

10/8/89

1 John 4

John the beloved was concerned about heretical teaching that had infiltrated into the church and the need for believers to discern error from truth by the Scriptures.

4:1-6 The spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

4:1 The warning against false prophets.

- 1) Literally stop believing every spirit, implying the process was already going on.
- 2) Jesus foretold of false prophets and Christs. Matt. 24:11, 24
- 3) Peter declared it. 2Pet. 2:1-3
- 4) Paul told the elders Acts 20:29-30
- 5) Holy Spirit warns of deceiving spirits. 1Tim. 4:1
* Declares what to do. Deut. 13:1-11; 18:21-22

4:2 The test to know if it is the Spirit of God.

- 1) That Jesus is human. Jn. 1:14; Phil. 2:7-8; Col. 2:9-10
- 2) That Jesus is divine. Jn. 1:1; Col.1:15
- 3) Confess “homologeō” means to say the same thing, to agree with God and the Scriptures.

- 3) That Jesus has come, this is the perfect tense, his body of flesh was a reality in the Incarnation and even now in His intercession. 2Tim. 2:5; Heb. 10:5

4:3 The spirit of Antichrist in the world.

- 1) The word confess “homologeō”, as in the previous verse means to say the same thing.
- 2) The word come “erchomai” again is in the perfect tense, not only that he inhabited a body of flesh, but that it has become his permanent possession. Jn. 1:14; Phil. 2:6; Heb. 7:24-25
* Whoever adds, takes away or alters in any way who Jesus is according to the Scriptures is Anti-Christ spirit. 2Thess. 2:3-4
- 3) This is identified as the spirit of Antichrist, one who is against Jesus Christ and opposes Him, it was and is in the world already.
* Antiochus Epiphany, Nero, Hitler, Stalin, etc.
- 4) John is not talking about the person of the Antichrist that is coming in the future during the seven years of tribulation.
 - a) John has already mentioned his coming earlier.
 - b) John told them two things about the Anti-christ. 1Jn. 2:18a-c

- 1)) That it was the last hour. Vs. 18a-b
- 2)) That they had heard that the Antichrist is coming. Vs. 18c

4:4 The believer overcomes by the Holy Spirit.

- 1) The believer is a child of God.
- 2) They have Overcome - Past completed victory. Jn. 12:31.14:30; Col. 2:15
- 3) He in you is greater- Holy Spirit. 1Jn. 3:24c; 2:20, 27
- 4) He in the world is Satan, the god of this world. 2Cor. 4:4

4:5 The world believes everything.

- 1) They – In contrast to the child of God, the false prophets are embraced by the evil systems such as reincarnation, evolution, humanism, social or political, etc.
- 2) The world of lost humanity see themselves as their only hope, so they listen to each other.

4:6 The believer believes only the gospel.

- 1) We - Apostles are received by believers.
- 2) He who knows God- By experience, being born again.
- 3) The unbeliever does not embrace the things of God.

- 4) There are two camps in this world, the spirit of truth and error.

4.7-21

The love of God and the believer.

4:7 The command to love one another.

- 1) Jesus gave this command. Jn.13:34-35
- 2) Source of love is God. (agape)
- 3) Love is evidence of new birth and personal knowledge of God.

4:8 The one who does not love others.

- 1) The one who knows not God.
- 2) God very nature and essence is love.
 - a) God is light. 1Jn. 1:5
 - b) God is eternal life. 1Jn. 5:11, 20
 - c) God is Spirit. Jn. 4:24

4:9 The demonstration of God's love in action.

- 1) The object was man.
- 2) The action, He sent His only begotten into the world. Is. 64:1
- 3) The reason, that we might live through Him.

4:10 The love of God was initiated not caused.

- 1) We did not love God first, we were enemies and sinners. Rom. 5:6
- 2) God's love was sacrificial, to propitiate our sins, meeting the required payment in complete satisfaction. Jn. 3:16

4:11 The love of God is instructive.
We being recipients of God's love.
We are responsible to love others.

4:12 The fact no man has seen God.

- 1) If we love one another people can see God in us.
 - a) We are light and salt. Matt. 5:13-14
 - b) Man has seen theophanies, visible evidence of the presence of God or Christophny, appearanc of Jesus in the Old Testament. Ex. 24:10; Judges 6:12, 21
 - c) In the Incarnation. Jn. 1:18; 4:24; 1Tim. 6:16
- 2) If we love one another His love is accomplishing what He intends to a finished work, perfected.

4:13 The evidence of abiding in God.

- 1) The abiding in mutual.
- 2) The evidence is the Holy Spirit in us. Rom. 5:5; Gal. 5:22

4:14 The witness of Jesus being the Savior.

- 1) They had seen and gave testimony that the Father sent His Son to be the Savior of the world.

2) The Holy Spirit is the illuminator of Jesus as Saviour of the world. Matt. 16:16; 1Cor. 2:14-15

4:15 The important confession about Jesus.

- 1) He is the Son of God, a single and decisive confession that is ongoing.
- 2) Resulting in abiding oneness with God.

4:16 The personal relation with God.

- 1) Having known "ginosko" by personal experience and believed God's love for us.
- 2) God's nature is love and has redeemed us.
- 3) God's love abiding in us means God is in us.

4:17 The evidence of mature love.

God's love is matured and evident by

- 1) The word perfected means mature to be a doer and count the cost.
- 2) The results is boldness, freedom of speech to talk to God, having courage and assurance. 1Jn. 2:28; 3:21; 5:14
- 3) The time is at Bema Seat. 2Cor. 5:10
- 4) The reason being we were Christ-like yielding to be transformed by His love.

4:18 The nature of God's love.

- 1) Mature love casts out fear. Rom. 8:1

- 2) Fear involved torment, the inability to be peaceful and rest in God, tormenting and punishing myself.
- 3) Fear is a sign of imature love.

4:19 The believer's love for God is in response to His initiation.

* Our love for others is because of His love in us. 1Cor. 13

4:20 The insonsistane of man about love.

- 1) Anyone professing love for God, while hating his brother is a liar.
* He who says is found three other times.
1Jn. 2:4, 6, 9
- 2) It is a contradiction for the vertical axis will always dictate what takes place on the horizontal plain.

4:21 The obligation of the believer is a command.

- 1) The social test of love. Mat. 5:43-48
- 2) Shema of Israel. Deut. 6:5
- 3) Love of neighbor. Lev. 19:18
- 4) Jesus tied the two together. Mat. 22:37-40
- 5) If you know these things, happy are you if you do them Jn. 13:17