

Trinity Bible Church

The Carpenter's House

December 9, 2012

The Message:

Faith, Faith and Testing

1 John 3:23-4:3

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wednesday Dec 12 Parable of the Talents
Saturday Dec 15 Christmas Party - 6pm
Sunday Dec 16 Deacons' Meeting
Wednesday Dec 19 Separation of the Sheep and Goats
Sunday Dec 23 Christmas Program

- ** Hoping to see you this coming Wednesday and Saturday.
- ** Foundations 201 courses will resume some time in January.
Specific dates will be provided when they are finalized.

	November	Total 2012	General Fund	Building Fund	Missions YTD
Income	\$ 11,119.00	\$88,502.94		\$4,952.27	\$18,369.36
Expenses	7,465.67	90,990.67		Benevolence	16,555.36
Balance	3,653.33	(-2,487.73)	\$ 12,633.13	\$ 706.73	1,814.00

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OFFERING

The Lord's Table

The Message:

Encouraging One Another

Faith, Faith and Testing *1 John 3:23-4:3*

1 John 3:23-24 = His Commandment

E.T./L.T. = And this is His commandment that we may believe in the Name of His Son Jesus Christ, and may love one another, just as He gave commandment to us. (24) And the one who is keeping His commandments is abiding in Him, and he in Him. And we know by this that He is abiding in us, by the Spirit, which He has given us.

Summary:

1. John views these two commandments as one showing each one's importance.
2. Belief comes first as the basis for love.
3. Love is to be the expression of that which is believed.
4. We are not just to have a hidden light within, but let His Light be shown.
5. Obeying these two commands is the most important basis for abiding fellowship with the Trinity.
6. The results are a confident assurance of eternity and peace in time.
7. The Holy Spirit is the revealer of real truth and is the means of testing the spirits. John 16:8-14

Principle: The Holy Spirit is also our _____ who tells us the Truth.

K. Fellowship and Discernment. 1 John 4:1-6

1 John 4:1 = Warnings.

E.T./L.T. = Beloved, stop believing every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from the God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

Summary:

1. The Gnostics claimed to have the Holy Spirit and to have received special revelation.
2. We are to test any new "revelations" against the word of God. 1 Thes 5:19-22
3. The context indicates that the temporary gift of discerning of spirits was no longer functioning to a great degree.
4. The Believer becomes trained by the word of God and the Holy Spirit to discern between good and evil. Heb 5:14
5. Paul also warned against the savage wolves and the false prophets. Acts 20:28; 1 Cor 12:1-3; 1 Tim 4:1-3
6. The lies of the early false prophets will be retained by the world, built upon by others, and their numbers increased. 2 Pet 2:1; 2 Cor 2:17; 1 John 2:18
7. The "renewing of the mind" by the revealed Word of God is the chief instrument of discernment. Rom 12:1-2

Principle: _____ new information against God's revealed Word.

1 John 4:2-3 = Where To Begin.

E.T./L.T. = By this you know the Spirit of God; every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ (Messiah) has come in the flesh is from God; (3) And every spirit that does not confess Jesus in not from God; and this is the *spirit* of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it (the spirit) is coming, and now it is already in the world.

Summary:

1. "Every spirit" refers to viewpoints that humans possess.
2. Viewpoints have an original source.
3. The viewpoint against the truths of Jesus the Messiah was already at work in John's day.
4. "Unclean" spirits are demons who spread evil viewpoint.
Matthew 10:1 & Mark 6:7 cf Luke 9:1
5. The confessions of the evil spirits in this passage are the lies and distortions they spread about Jesus the Messiah, brought from the "father of lies" the devil. John 8:44
6. The message must contain all of the essential truths, not just part of them.
7. The test of demonic viewpoint (not demon possession) deals with the basic truths of Christ.
 - A. Hypostatic union.
 - B. Virgin birth.
 - C. No personal sin.
 - D. Came to deliver us from sins.
 - F. The sole Redeemer.
 - E. Death/resurrection.
 - F. Ascension/session.
7. In John's day the lies were bold and thus this was the simple test.
8. In today's world of subtle lies we must be all the more discerning through a growing knowledge and faith in God's Word.
9. Having a worldly viewpoint does not prove that a person has a demon.

Principle: Revelations that do not agree with the revealed Word of God are

7. Living for Christ in a Depraved World

- A. The social life in Antioch was debased, sensual and shocking.**
- B. The Church in Antioch: Acts 11:19-22; 23-26; 15:23-29**
- C. The Church in Rome: 1:10; 11-15; 12:1-2**
- D. Ephesus was also a pagan city permeated with a Gentile lifestyle.**
- E. The Christian and the depraved world.**
- F. The Visual Media:**
- G. Music:**
- H. Observation vs. Participation.**
- I. Our example as parents.**
- J. Peer Pressure:**
- K. For Personal Evaluation:**
 - 1. Do we know and concentrate on "excellent" and "praiseworthy" things as revealed in God's Word? Php 4:8**
 - 2. To what extent do we "renew our minds?" Rom 12:1-2**
 - 3. To what extent do we love the world and its things? 1 John 2:15**
 - 4. To what extent do we seek to "remain true to the Lord?" Acts 11:23**
- L. Please realize that true "changing of the mind" is not referring to the Positive Mental Attitude thinking of today.**
- M. A crucial part of encouraging others is to exhort them to view people and circumstances from God's perspective.**