

# “The gods of This Age and the Issue of Truth”

2 John 1-13

- There is a battle today for our souls.
  - 1) A battle for our hearts, what we will love.
  - 2) A battle for our minds, what we will believe.
- Only 4% of Americans have a basic biblical worldview. Only 9% of those who say they have been “born again” have a biblical worldview. (It is 2% for teenagers)  
-George Barna, *Think Like Jesus*, p. 23

## What are the Basics of a Christian Worldview?

1. God is the all-knowing, all-powerful Creator of the universe who still rules that universe today.
2. When Jesus Christ was on earth He lived a sinless life.
3. Satan is not just a symbol of evil but is a real, living entity.
4. A person cannot earn his or her eternal salvation by being good or doing good things for other people; that salvation is the free gift of God.
5. Every person who believes in Jesus Christ has a
6. personal responsibility to share his or her faith in Him with other people who believe differently.
6. The Bible is totally accurate in all that it teaches.

\* II Thessalonians 2:10 says that the lost, “perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.”

## I. We must love the truth. (2 John 1-3)

- 1) Embrace the truth v. 1-2
  - All truth is God’s truth wherever it is found.
  - Truth is essential not optional  
eternal not relative  
consistent not changing  
permanent not perspectival
- 2) Enjoy the truth v. 3
  - Truth brings grace, mercy, and peace.
  - Truth comes from God who is our Father.
  - Truth comes from the Lord Jesus Christ (Messiah).

## II. We must live the truth. (4-6)

- 1) It matters what you believe v. 4
  - What is your source of authority for determining truth?  
Reason – I think  
Experience – I feel  
Peer pressure – Everyone is doing it  
Tradition – We’ve always done it like this  
Revelation – God says
- 2) It matters how you behave v. 5-6
  - Truth is not just something you believe,  
Truth is also something you live!
  - “What you live is what you really believe,  
everything else is just talk.”  
- Vance Havner

**-OVER-**

### III. We must look for the truth. (7-11)

- ❖ The inescapable question is the Jesus question. What do you think about Him? If you have the wrong answer here, you will have the wrong answer in many other places as well.

- 1) Recognize the deceptive v. 7
  - Their theology is wrong. They think the material world is unimportant.
  - Their Christology is wrong. They think the incarnation did not happen.
- 2) Resist the destructive v. 8
- 3) Reprove the destitute v.9
  - “Do the Math” of False Teaching!  
(+) They add to the Bible by prophet, professor, or pen.  
(-) They subtract from the person and work of Jesus Christ.  
(They deny His eternal deity and find false or inadequate His atonement for salvation.)  
(x) They multiply the requirements for salvation if indeed they believe in salvation.  
(÷) They divide our allegiance from God in Christ to others.
- 4) Reject the dangerous v. 10-11

#### **How Do I Witness to Someone Trapped In False Teaching Who Does Not Know Christ As Savior?**

- 1) Principles to Remember
  - a) Always be kind.
  - b) Be a good listener.
  - c) Pray for them.
  - d) Love them.

### 2) Procedure to Follow

- a) Give them 15 minutes uninterrupted asking them to tell you what they believe happens when you die and what you must do to be saved and go to Heaven.
- b) Ask that they give you 15 minutes uninterrupted so that you can tell them how you believe a person can be saved and go to heaven when they die.
- c) Pray with them.
- d) Invite them (and their friends) back to talk again.

### IV. We must long for the truth. (12-13)

- 1) Experience the fullness of joy the truth brings v.12
  - 2) Experience the fellowship of a family the truth brings v. 13
    - Truth does exist.
    - Truth does matter.
    - Truth is something we must love.
    - Truth is something we must live.
- ❖ Jesus said, “You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” (John 8:32)

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