

Sermon Title: The Ways of Deceivers and Antichrists

Sermon Text: 2 John 7-9

Sermon Purpose: To call the hearer to test the Spirit, life and message of those speaking on behalf of God.

Sermon Proposition: There are 3 warnings to adhere to concerning deceivers and antichrists.

I. The destination of deceivers and antichrists in the world. V.7

A. The multiplicity of deceivers. V.7a

Mark 13:22 "For false christs and false prophets will rise and show signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. **23** "But take heed; see, I have told you all things beforehand.

Jeremiah 23:11 " For both prophet and priest are profane; Yes, in My house I have found their wickedness," says the LORD.

Jeremiah 50:6 " My people have been lost sheep. Their shepherds have led them astray; They have turned them away *on* the mountains. They have gone from mountain to hill; They have forgotten their resting place.

Ezekiel 33:6 'But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet, and the people are not warned, and the sword comes and takes *any* person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at the watchman's hand.'

B. The mission field of the deceiver. V.7b

C. The message of the deceivers. V.7c

2 Corinthians 11:1 Oh, that you would bear with me in a little folly -- and indeed you do bear with me. **2** For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present *you as* a chaste virgin to Christ. **3** But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. **4** For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or *if* you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted -- you may well put up with it!

1 Timothy 4:1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, **2** speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron,

Colossians 2:9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily;

1. Secessionists – Jesus is a great prophet, but not supreme Lord in the flesh.

2. Cerinthus – distinguished the divine Christ and human Jesus.

3. Docetists – who claimed that Jesus only seemed to be human.

D. The mastermind of the deceivers. V.7d.

-Conceited

-Controversial

-Corrupted

2 Corinthians 11:12 But what I do, I will also continue to do, that I may cut off the opportunity from those who desire an opportunity to be regarded just as we are in the things of which they boast. **13** For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. **14** And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. **15**

Therefore *it is* no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.

II. The **danger** of the deceivers and antichrist in the world. V.8

- A. The danger of losing what they had **worked** for. V.8a
(The metaphor seems to be taken from the payment of a laborer, the work reward (misthos) is a workman's wage.)
Matthew 20:8 "So when evening had come, the owner of the vineyard said to his steward, 'Call the laborers and give them *their* wages, beginning with the last to the first.'
John 4:36 "And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together.
Hebrews 6:9 But, beloved, we are confident of better things concerning you, yes, things that accompany salvation, though we speak in this manner. **10** For God *is* not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, *in that* you have ministered to the saints, and do minister. **11** And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, **12** that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.
- B. The danger of losing a **full** reward. V.8b
Colossians 2:18 Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in *false* humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind,
1 Corinthians 3:11 For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. **12** Now if anyone builds on this foundation *with* gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, **13** each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. **14** If anyone's work which he has built on *it* endures, he will receive a reward. **15** If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

III. The **delusion** of deceivers and antichrist in the world. V.9

- A. The delusion of going beyond what is taught about Jesus. (**John 5:37-38**)
Psalms 119:104 Through Your precepts I get understanding; Therefore I hate every false way.
Psalms 119:128 Therefore all *Your* precepts *concerning* all *things* I consider *to be* right; I hate every false way.
Psalms 139:21 Do I not hate them, O LORD, who hate You? And do I not loathe those who rise up against You?
"There is the realistic possibility of true Christians falling prey to heresy and apostasy."
- B. The delusion of being progressive about what Jesus taught.
John 1:18 No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared *Him*.
John 14:7 " If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him."
1 John 5:20 And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.
Matthew 11:27 "All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and *the one* to whom the Son wills to reveal *Him*.
"Christians and Christian teachers are warned not to overstep the boundaries of sound doctrine, to deviate from the truth is to leave God and Christ behind."
- C. The delusion of going farther than the teachings of Christ through the Apostles. (**1 John 1:1-4**)
Acts 1:1 The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach,
Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.
Hebrews 2:3 how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard *Him*,

Conclusion: For John, a person who continues in the teachings is one who truly abides or makes his home there. His connection with the truth is vital and dynamic, so he has a dynamic relationship with God who's commands he faithfully obeys.

John 14:21 "He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him." **22** Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, "Lord, how is it that You will manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?" **23** Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.

Abiding and obedience are just as inseparable as truth and love, in order to experience the abundant life.

John 10:10 "The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.