

# 1 John 2:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

These things have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you.

## Analysis

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**These things have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you.**

John explains his letter's purpose—protecting believers from deceivers. "These things have I written" (tauta egrapsa hymin) refers to the epistle's contents, particularly warnings about antichrists and tests of genuine faith. "Unto you" (hymin) emphasizes pastoral concern for his readers specifically. "Concerning them that seduce you" (peri tōn planōntōn hymas)—planōntōn (seduce, deceive, lead astray) is present participle indicating ongoing deceptive activity. The deceivers were actively attempting to mislead believers.

"Them that seduce" identifies false teachers as active threats, not passive errorists. Planaō means to cause to wander, lead astray, deceive. These teachers weren't merely mistaken but deliberately or effectively leading others into error. Their denials of Christ (verses 22-23), claims to superior knowledge, and immoral conduct (cf. chapter 1) demonstrated their seductive danger. John writes to equip believers to recognize and resist deception.

This verse reveals pastoral ministry's protective function. Shepherds guard sheep from wolves (Acts 20:28-31). Apostolic teaching provides believers with doctrinal discernment and spiritual resources to resist error. John's tests throughout the epistle—doctrinal (confessing Christ), moral (keeping commandments), social (loving brothers)—enable believers to identify deceivers. Writing wasn't merely for information but for protection against those actively seeking to seduce God's people.

## Historical Context

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The early church faced constant threat from false teachers. Paul warned Ephesian elders: "after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples" (Acts 20:29-30). Peter prophesied: "there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies" (2 Peter 2:1). Jude contended against those who crept in unawares (Jude 4).

John's readers faced specific seducers—Gnostic-like teachers denying Christ's incarnation, promoting moral license or harsh asceticism, and creating spiritual elitism. These weren't obviously pagan but emerged from Christian community (2:19), making them particularly dangerous. Their sophistication, claimed revelations, and apparent spirituality seduced some. John writes to expose them and protect believers.

Throughout church history, seducers have arisen: Arian's sophisticated denial of Christ's deity, Pelagius's plausible but false teaching on human ability, medieval mysticism's departures from biblical truth, modernist liberalism's reduction of Christianity to ethics minus doctrine. Each required pastoral response exposing error and affirming truth. John's epistle provides model for addressing false teaching—clear doctrinal standards, practical tests, pastoral protection of believers.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

## Study Questions

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1. What contemporary teachings or teachers exhibit seductive characteristics—plausible-sounding but denying essential Christian truth?

2. How do the tests John provides throughout this epistle equip you to recognize and resist seductive false teaching?
3. What role does faithful pastoral ministry play in protecting believers from deception in your church context?

## Interlinear Text

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|--------------|------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------|-------------------------|
| Ταῦτα        | ἔγραψα                       | ὑμῖν            | περὶ              | τῶν   | πλανώντων               |
| <b>These</b> | <b>things have I written</b> | <b>unto you</b> | <b>concerning</b> | G3588 | <b>them that seduce</b> |
| G5023        | G1125                        | G5213           | G4012             |       | G4105                   |
| ὑμᾶς         |                              |                 |                   |       |                         |
| <b>you</b>   |                              |                 |                   |       |                         |
| G5209        |                              |                 |                   |       |                         |

## Additional Cross-References

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**2 John 1:7** (Parallel theme): For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.

**1 John 3:7** (Parallel theme): Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.

**Mark 13:22** (Parallel theme): For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect.

**Colossians 2:8** (Parallel theme): Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

**Proverbs 12:26** (Parallel theme): The righteous is more excellent than his neighbour: but the way of the wicked seduceth them.

**1 Timothy 4:1** (Parallel theme): Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;

