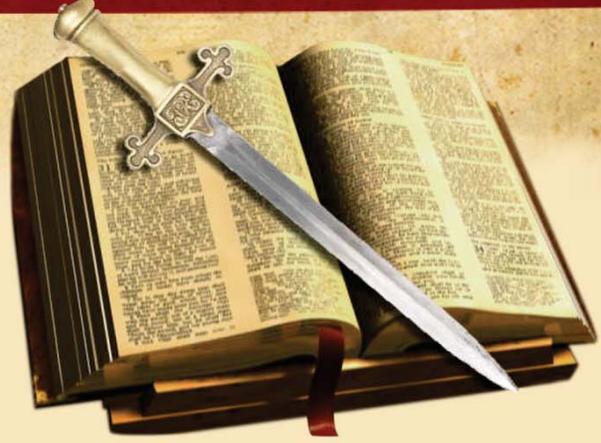


Setting Your Heart on the Kingdom



2 JOHN

Dancing With The Antichrist!

(The Principle of: Discerning the Working of Evil)

2 John 7-11

What a horrifying thought...that Christians would open their doors to the antichrist himself! But that's exactly what John said would happen if the early church didn't carefully discern those who came among them. Though personal hospitality toward traveling teachers was common in the Middle East, Christians were not to be naïve. Some with itching ears for "new truth" were actually inviting antichrists (*those opposing the teachings of Christ*) into their homes (*2 Tim. 3:6-7*). But their truth was laced with poison! Soon it sickened minds and led the gullible into false doctrines. John was so appalled at their foolishness that he commanded, **"Do not receive them into your house and do not give them a greeting! For the one who gives them a greeting participates in their evil deeds!"**

*The "Anti"- Christ isn't what many think. It's anyone or anything that opposes the plan and purposes of Christ on earth. Thus, it's the False Teacher...the one that denies the incarnation and deity of Christ. (*Such were the antichrists that John wrote about - 1 John 2:18-23*.) It's Humanism...that which works in unbelieving hearts to discount the faith of those who trust God. It's the "Man of Sin"...the fallen nature, even within Christians, that exalts "self" above God (*2 Thess. 2:3-4*). It's the one that Relegates Christ's Church to a Mere Social Club rather than the planting of God and the bodily expression of Jesus in the world. It's the Accuser...the one that spreads rumors in Christ's Church causing strife, mistrust and confusion (*Prov. 6:16-19*). **And according to John, if you're not discerning enough to refuse to "Dance" with them (enter into their world), then you're participating in their evil deeds!***

Discernment is the sign of your maturity (*Heb. 5:14*). So, be alert for the deceptiveness of evil. If you can't discern **Resentment** or **Jealousy** rising in your heart over an offense, even during a worship service, you may be dancing with the antichrist! If you don't recognize when a casual discussion turns into a **Character Assassination of a Man or Woman of God**, you may be dancing with the antichrist! If you can't discern the cunning words of **Disgruntled Leaders** drawing you astray, you may be dancing with the antichrist! **So, be careful who you listen to dear heart! For it just might be the Antichrist that John wrote about!**

Next: The Kingdom of God in 3 John - There's One In Every Church!

