**1 John 2:18-23 – Truth matters**

**Main: When truth is altered, people get hurt**

1. **It’s already started – 2:18-19**

* **They’re here! Forerunners of the False Prophet**
* **“Us” = the Apostolic Circle; “They” = the antichrists**
* **Leaving the Apostolic Circle is revealing**

**2. A little lie is still a lie (and their lies are not little!) – 2:20-21**

* **“All things” = “You know what you need to know”**
* **Apostolic teaching (In the Scriptures) is enough**
* **In this case, a little leaven leavens the whole lump**

**3. The big lie: Attacking the heart of the message of life – 2:22-23**

* **Jesus is the Christ – 1 John 5:1; Jn. 20:30-31; 11:25-27**
* **We often get it wrong when we share the message**
  + **The issue isn’t how much or what kind of faith**
  + **Most often, people don’t know the promise**
* **No approval from God w/o the Son: Context with v. 22**
* **The two go hand-in-hand; remember: This is fellowship language!**

**4. Staying close by standing on the promise – 2:24-25**

* **The message of life is a promise – Jn. 5:24; 6:47**
* **That is the basis of a relationship with God**
  + **Assurance – 1 Jn. 5:13**
  + **Security – Jn. 10:27**
* **Believing any promise depends on: 1) The reliability of the one making the promise and 2) Their ability to deliver what they are promising**
* **It is also critical to get the promise right: 1) Believe 2) In Jesus 3) For eternal life**
* **These issues are fundamental and critical for growth**
* **The deception is deliberate; Be careful of the “latest thing”**
* **Truth comes from God’s Word, His teachers, and His Spirit – 1 Jn. 4:1f.**
  + **1 Cor. 12:28; 1 Tim. 3:16-17 (God-breathed); Tit. 1:9**
  + **1 Thess. 5:21 – Examine everything carefully**
  + **You have what you need and it won’t be contradicted**



