles Creed – it was likely developed after the Nicene Creed. Its earliest evidence of its existence is a letter written in 390 AD

*I believe in God, the Father Almighty, the Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord:
Who was conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into
hell.*

*The third day He arose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty,
whence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.*

*I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,*

the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting.

Amen.

C. The "Doctrine of Christ"

The essentials (these came from some excellent material developed by the Christian Apologetics and Research Ministry...CARM)

1. The Deity of Christ – God in the flesh (1 John 4:2-3)
2. Salvation is by Grace – through faith (Eph. 2:8-9)
3. The resurrection – physically (1 Cor. 15:14)
4. The Gospel – the good news (Gal. 1:8-9)
5. Monotheism – there is only one God (Ex. 20:3-6)

IV. So What?

In order to be able to avoid modern deceivers, we must be able to identify the fundamentals of faith, assert our allegiance to them and share them with clarity to others.

Unfortunately, biblical literacy is at an all time low ebb in the United States. In an article titled "The Crisis of Biblical Literacy and What We Can Do About It," Kenneth Berding (Biola University) says:

"Christians used to be known as a people of one book. They memorized it, meditated on it, talked about it, and taught it to others. We don't do that any more, and in a very real sense we are starving ourselves to death."

A report in 2002 ("Exploring Religious America Survey") stated that over 84% of Americans consider the Bible to be "very" or at least "somewhat" important to them. They stated that they use it to help make decisions. But according to another study, only about 33% of American adults can even name the four gospels, tell who gave the Sermon on the Mount or tell what the first book of the Bible is.

Biblical Literacy is a HUGE deal!

Let's take a quiz....

Discussion Questions

1. How did you do on the Biblical Literacy quiz? How do you think your husband will do? Does it matter?
2. What can you do in your own life to make sure you can identify deceivers and clearly follow the "doctrine of Christ?" Are you committed?