



# **2 John and Gnosticism**

# **I. Setting Of 2 John 9**

# 1-4: truth

John loves them “in truth”

(truth directs love; discriminates)

- 2: truth **abides** in us (1 Jn.2:14, **Word**)
- 4: **walk** in truth (**all our conduct**; not one item alone)
- ✓ Not sentimental softness. 1 Jn.3:18

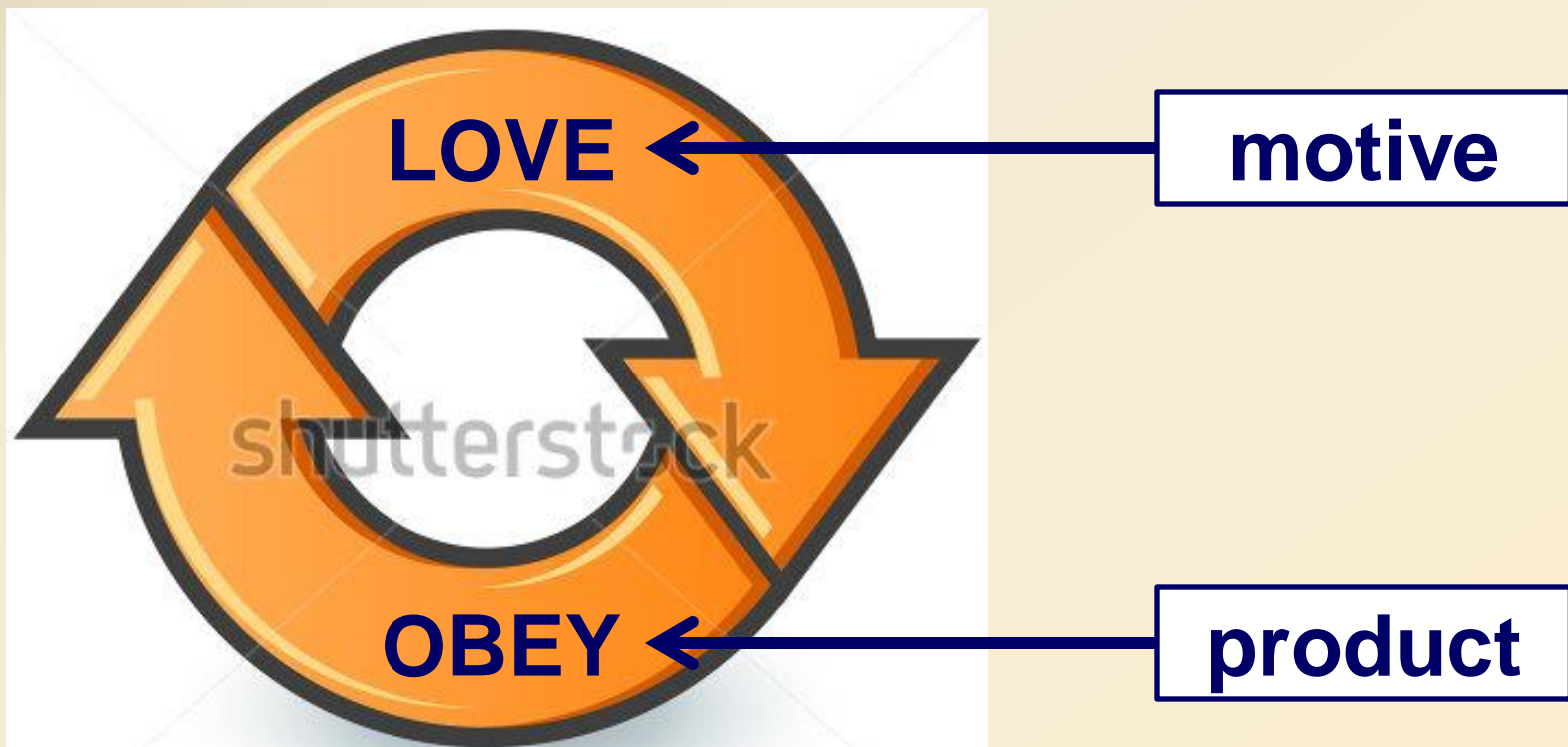
Mama pushover...

