

1 John Chapters Four and Five

VS 1-6 Warnings Against False Teachers

One of Satan's primary weapons is deception. He tempts us to question God's Word (Hath God Said?) and leads us into "error" which is intended to enslave us or place us into bondage. False belief systems are rampant – evolution, reincarnation, works based Hinduism, Buddhism, humanism, pluralism, Marxism, communism, etc.

False Teachers: 2 Peter 2:1-3

But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. ² And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. ³ By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction ^{1a} does not slumber.

2 Timothy 4: 1-4

I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: ² preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. ³ For the time is coming when people will not endure sound ^{1a} teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, ⁴ and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.

Characteristics:

- Flattery
- Destructive heresies
- Sensual/sexual misconduct - sensuality
- Distorting the way of truth - deception
- Financial ambitions – greed

What Jesus Said About False Teachers/Prophets – Matt 7:15-20

Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. ¹⁶ You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thorn bushes or figs from thistles? ¹⁷ Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸ A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. ¹⁹ Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰ Therefore by their fruits you will know them.

VS 2,3 – Discernment – Jesus had come in the flesh – incarnation.

VS 4 – Memorize “Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world.”

VS 5,6 – The world “can’t” hear us, nor will the world “listen” to us. There is great tolerance in the world for all religions EXCEPT CHRISTIANITY – world hates me – will hate you.

We both know and hear God, and we know the spirit of truth and error.

VS 7-12 Three Foundations Facts

1. What God is: God is Love (7,8)
2. What God did: He sent His Son (9-11)
3. What God is doing: Dwelling or abiding in us (12 - 16)

Love one another show we know God and are born of God.

Christian love is the evidence that we know and love God.

Three Expressions of God in this Epistle

1. God is Spirit – 1 John 4:24 – He is not restricted to this reality/world.
2. God is light – 1 John 1:5 – no darkness, i.e., holy and without sin.
3. God is love – 1 John 4:8 – His defining characteristic – Note I Cor 13

VS 9-11 What God Did

- God’s love was made public – manifest – by sending Jesus into the world.
- We live in Him.
- God loved us first.
- Propitiation for our sins
- Our response – love God and love one another.

NOTE: We remember Jesus’s death at Holy Communion, not His birth

VS 12-16 What God is Doing

God is abiding – living – in us.

God has given us the Holy Spirit

- Eden – God walked with us – no temple.
- Exodus – God dwelt in the tabernacles.
- Solomon – God dwelt in the temple.
- Pentecost – God through the Holy Spirit dwell in us -a tabernacle not made with hands.

1 Corinthians 13

VS 17 – 19 Our Confidence Before God

- Boldness – or confidence before God on the day of Judgment
- No fear of God for there is no fear in love.
- We love because He first loved us.

VS 20-21 – Cannot love God and hate your brother/sister; we are commanded to love each other.

1 John 5

VS 1-3

- Those who believe that Jesus is the Christ are “born of God,” i.e., Born Again
- Believers are obedient and obey His commandments.
- **Joyful Obedience:**
 - Obedience rooted in loving God – we are born of God
 - Obedience rooted in loving others
 - evidenced in keeping His commandments
 - Obedience in keeping His commandments not grievous.

VS 4 – 5 **Victory**

- We are born of God and through Him we can overcome the world.
- Who has overcome the world – those that believe that Jesus is the Son of God

John 16:33

³³ These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you ^{la}will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”

Victorious faith is realized as we mature in Christ – there is a progression I John 2: 12-14

- Little Children
- Young men
- Fathers

There is also REGRESSION.

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| 1. Friendship with the world | James 4:4 |
| 2. Spotted by the world | James 1:27 |
| 3. Loving the world | 1 John 2:15-17 |
| 4. Being conformed to the world | Romans 12:2 |

Five Christian Certainties:

What we know – word know issued 39 times in this epistle, 8 times in chapter

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| 1. Jesus is God | 1 John 5:6-10 |
| 2. Believers have eternal life | 1 John 5:11-13 |
| 3. God answers prayer | 1 John 14-15 |
| 4. Christians do not practice sin | 1 John 5:16-19 |
| 5. Christian life is real life | 1 John 5:20-21 |

VS 7-9 **Jesus is God**

- Water – baptism (all three members of the Trinity were present at Jesus’s baptism)
- Blood – cross and Holy Communion
- Spirit – Pentecost – new life
- The witness of God says Jesus is His Son
- Those that do not believe the witness of God are calling God a liar.

Note: He died – we died (Galatians 2:20); also

Romans 6:1-11

What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? ² Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? ³ Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? ⁴ Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

⁵ *For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, ⁶ knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be ^[a]done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. ⁷ For he who has died has been ^[b]freed from sin. ⁸ Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, ⁹ knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. ¹⁰ For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. ¹¹ Likewise you also, ^[c]reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

VS 10 – 13 **Believers Have Eternal Life**

- We can know with assurance we belong to God.
- God declares we have eternal life.
- If we have the Son, we have life.
- No son...no life
- Epistle written so that we may KNOW we have eternal life (7th reason this epistle was written)

VS 14 15 **God Answers Prayer**

- Our confidence in Him lets us ask anything according to His will, we know He hears us.
- Because He hears us, we know we have the petitions we desire of Him.

Hindrances to answered prayer:

1. Unconfessed sin – Psalm 66:18 – If I regard sin in my heart the Lord will not hear me.
2. Discord between husband and wife – 1 Peter 3:1-7
3. Unbelief – James 1:6
4. Asking amiss – James 4:3

VS 16-17 Intercession for Those Who Sin

VS 18 Christians Do Not Practice Sin

All believers sin but not sins that require us to die. We can do things wrong and be forgiven and God does not take us home (sin unto death). If that were the case, we would all be out of here.

1 Cor. 10:13

No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to ^{ld}bear it.

VS 19 The world lies in the power of the evil one.

- WORLD FAITH – our faith overcomes the world.
- FLESH FLEE – flee immorality, etc.
- DEVIL FIGHT – armor of God.

World is not a playground – it is a battle ground.

VS 20 – 21 Christian Life is the Real Life

Christianity is the true God.

- True light
- True bread
- True door
- True Vine
- True way, truth, life

The world is deceived – if a person is wrong about Jesus Christ, they will be wrong about God and if they are wrong about God they will be wrong in everything else.

Life is not just about doing “good” or “bad,” it is about knowing what truth is and what is false.

John 8:31-32

Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. ³² And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

John 10:10

The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.