

2 John: Guarding the Gospel

Week Five

Verse Seven

- Many deceivers have gone out into the world.

Verse Nine

- Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ does not have God.
 - Going too far indicates a departure from truth or it may mean *addition* to the truth.
 - Going too far is equated with not abiding in Christ's teachings. It is going beyond what Christ taught. The false teachers addressed in Galatians went beyond Christ's teaching by requiring circumcision and law-keeping for salvation.
 - Those who have gone too far do not have God. In other words, they do not belong to God.
 - John is talking about those who have distorted the essential truths of the gospel.
- The one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son.
 - He belongs to God and is saved.
 - He has accepted the whole of the gospel, the Father and the Son.

Verse Ten

- If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching...
 - The "anyone" refers to the itinerate teachers who are seeking to advance their message.
 - "You" is plural. If he were addressing a woman and her household, he likely would have used the singular.
 - "Coming to you" likely refers to their desire to teach/preach to the church.
 - "This teaching" refers to the true message of Jesus Christ, the gospel.
- Do not receive him into *your* house...
 - "Your" is not part of the original. It is implied. Its absence again reinforces the idea that John was addressing a church and not an individual woman.
 - If this is correct, John is telling this church not to allow the false teacher into their assembly or to give him teaching access to its members.
 - This is not a matter of simple hospitality.
- And do not give him a greeting...
 - This literally says "do not speak to him to greet/welcome".
 - The Apostle is not commanding unkindness or impoliteness (cf. "love your enemies").
 - This command is closely associated with receiving him into the church. It likely refers to a form of commendation, public greeting, or introduction.
 - Do not present this person to your church in any way that would commend his teaching.

Verse 11

- For the one who gives him a greeting participates in his evil deeds.
 - Giving aid either by way of support or by commendation or presentation is to "fellowship" with the evil.
 - The connection between giving a greeting and participation must be more than a simple courtesy like "hello"; it must be some form of commendation.
 - This is a frightening statement that should cause us great pause before opening "doors" to teachers.
 - There is a principle that goes beyond simply allowing the physical presence of a teacher or a specific commendation from the pulpit. The prohibition would apply to any provision of support or any partnership that would aid or otherwise commend false teaching.