# 5-6: love

Yet: 'do not receive' some (10-11)

1. We show love by obeying God.

John 14:15



## 5-6: love

Yet: 'do not receive' some (10-11)

1. We show love by obeying God.

John 14:15

2. Love: walk according to commandments (**plural**) (6).

V.4: walk in truth  
(live by the Word)



## **7: danger**

Deceivers deny Jesus came in flesh

## **8: John and his readers**

“...**those things**...”

No safety in avoiding one error (v.7)

**Deceivers may undo John's teaching...**

# 9: warning

Specific danger [7] → General warning [9]

'Whoever'

Jn.7:16-17

1 Jn.3:4

Jn.18:19-20

Rv.22:18-19

# 9: warning

## 'Whoever'

1. Some 'progressives' denied humanity of Jesus.
2. If this is only way to 'go beyond' . . . then we may violate other doctrines of Christ with impunity. 1 Jn.4:15

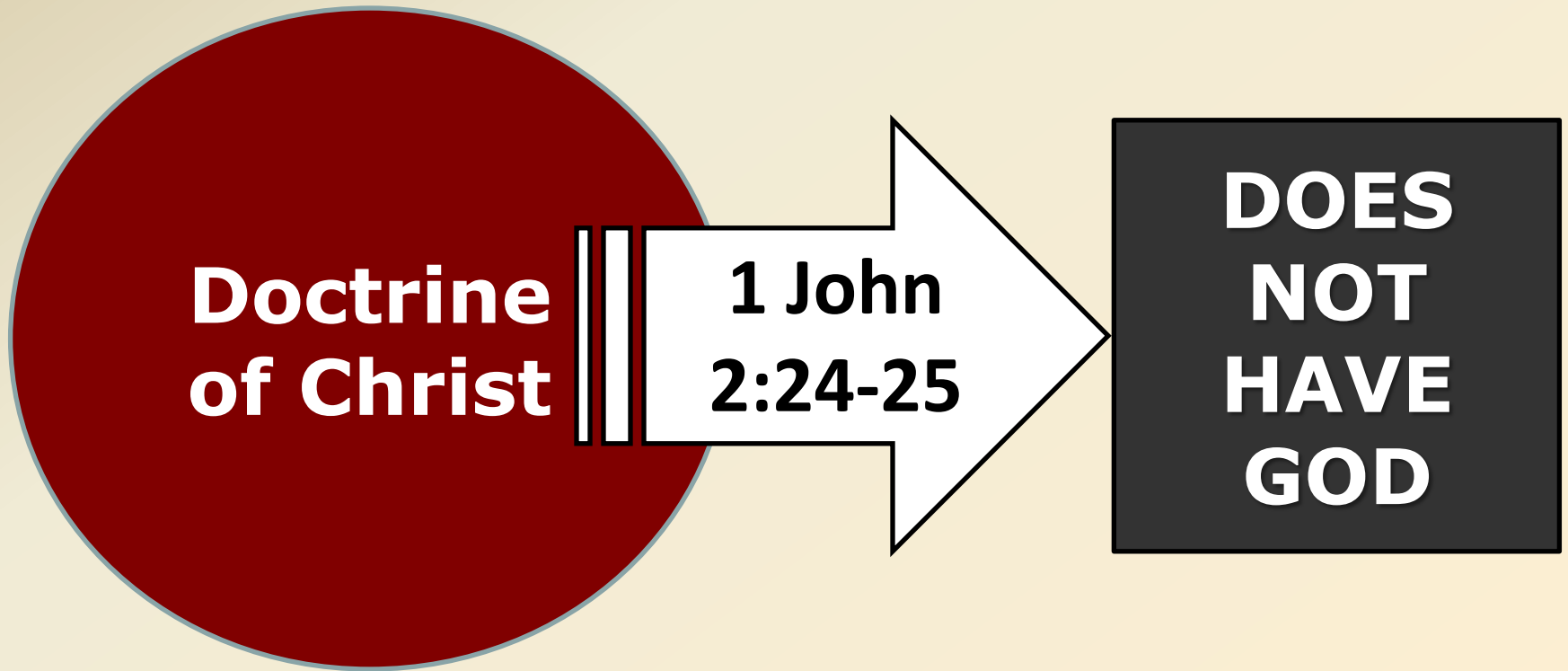


# 9: warning

## 'Whoever'

1. 1 Co.15:33, only resurrection denial?
2. Ga.1:6-9, only Judaism?
3. Ja.2:1-11, partiality only to rich man?
4. 1 Jn.2:22, Christ? 4:15, Son of God?

