**Things We Learn From II John 9-11**

There are several important truths we learn from II John 9-11. It reads "**Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God.** He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds."

First we learn that **Doctrine Is Important**. Many preachers and churches want to deemphasize doctrine, because there is so much disagreement on such between them. But verse 9 says if we don't abide in the doctrine of Christ, we don't have God; so we can't be saved. If our salvation is dependent upon it, doctrine must be super important. Matt 15:9 explains "But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." So if we teach the commandments of men instead the commandments of God, our worship will be vain. And we certainly can't be saved that way. Bottom line is we have to get our doctrine right to be saved.

Second we learn that **Salvation Is Not By Faith Only**. “Salvation by faith only” says as long as we have faith in Christ, we will be saved even if we are not doing what Christ said. But II John 9 teaches we must believe in Christ enough to follow what He taught, that is, abide in His doctrine. And James 2:24 will always prove Salvation By Faith Only to be false. It says "Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only."

Third, **Baptism Is Necessary To Salvation**. If we are not baptized, then we are not abiding in the doctrine of Christ, because Christ's doctrine teaches we should be baptized. Mark 16:16 makes this point very simply, but conclusively - "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."

Fourth we learn **Obedience (In General) Is Necessary To Salvation**. What we just said about baptism is also true about any instruction from God. If we do not obey such instructions, we are not abiding in the teaching of Christ. So according to verse 9, we don't have God; we can't be saved. Passages like Heb 5:9 drive this point home - "And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;"

Fifth, **Once Saved Always Saved Is False**. Suppose a person were to get saved but then later quit abiding in the teaching of Christ? Verse 9 would teach he is without God, and therefore without salvation. So he was saved at one point, but then lost his salvation due to not abiding in the teaching of Christ. The doctrine of Once Saved Always Saved says a Christian will be saved regardless of whether he abides in Jesus' teaching, but II John 9 flatly contradicts that theory. Gal 5:4 also proves Once Saved Always Saved false when it reads "Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace." Baptists say a Christian can't fall from grace, but this verse says some at that time already had.

Sixth, **We Must Not Fellowship Error**. Verses 10-11 say that if we bid someone Godspeed who is in sin, we become a partaker in their evil deeds. So not only must we follow Christ's teachings personally, we should not help someone else sin, or encourage them in their sin. Eph 5:11 confirms this by saying "… have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them."