

Message #4**II John 1:7-8**

When the early church was first beginning, those early Christians would gravitate to anyone who seemed interested in them. Make no mistake about this—people who don't present the truth about God appear to be wonderful, kind, nice, compassionate, caring people.

EVERY BELIEVER MUST CAREFULLY GUARD HIM OR HERSELF FROM LISTENING TO AND ASSOCIATING WITH THOSE WHO ARE NOT PRESENTING TRUTH ABOUT GOD.

Now the main challenge comes from **verse 8**—"Watch yourselves." This particular verb is one that means we are to continually see ourselves, continually look at ourselves, particularly in the context of who we are listening to or associating with.

Reason #1 - Because there are many religious deceivers in this world. **1:7**

The word "deceiver" is the Greek word "planos," which actually refers to one who leads others astray or causes others to wander off the path of truth by being a deceptive imposter (G. Abbott-Smith, p. 363).

(Fact #1) - There are many of these deceivers out in this world. **1:7a**

Many as opposed to few.

(Fact #2) - These deceivers do not acknowledge certain things about Jesus Christ. **1:7b**

A false religious teacher will not acknowledge that Jesus Christ was God who came in the flesh. They will usually acknowledge that there was a person named Jesus Christ who was here on this earth, but they will not acknowledge He was the second member of the Trinity and the Messiah of God, and the only means of being saved.

(Fact #3) - These deceivers are antichrists. **1:7c**

The word "anti-christ" means one who is against Christ. Make no mistake about this; a religious deceiver is really against Jesus Christ no matter how smooth or polished he may sound. He is not a friend of Jesus Christ and he is not your friend, either. Therefore stay away from any false religious deceptive liar.

Reason #2 - Because you can lose what you have accomplished. **1:8a**

The word "lose" is one that means to let go, to dismiss, to release. This word speaks of spiritual alienation. The word "accomplish" is one that refers to what has been produced through work.

If you fail to carefully guard who you listen to about the things of God, you can end up a spiritual disaster. Everyone who owns a home knows that weeds start to grow where the lawn is not maintained and watched.

Reason #3 - Because you can earn or lose full reward. **1:8b**

The word “reward” is one that means pay or wages. It refers to a workman’s paycheck. God wants us to continually evaluate who we are listening to so that when it comes time for a paycheck, we might get a full one.

We have said this and said it often—you cannot lose your salvation, but you can lose your rewards.

We just did a doctrinal study on N.T. rewards and concluded that there are five possible rewards:

- 1) Verbal commendation publically by Jesus Christ.
- 2) Various crowns that publically distinguish one as being an award-winner.
- 3) Engraved stone which apparently is some type of eternal trophy.
- 4) Various administrative and management responsibilities in eternity.
- 5) Full joy and full fellowship with God, experienced forever and ever.

These things may be earned or lost. In this context the key to this is paying close attention to the truth of God and not listening to those who are deceivers.

No matter how corrupt or evil the environment, God expects His people to continually work on their own spiritual lives. He still expects His people to pursue what is true and sound. Honest, truthful, continual self-examination is the key.

Those people who deny who Jesus Christ really is are not your friends; they are antichrists. Get away from them. Do not associate with them or you can lose much.