# Doctrine is serious (9)



# 10-11: evil deeds (plural)

1. God requires more than merely believing Jesus came in flesh
2. May I believe His flesh but fellowship those who deny it (10-11)??

**Coming to a home near you:  
antichrist!**

**Hospitality was a way to  
spread the gospel...and error**

I. Setting Of 2 John 9

**II. “But Doctrine of Christ  
means Doctrine ‘About’ Him**

# 1. Purpose of claim

- “We **must** believe what NT says about Christ in flesh...”
- We do not have to believe / obey what Christ teaches (His doctrines)”

1. Purpose of claim

## **2. Parallel passages**

- Mt.16:6, *leaven* of Pharisees...; 12, doctrine (teaching)
- Ac.2:42, apostles' doctrine
- Col.2:22, doctrines of men
- Rv.2:14, doctrine of Balaam
- Rv.2:15, doctrine of Nicolaitans

1. Purpose of claim
2. Parallel passages

### **3. Proof from unbiased sources**

[No ax to grind]

- Vincent: “Not the teaching *concerning Christ*, but the teaching of Christ Himself & of His apostles...”
- Robertson: “Not the teaching about Christ, but that of Christ which is the standard of Christian teaching as the walk of Christ is the standard for the Christian’s walk (1 John 2:6)...”

1. Purpose of claim
2. Parallel passages

### **3. Proof from unbiased sources**

- Bruce: “Either interpretation would be appropriate; whether we accept the former or the latter depends on our understanding the genitive ‘of Christ’ as subjective or objective genitive respectively. There is a strong balance of probability in favor of the former construction (so Westcott).”



1. Purpose of claim
2. Parallel passages

### **3. Proof from unbiased sources**

■ Westcott: “*in the doctrine of Christ*, the doctrine which Christ brought, and which he brought first in his own person, and then through his followers (Heb.2:3). This sense seems better than *the doctrine of* (concerning) *the Christ*, and the usage of the New Testament is uniformly in favor of it...”

1. Purpose of claim
2. Parallel passages

### **3. Proof from unbiased sources**

■ Plummer: “The doctrine which he taught (John 18:19; Rev.2:14, 15) rather than the doctrine which teaches about him.”

1. Purpose of claim
2. Parallel passages

### **3. Proof from unbiased sources**

- Phillips: “The man who is so ‘advanced’ that he is not content with what Christ taught has in fact no God. The man who bases his life on Christ’s teaching, however, has both the Father and the Son as his God.”
- Amplified: “*And does not abide in the doctrine of Christ* – who is not content with what He taught...”

1. Purpose of claim
2. Parallel passages
3. Proof from unbiased sources

## **4. Principles of Scripture**

### **2 John 9**

1. Do not go beyond what NT teaches.  
Mt.7:23...
2. Do not do anything that encourages or implies endorsement of people in sin or error

I. Setting Of 2 John 9

II. "But doctrine of Christ means  
Doctrine 'About' Him

**III. Silence of Scripture**

## The charges –

□ “You are wrong for drawing a human conclusion that condemns others’ practices”

- Inconsistent: “You are wrong...”

□ “Can you find passage that condemns instrumental music in worship?”

- NO “thou shalt not”
- Neither of praying to Mary...or worshipping rats
- Your job! 1 Th.5:21. [Hb.1 / 7]

# The conclusion –

- ✦ EVEN IF someone could prove 2 Jn.9 is limited to teaching about Christ, it would not help him
- ✦ What do Scriptures teach about Christ?
  - ✦ He is intolerant of false teaching (Mt.12; 15, etc.)
  - ✦ We must follow His example (1 Pt.2:21)