

## 2 John 1:7-13

### Opening Thoughts

1. Do you have any funny stories about wearing a shirt inside out by mistake, your zipper left open, or food stuck in your teeth – anything embarrassing that you wished someone would have told you about?
2. It's been said, "a true friend tells you when you've got food stuck in your teeth." What would you say makes a true friend?

### Into the Passage

Read 2 John 1:7-13

3. In this letter, John warns the church against "deceivers" – "those who do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh." Why is it so important that believers believe that Jesus Christ is coming again in the flesh? Why might people teach otherwise?
4. John's emphasis is to warn against those, but to pay attention to yourself (Watch yourself, v8). What does he mean by "Watch yourself?"
5. What does the rest of verse 8 mean? What is it that might be lost? What does it mean to win a full reward?
6. In the earlier part of this letter, John tells the church to walk according to God's commandments. And then here he talks about people who "go ahead and do not abide in the teaching." What do you think that means?
7. How do we abide in God's teaching, walking with him – and not walking ahead?

BONUS! Can you think of any examples in the Bible about people walking with God and not running ahead/away from God?

8. In verse 10 & 11, what John says sounds quite harsh? How are we supposed to love others but at the same time not welcome those who are denying Christ?

### Moving Forward

*Looking at the whole letter (2 John 1-13), John's focus is that the church continue walking in God's commandment - loving Him and loving our neighbour. That the church relies on the grace, mercy & peace of Christ. And at the same time, watch yourself from being deceived into thinking you can live life apart from Christ.*

9. How can we, as God's living church, help one another keep walking with Christ?
10. What are some ways to have a "mirror" for your soul & character?
11. How do we interact with a world that is constantly trying to deny Christ's resurrection? How can we help each other abide in the Truth?

### Life Together

*Part of being a cell group is developing honest and authentic community where we are able to support one another in trust.*

12. In the last two verses, John expresses his desire to meet up with them face to face. This week, as a practical application, make one-on-one appointments with another person in your small group (or a friend), and take the chance to chat and pray.
13. Spend time now praying for one another, that we can abide in the truth of God – in the truth of who He is, and the truth of who we are in Him.

## 2 John 1:7-13 - Some Leader's Notes

These notes are primarily for the Into the Passage portion, and are to be used just as guidelines or commentary notes. Most of them are my own thoughts, so take that with a grain of salt. Let the Word of God lead you to truth, not these notes. Don't place too much focus on them, and let the Bible study discussion lead primarily from the passage itself.

### Into the Passage

Read 2 John 1:7-13

3. In this letter, John warns the church against "deceivers" – "those who do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh." Why is it so important that believers believe that Jesus Christ is coming again in the flesh? Why might people teach otherwise?

*If someone says they are a "Christian" but does not believe that Jesus is coming again – it suggests that they do not believe that Jesus rose from the dead, denying Christ as the son of God, and denying Jesus as our redeemer.*

*The lies may be more subtle, suggesting that we do not need Christ, or that we can rely on ourselves. That we can live life as we please, because Christ is not returning. It can easily breed a life of complacency and slothfulness.*

*It's easy to teach this because Christ has not returned yet. People might teach this because they don't believe Christ will come again, and so we are to just live as we please here and now. Although that might suggest being a morally good person and the need to love one another, it removes an important part of the commandment – the need to love God.*

*The greatest commandment is to Love God & Love your neighbour. We need to be doing both.*

4. John's emphasis is to warn against those, but to pay attention to yourself (Watch yourself, v8). What does he mean by "Watch yourself?"

*Instead of living in fear of deceivers, John suggests that if we watch ourselves, we won't be deceived when a deceiver comes. So "abide" in truth. Know the truth of who Christ is. Know the truth of His calling in your life.*

5. What does the rest of verse 8 mean? What is it that might be lost? What does it mean to win a full reward?

*This is not about "losing salvation." Why? Because John says, "so that you may not lose what **we have worked for**." (emphasis mine). Salvation is not something that we have worked for, but given by the grace of God. Rather, this is about losing the work put into your character, into the lives of one another, into the support of each other. Winning a full reward is seeing one another (and yourself) becoming stronger in the Lord.*

*The spiritual aspect of this is also about the spiritual and heavenly impact that we make as we obediently follow God. By abiding in truth, we make sure that we don't miss the opportunities for blessing that God has set out for us.*

6. In the earlier part of this letter, John tells the church to walk according to God's commandments. And then here he talks about people who "go ahead and do not abide in the teaching." What do you think that means?

*There's a pace to walking with God. But often times we desire to take things into our own hands, and leave God behind, either because we don't trust Him, we don't like His timing, or we are ignoring His Spirit. Walking on with God is a daily adventure.*

7. How do we abide in God's teaching, walking with him – and not walking ahead?

*By listening & obeying the Holy Spirit. By being held accountable and supported by brothers & sisters in the church. By reading the Bible to know the truth. By worshiping. By praying.*

**BONUS!** Can you think of any examples in the Bible about people walking with God and not running ahead/away from God?

8. In verse 10 & 11, what John says sounds quite harsh? How are we supposed to love others but at the same time not welcome those who are denying Christ?

*The emphasis here is not on people who just don't believe in Jesus. This is about people who say they are Christians but don't believe that He is coming again. In other words, those who say they are Christians, but don't actually believe in Christ.*

*John's point is that we don't let them teach or lead in the community, but love them as you would a brother who doesn't know the truth. To love them as a non-believer and pray for the same grace and mercy on their lives.*