

The First Epistle of John

(Week 23 – 1John 2:24-27)

I. Avoid Spiritual Deception (part 4)

A. 1John 2:24-27, *“Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father. (25) And this is the promise that he made to us— eternal life. (26) I write these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you. (27) But the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie—just as it has taught you, abide in him.”*

1. 1John 2:24, *“Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father.”*

a. **Question: What have they heard from the beginning?**

- i. *The Gospel (Mark 16:15)
- ii. The Word (1John 2:7)
- iii. Love one another (1John 3:11)

b. **John calls true disciples to remain loyal and faithful to what they heard!**

c. **Remaining loyal to the Word preached will cause us to remain in Christ and the Father!**

i. **We cannot have a true relationship with God without being loyal to His Word!**

• **This includes:**

- **Loyalty to the sharing of the gospel! (Mk 16:15)**
- **Loyalty to the teachings of Jesus! (John 8:31)**
- **Loyalty to His identity and purpose:**
 - a. **He, being the Son of God (John 3:16)**
 - b. **He, being the Christ (Matt. 16:16-17; Acts 2:36)**
 - c. **He, being the propitiation of our sins (1John 2:2)**
 - d. **He, coming in the flesh (John 1:14)**
- **Loyalty to the call of loving one another! (Jn. 13:34-35)**

ii. **Loyalty to God’s Word will keep us in Christ and prevent us from being dragged into spiritual deception!**

d. 1John 2:25, *“And this is the promise that he made to us— eternal life.”*

i. **The gospel centers on the promise of eternal life!**

- **Unlike other religions and philosophies that promote goodness and kindness, the gospel is the only message that brings forgiveness of sins and the hope of eternal life!**

e. 1John 2:26, *“I write these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you.”*

i. **Here, John is addressing the antichrists (Gnostics)**

ii. **A faithful preacher/teacher of the Word will warn the Church of those who try to pervert the gospel and the word of God.**

iii. **One of the qualifications of elders is that they “...must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it” (Titus 1:9 ESV)**

iv. **Question: How is the gospel of Christ being perverted today?**

- **ROMANISM:**
 - If you don't commit a mortal sin, and if you die with venial sins, you will go to Purgatory, a temporal punishment place; but if you have enough relatives praying for you and receiving indulgences on your behalf, your time in Purgatory will be shorter, then you will go to heaven!
- **“FAITH ONLY” movement:**
 - Salvation does not include repentance! (cf. Luke 13:3)
 - a. Paul warned of such a teaching!
 - i. Titus 1:16 (ESV), *“They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good work.”*
 - Salvation does not include baptism! (cf. Mark 16:16)
- **“SEEKER-SENSITIVE” movement:**
 - They model the church upon surveys that determine what people want from a church
 - a. Upbeat sermons that are light and on the short side
 - b. Music that isn't heavy on doctrine
 - c. Skits and other entertaining acts that replace sermons
 - d. Messages that avoid controversial subjects like sin, hell, judgment, righteousness, etc.
- **“EMERGING/EMERGENT CHURCH” movement**
 - They threaten the authority of God's Word:
 - a. A quote: *“A move away from intellectual Christianity is essential. We must move to the mystical.”* Spencer Burke The Ooze (Newport Beach, CA)
 - They deny the doctrine of propitiation, calling it a *“form of cosmic child abuse”*
 - a. A quote: *“The fact is that the cross isn't a form of cosmic child abuse—a vengeful Father, punishing his Son for an offence he has not even committed. Understandably, both people inside and outside of the Church have found this twisted version of events morally dubious and a huge barrier to faith...”* Steve Chalke and Alan Mann, *The Lost Message of Jesus*, [Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2003], pp. 182-183
 - They tend to lean towards universalism (Jesus died for all and therefore, all are saved).
 - They don't believe in a place that would make God seem vicious (hell - lake of fire).
 - They focus on the hear-and-now as opposed to eternal life.
 - They favor dialog, simple stories and narratives vs. the tradition preaching from the pulpit.
 - You can Google them and reap up on them.