

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

MAY 5TH, 2019 // 1 JOHN

A PERSONAL ADDRESS (1 JOHN 2:12-14)

A PLEA OF ENCOURAGEMENT

- The Gnostics have crept in and wreaked havoc among the early followers pulling them away from the sound doctrine of Jesus' authority as the Son of Man.
- John exhorts his audience, appealing to them as children, fathers, and young men. This is understood as he speaks to the spiritual maturity of the believers.

SPIRITUAL CHILDREN

- Known as recent converts and he reassures them of their salvation, later mentioning them having 'known' the Father. (v13)
- 'Ginosko' - Much in the same way as the Father's love is shown in the parable of the lost son. (Luke 15)
- It is for Christ's name sake, that we are led down the path of righteousness. (Ps. 23:3)

SPIRITUAL FATHERS

- Those having 'know(n) him who is from the beginning.' Claiming their faith has persevered by remaining true to the original Gospel. (v14) (Heb. 10-12)

SPIRITUAL YOUNG MEN

- Spiritual adolescents having 'overcome the evil one', and 'being strong' because 'the word of God abides in them.' (v14)
- John then repeats much of what he has already said addressing the 'children, fathers, and young men' as though reaffirming that what he has said is true and cannot change.
- Having heard John address all ranges of spiritual maturity, it is evident that spiritual fathers, young men, and children alike are susceptible to the deceitful lies of false doctrine.

FALSE DOCTRINE IN OUR TIMES

- Universalism, Sexuality and Identity, Moral Therapeutic Deism, Jehovah's Witness and Mormonism

A WARNING OF LOVING THE WORLD (1 JOHN 2:15-17)

DO NOT LOVE THE WORLD OR THE THINGS IN THIS WORLD.

- Put frankly, idolatry has no place in the Kingdom of God.
- Idolatry can be anything you place in your life in higher regard than Christ, his will, and purposes.
- We put our faith, hope, and assurance in the worldly things, losing sight of the spiritual. He's not instructing us to not love the people in our world or to care for God's creation, but we are not to be devoted to worldly systems, items, or teachings that are in nature, opposed to God.

TEACHINGS OF THE WORLD

- The world teaches us to 'follow our heart', however we know 'the heart is deceitful above all things...' (Jer. 17:9)
- We are seeing this today in our world.
- The world says that 'if you can dream it, you can have it,' but the physical things we see and desire in this world will never satisfy the God shaped holes in our lives. Whether we pursue sex, money, houses, even marriage or moderate salaries, our hearts will continue to be empty without an intimate knowledge of the love of the Father.
- The world tells us that we are 'captains of our ship, masters of our own fate.'
- The plans that we make in private or in public many times flies right in the face of God as arrogant, ignorant, and foolish. (James 4)
- We are to yield to God's plan and perfect will in our lives as it happens.
- His word is what directs our steps and gives us clarity in our lives.
- 'Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.' Ps. 119:105
- His will for our life is greater than the life we settle for!
- Our fleshy, lustful, selfish desires are going to pass away along with this world, but our acts of love towards God and others will not pass away.

A BOLD CLAIM

- John makes a very bold claim here that whoever does the will of the God abides forever!
- Abide – v. to obey, observe, follow, hold to
- Jesus makes the same point in Matt 7:21 that not all that call on his name will enter into heaven but those that do the will of the Father will!

- The exclusivity of Christ is still a stumbling block to this day!

THE WILL OF GOD – ROMANS 12:1-2

- 'I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.'

ABIDE IN HIM (1 JOHN 2:18-29)

WE MUST BE AWARE.

- John now appeals to his audience as a spiritual father himself addressing us all as 'children' warning us about 'Antichrist(s)'
- The 'last hour' refers to the time since Christ has risen until the time of his inevitable return. Although the coming of the Antichrist will be a sign of the end, there will be many 'Antichrists' that will come before him.
- These people have 'went out from us, but they were not of us.'
- The irony here is that possible (former) Christians are the ones leading others astray. But by the Holy One renewing our mind, we can discern. (Rom. 12)
- John says that because of the Spirit, we have knowledge of truth. This is to say that we are now responsible for this knowledge and how we use it.

3 CRITERIA FOR 'TESTING THE SPIRITS'

- **Moral** – Glorifying God seeking to live in reliance and obedience to Him. (2:3)
- **Social** – Glorifying God by having compassionate love for others. (2:9-11)
- **Faith** – Having a right understanding of the importance of Christ being the Son of God and the Son of Man. (2:22-25)
- He has now proven the Gnostics to be contrary to scripture and now 'Antichrists'.

'HE WHO DENIES THE FATHER AND THE SON'

- Just as the Pharisees have done, some have denied the Father and/or the Son.
- To reject the Father is to not 'abide' in his will and wisdom for our lives.
- To reject the Son is to say that we are 'good people', not in need of a savior, or to not accept that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. John 14:6

'ABIDE IN HIM'

- The assurances and tests that John has given us were also intended for our own self-examination, not to just 'play God'.
- To not be deceived we must bring our thoughts, actions, beliefs back into agreement with Christ.
- He urges us to return to our first love remembering what we have heard in the beginning. (Hosea, Rev 2:4, John 1:1)
- This time he says, 'Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you', then you will abide in Him.' The Word is alive, active, and life changing!
- What we let into our mind, body, ears, and eyes can drastically alter our world-views. We must remember that it is 'for our joy' that we follow God's commands and follow Christ. (1:4)
- The Holy One, or the Holy Spirit is the one that helps, empowers, and allows us to do so. (v.27)
- Not that we don't need instruction, but that we are not in need of any other teaching that differs from the 'good news' we have received from the beginning.

QUESTIONS POSED BY JOHN 2

- When Christ comes, will you be shameful of the life you have lived, even as a follower of Christ?
- Have you been deceived by the 'promises of this world'?
- Have you let false teaching invade your mind that degrades the work of the cross, removes Jesus as righteous ruler, and accepts all people regardless of their faith?

OUR TRUTH TO HOLD ON TO

- The Christian faith has finality in Jesus's words on the cross, 'It is finished.' There is no new knowledge or unveiled word to receive. Only the illumination of His Word in our lives. (Rom. 12:2)
- Stay committed to the truth of the Gospel.
- We are the ones that stumble or stay in darkness. Not Him. He is in the light. He is the light. (1:5)

"Hold fast to Christ. For you he became temporal, so that you might partake of eternity."
-St. Augustine