

DISCUSSION GUIDE

FOR INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, SMALL GROUPS

What to do right after the service to help “the Word dwell more richly,” within us (Colossians 3:16):

1. Instead of rushing off after the service is over, or talking about the latest news, develop the habit of talking about the sermon with people after church. Start spiritual conversations by asking, “How did the Scripture challenge or speak to you today?” Or “what about God in the message encouraged you?”

2. Encourage someone by sharing things you learned about God from His Word during the sermon. Make note of how your thinking has changed. Don’t let biblical teaching be a one-time event that fades from memory as soon as it is over (James 1:22-25). Choose one or two particular applications to share

[Above from book *Nine Marks of a Healthy Church Member*]

For further Application, Meditation and Conversation on today’s text:

Date: 12/5/2021 – “Abiding and Belief - Defense Against Deceit” (1 John 2:18-29)

1. John wrote to a church that had experienced or was experiencing turmoil - false teachers who denied that Jesus is the Son of God had emerged within the congregation (vv. 22–23). They eventually left the fellowship of believers, leading others out with them (v. 19). John writes to affirm those who have remained faithful to Christ.

What title does John give for the false teachers, and what does this title mean (vv. 18, 22)?

2. John alternates between the errors of the false teachers (vv. 18–19, 22–23) and his words of assurance to the faithful (vv. 20–21, 24–25). What are some of the marks of those whose teaching is false? What are the sources of assurance John mentions concerning what is true about Jesus in those verses?

3. John points to each person of the Trinity as fulfilling a role in the life of the believer. He also identifies the role of Scripture (“what you heard from the beginning”; v. 24) in the life of the church. What roles of the Scriptures *and* of each person of the Trinity are identified by John?

4. In verse 26, we see another of John’s purpose statements for writing this epistle. What does this passage help us understand about how we are meant to assist one another in not being deceived? Give thanks for the grace of the accountability and safety we share in the Body of Christ!