

(1 John 4:1-6)
“*My Source of Understanding*”

~ LET'S PRAY ~

NOTE TAKERS...

- I've titled today's message: “*My Source of Understanding*”
 - (1 John 4:1-6) NKJV.

~ INTRO ~

TODAY... JOHN TAKES US INTO...

- The third discussion about what a child of God...
 - Should understand.
- AND he uses the Holy Spirit as the baseline.

LOOK AT (1 John 3:24-b)...

*“And by this we know that He abides in us,
by the Spirit whom He has given us.”*

(Rom. 8:16) NKJV

IN THE FIRST CENTURY...

- Jews didn't wrestle with the Deity of the coming Christ.
 - Because they knew *Messiah* would come!
 - They had the OT Prophecies.

HOWEVER...

- They wrestled with the Humanity of Christ.
 - That's why they rejected Jesus!
- They didn't understand that God would take on...
 - Humanity and fulfill the Old Covenant...
 - AND... pay the price for the sin of the world!

(Col. 2:9) NLT

“For in Christ lives all the fullness of God in human body.”

IN 2024...

- Understanding genuine faith is still an issue.
 - Because any accept the historical figure of Jesus...
 - BUT deny His *Deity* – as being Lord of their life.

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SO... JOHN ARMS THE CHURCH...

- By giving basic understanding about faith.
- He's showing us how to detect what's of God...
 - And what's NOT of God.

~ STUDY ~

HERE'S TWO THINGS TO CAPTURE:

IDEA #1 – DON'T BE FOOLED: (vv.1-2) NKJV

(v.1) The KEY we're looking at is “*test*.”

- “*Test*” (*daw – key – mod – zo*’) = To examine OR scrutinize.
 - This word describes the testing of metal.
 - Is it gold / is it silver / is it something else?!?

THIS *test* IS TO BE ADMINISTERED...

- Over those who are claiming faith in Christ.
 - Are they for real OR are they self-deceived?
 - Is it genuine OR fake?

FLIP TO – (Rev. 3:14-19) NLT

- The 7th Church of Revelation – *Laodicea*.

Laodicea was in a tri-city area:

- Hierapolis had hot spring water...
 - Laodicea had lukewarm water...
 - And Colossae had ice cold water.

JESUS WAS USING THEIR WATER SYSTEM TO DESCRIBE...

- The spiritual temperature of their hearts.

Their spiritual temperature had been rocked to sleep from three things:

- 1) They had the strongest banking system in the region (had money).
- 2) They had a medical school that produced eye medicine (good health care).
- 3) They had a booming clothing market (we would call them outlet malls).

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THIS CITY...

- Was educated / healthy / & wealthy.
 - BUT... most of them were spiritually deceived!

WHO NEEDS GOD...

- When life is easy AND outward confidence is high!?!

THE CHURCH OF [Laodicea](#)...

- Knew enough to be saved...
 - But they didn't live out saving faith – **they were lukewarm!**
 - ([James 2:24](#)) NLT

BACK TO OUR TEXT.

AGAIN... (v.1) JOHN... GOES ON TO SAY... “[because](#)”...

- There are many religious impostors out there ([false spirit / prophets](#))...
 - We should test what we're believing & living out!

(v.2).

- In John's day being able to stand against Gnosticism was critical.

Because some people stumbled from ignorance:

- 1) Asceticism = A separation, isolation, or harsh treatment of the body. They shunned the material world; avoided all pleasures; & limited interactions.

SOME CHRISTIANS...

- Get extreme like this today too... thinking it adds to their holiness.
 - When in reality it diminishes our mission to a lost world.
 - (Jesus said we're in the world not of it.)
- 2) Epicurean = Considered pleasure OVER truth... as the primary pursuit of life.

NOW... THESE TWO THOUGHTS ARE STILL PRESENT TODAY.

- And neither one will get you to heaven – Liberal (vs.) Conservative.
 - People are still being deceived into denying...
 - The Lordship of Jesus – (this is the key test).

FLIP BACK TO – ([Rom. 10:6-13](#)) NKJV

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- (v.6) Incarnation of Christ (humanity)
- (v.7) Resurrection of Christ (Deity)
- (v.8) The Gospel message of what Jesus offers you personally

How do you get this **good news**?

- (v.9)
 - “Confess”... pledge to the...
 - “Lord Jesus” ... the rule of your life.
- And “believe in heart”...
 - This is not just an acknowledgement of historical facts...
 - Rather it’s a surrender to Jesus as the ruler of YOUR life.

MANY GOOD PEOPLE ...

- Sit in churches and agree with the **FACTS** of Jesus...
 - BUT never surrender to the **RULE** of Jesus!

JOHN WANTS THE CHURCH TO KNOW...

- That’s NOT what a Christian is.
 - It might be cultural Christianity (name only)...
 - But it’s NOT Biblical Christianity.

IDEA #2 – THE TEST IS EASY: (vv.3-6) NLT

READ (vv.3-6) NLT

Two important aspects... the spirit of Antichrist attacks truth (v.3):

- 1) The enemy **Diminishes** the work of the cross.
 - Perhaps you’ve heard the heretical teaching that Jesus had to suffer in hell after the cross. (NOT TRUE!!!)
 - Or maybe you think that God can’t relate to you...
 - Or your situation.
 - That’s false too!

Jesus was tempted in every way... SO He can relate to all your needs.

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2) The enemy wants to **Distance** us from the work of the cross.

- Don't fall for the lie that God is angry with you...
- OR that God is disappointed with you.

(v.4)

JOHN SAYS...

- The way a believer can know that God lives in Him...
 - Is by the operation of God's Spirit in their life.
 - *Genuine Faith* (vv.1-6)
 - (v.6) we listen to God.

THE BOTTOM LINE IS WHAT JESUS SAID...

(John 3:7) NLT

“So don't be surprised when I say, ‘you must be born again.’”

~ IN CLOSING ~

IS THERE ANYONE...

- Ready to accept the salvation Jesus is offering today?