

Beloved, Test the Spirits

Intro: – If you work at home you sometimes get caught by surprise by visitors. The other day, I happened to be helping Andrea, I was holding the baby, and I had not yet combed my hair, and I had no shoes on, and the children say, ‘someone is knocking at the back door’ So I go to the back door with a 2 week old infant in my arms, my hair in the air, bare feet, and three little children huddled around my waist looking at our visitors. I open the door to see two men in suits. Uh oh! It was Two Jehovah’s Witnesses. What ensued after that was a spiritual battle on my back porch. We live in the same warfare that was raging in John’s day. How can you fight? How can you fight for your children, on whose future doors these men will come knocking? This is how: *Know the true Jesus that you may overcome the false prophets.*

T: What is John warning us about? Ideas that come to our minds? Spirits? No, preachers.

- 1. Every preacher claims to be led by the Holy Spirit 1**
 - Nothing in the context to lend to the idea of personal revelations
 - Everything to point to prophets/preachers/evangelists claiming a spirit
 - Every true and false preacher claims the Holy Spirit **1 Cor 12:1-11, 28** – so test men speaking

T: John is warning us about human preachers preaching false Christs.

- 2. There are many false prophets who bring damning beliefs about Jesus Christ 1**
 - False prophets, not of God, of Antichrist, of the world, of error, refuse apostles - heresy
 - Those who hold to this, and don’t hold to the truth are damned, not saved
 - If you follow them you too will be damned, but God will preserve you –this is how
 - He does this by commanding you to test and not believe them

T: How can you recognize these bad guys? What specifically are they saying?

- 3. These false teachers do not merely deny that Jesus had a human body 2**
 - What is the particular error of these antichrists? One view is that they simply won’t acknowledge that Jesus Christ became physically incarnate. In other words it is a kind of gnostic new-agey kind of spiritual belief.
 - Is that a complete picture of these false prophets? Is this their sole particular error?
 - No, they also deny that Jesus is the Christ **2:22-23** So it is a much bigger picture
 - If you ask a JW or Mormon if Jesus came in the flesh what will they say?

T: It is not a naïve interpretation of this text, but a full interpretation that guards us from them

- 4. The false teachers deny the true Jesus taught in Scripture 2**
 - Jesus Christ come in the flesh – equal ultimacy
 - What are they denying? **1 John 2:22-23; 4:2-3; 2John 1:7**
 - But we are to confess: **3:23** His Son Jesus Christ; **4:9-10** His only begotten Son into the world, His Son propitiation; **4:14-15** Father sent the Son as Savior, Jesus is the Son of God; **5:1** believes that “Jesus is the Christ”; **5:5** believes that Jesus is the Son of God
 - **5:20** This is the true God and eternal life ; **5:21** - no idols i.e. false Christs –**Deut 13:1-5**
 - Do JW’s and Mormons proclaim that Jesus is the Christ of the Bible? No

T: This battle with antichrist did not end in John’s day, it is on your door step.

- 5. You need to know the true Jesus in order to overcome the false prophets 2, 6**
 - You have the Holy Spirit **4** and so you won’t succumb to their false Christs – but you use means
 - You are of God and you listen to i.e. believe the apostolic teaching about Jesus – what did they teach? That he is the Christ of the OT- What is the Christ of the OT? He is true man –seed of woman **Gen 3:15** <seed of Abraham, seed of David>, he is eternal **Micah 5:2**, He is true God **Heb 1:8 (Ps 45:6)**, He is uncreated **Is 43:10**, He is the Son of God **Ps 2:7**, He is I AM **John 8:57-59**
 - You need to know your Jesus, the Christ so well, so that when the devil’s false apostles come knocking on your door, you will have your armor on, and your sword ready, and be ready to meet Apollyon in battle and defeat him.
 - And you need to train your children, who will have homes of their own, and friends of their own, and these false prophets will seek them out. Will they stand the bloody battle? Do they know how to answer the Satanic deception head on? Train them, Train yourself, and train them. Know The Jesus of Scripture.

T: You may be caught off guard like I was, bed-head, bare feet, and baby, but don’t be caught spiritually off guard

Conclusion: There was spiritual blood on my back porch that day. I argued from Scripture that Jesus is True God, the I AM, not a created god. I told them to their face and I warned them in that name YHWH that they were preaching another Jesus. His parting words as he headed to the end of my driveway were “Thanks for the warning... I am a Christian you know.” God’s sword had pierced his armor and his salvation felt threatened –rightly. But to fight them, for their sake, and for your sake, and for your children’s sake, you must *Know the true Jesus that you may overcome the false prophets.*