

Deception *Without* - Christ *Within* - Deliverance *With HIM*

1 John 2:18–26

Central truth: Although deception surrounds us, the indwelling Christ is sufficient to keep us discerning, steadfast, and secure as we abide in Him and His eternal truth abides in us.

Introduction: A Treasure in Earthen Vessels

2 Corinthians 4:7 “But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us”

We are the earthen vessels—ordinary, fragile, and dependent. Christ is the Treasure. We live in

I John 2 The passage in chapter 2 is directed to believers facing confusion. False teachers were attempting to lead them away from the truth about Christ. Yet John does not tell them to panic or become preoccupied with FEAR. He reminds them of what God has already provided:

This passage presents three encouraging realities:

Deception *Without* Christ *Within* Deliverance *Assured*

I. Deception *Without* Verses 18–19, 22–23

2:18 - “Little children, it is the last hour.” This “last hour” is characterized by spiritual deception: “Even now many antichrists have come.” We are informed the spirit of antichrist is already operating. Antichrist denies, distorts, diminishes, or replaces the **CHRIST of GOD**.

A. Deception can affect the religious community

2:19 - “They went out from us, but they were not of us.”

B. Deception is ultimately focused on the person of Christ (spirit of truth – spirit of error)

1. **1 John 2:19 & 22** John identifies the central issue: “Who is a liar... denies Jesus Christ?”
2. **John 10:10** –The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy.
3. **John 10:11** - I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His abundant life...
4. **John 14:6** - "I am the *way*, the *truth*, and the *life*"...

THE SHEPHERD / CHRIST: ABUNDANT LIFE

II. Christ *Within* Verses 20–21 After the warning comes the reassurance: **2:20** - “But you have an anointing from the Holy One.”

A. John 14:16-17 The Holy Spirit Enables Us to Walk in Truth “He will give you another **Comforter**, that He may abide with you forever - the Spirit of truth...for He dwells with you and will be in you.” (*intercessor, consoler, advocate*)

B. John 14:26 The Holy Spirit Illumines the Believer “He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.”

C. John 16:8, 13 The Holy Spirit Exposes Error: “And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.” & “He will guide you”..

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D. John 16:14 The Holy Spirit Glorifies Christ “He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.”

Col 1:27 This is the treasure within the earthen vessel. Jesus Christ is present in every believer through His Spirit: “Christ in you, the hope of glory”

Galatians 2:20 ... “It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me” We live from a new source - not independent self-effort, but dependence upon the indwelling Christ.

Deception is around us, but Christ - the Truth - is within us.

III. Deliverance Assured Verses 24–26

John now gives the believer’s responsibility: “Therefore let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning.” The word *abide* means to remain, continue, or make one’s home.

A. Abide in the truth: Spiritual maturity is not moving beyond Christ to a “2nd blessing”. It is growing deeply in the “supreme blessing” of riches of Christ the life received at the New Birth!

B. Abide in Christ: “If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father.” Abiding is not struggling to place ourselves in Christ. God has already joined every believer to Christ. Abiding is our continuing response of faith to that accomplished union. Abiding is not self-effort not passivity. It is active dependence.

C. Rest in His promise “And this is the promise that He has proclaimed to us - eternal life.”

CONCLUSION: THE TREASURE WE HAVE IS SUFFICIENT FOR EVERY NEED

John’s message is both a warning and an encouragement:

DECEPTION *without* / CHRIST *within* / DELIVERANCE *with Him*

We are earthen vessels. We may feel weak, inadequate, and vulnerable. But our safety does not depend upon the strength of the vessel. It depends upon the sufficiency of the Treasure.

John 17:15 – “I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one.”

LET’S USE A SIMPLE ACRONYM

S	Self	L	<i>Living</i>
I	Indulgent	O	<i>Out the</i>
N	Nature	V	<i>Victorious</i>
		E	<i>Exchange</i>