

The Proof that One Really Knows God – 7 Tests

1st John – Chapter 2.3-29

As the apostle John is writing to Christians, to Believers, he is writing to each of us. And John is going to show us how we can know in our hearts & minds, having the proof – that we really know God.

Father God, we come before as your little children seeking to have proof that we really know who you are and that we can have the confidence to live with that knowledge – no matter what others or the world tells us. Be with us tonight as we study this amazing letter of your apostle John. Help us to understand what he and therefore You are saying to each of us. Be with Your teacher as she gives this lesson and let her speak your words to those gathered together to study Your Word. Thank You Lord for being with us and fellowshiping with us this evening. In the wonderful name of Jesus, we ask for your blessing. Amen

Test 1 – Obeying God’s Commands

1 John 2: 3-6 ³ *By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments.* ⁴ *The one who says, “I have come to know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him;* ⁵ *but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him:* ⁶ *the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.*

❖ The test: Do we obey God’s commands?

- ‘His commandments’ is sited twice... Note that this word is plural; it cannot be confined exclusively, therefore, to the single command of Christ to “love one another” (Jn 13:34). John is countering the problem of antinomianism, a heresy very much still with us, that lessens our obligation to obey God since we are saved by grace alone.
- We come to know God and Jesus by keeping His commands and teachings, one is to love the brethren – our brothers/sisters in Christ.
 - **Know** – g1097 ginōskō - allow, be aware of, feel, have knowledge, perceive, be resolved, can speak of, be sure, understand. Ginōskō is the knowledge that has an inception, a progress, and an attainment. It is the recognition of truth by personal experience.
 - **John 17:3** ³ *This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.*
 - **Keep** – g5083 tēreō - particularly to watch, observe attentively, keeping the eyes fixed upon. To fulfill a duty, precept, law, custom, to perform watchfully and vigilantly – spoken of keeping the commandments.

- **1 Corinthians 7:19** ¹⁹ *Circumcision is nothing, and uncircumcision is nothing, but what matters is the keeping of the commandments of God.*
- **Revelation 14:12** ¹² *Here is the perseverance of the saints who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus.*
- **Commandment** - g1785 entolē - injunction, commission, precept. That which is prescribed to one by reason of his office – the commands of God, the teachings of Jesus
- In accepting the truth that faith in Jesus Christ, without works, justifies – we have sometimes failed to notice that without obedience to His commandments there can be no genuine faith in Jesus Christ.
 - **Matthew 7:21** ²¹ *“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter.*
 - **James 2:17** ¹⁷ *Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself.*

❖ The professing man: Says He knows God but does not obey His commands

- If one doesn't obey God's commands the truth is not in him or her, and then they are lying if they say they know God.
 - **Truth** – g0225 alētheia – what is true, not concealed but open and known; the love of what is true, both in words and conduct, sincerity, veracity. Alētheia is the opposite of fictitious, feigned, or false. It denotes veracity, reality, sincerity, accuracy, integrity, truthfulness, dependability, and propriety.
 - **Luke 6:46** ⁴⁶ *“Why do you call Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say?”*
 - **James 2:14** ¹⁴ *What use is it, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but he has no works? Can that faith save him?*
 - **Titus 1:10** ¹⁰ *For there are many rebellious men, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision*

❖ The obedient man: Obeys God's Word

- We have assurance concerning our relationship with God if we have a loving desire to do His will. It is about wanting to do what God wants, agreeing with Him and doing it.
 - **Word** – g3056 logos - something said, written

(Baker Illustrated Bible Dictionary) From the perspective of many systematic theologians, the word of God is defined with several essential labels. The word is the special revelation of God to humans—specifically, truth communicated from God to his human creatures by supernatural intervention, including a disclosure of his mind and will, his attributes, and his redemptive plans. This revealed word is inspired.

Inspiration is an act of the Holy Spirit of God whereby he superintended the biblical authors so that they composed the canonical books of Scripture. Inspiration is verbal and plenary in that it extends to every part of the Bible and includes the choice of words used by the authors.

The word of God is inerrant, free from error in every matter addressed, and infallible, true in every matter addressed. The locus of inspiration, inerrancy, and infallibility is the original manuscripts and not the translations. A translation is reliable when it accurately reflects the meaning of the inspired originals... And finally, the word is authoritative. Because the Bible is the divinely inspired word of God reliably composed in the originals without error, it is binding upon people in their relationship with their God as well as their relationships with their fellow human beings. Biblical authority derives from the eternal character of the divine author and the revelatory content of the Scriptures.

- **Perfected** – g5048 teleioō - to complete, accomplish, to make perfect, to carry through completely, to accomplish, finish, bring to a successful conclusion. In an ethical & spiritual sense, it signifies a bringing to maturity, a perfecting
- **John 14:21** ²¹ *He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him."*

❖ **The responsible man: Lives up to his faith profession**

- When we talk the talk, we must walk the walk – and that means obedience. Steadfast and persevering which is what John means with the word 'abides'. We imitate Christ – we are to live our lives as Jesus did - in love, compassion and obedience. Such abiding is the basis of spiritual 'fruit bearing' showing that he/she is living up to their profession of faith.
 - **Abides** - g3306 menō - to stay, continue, dwell, endure, be present, remain, stand. The relation in which one person stands among another
 - **1 Corinthians 11:1** ¹ *Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.*
 - **Ephesians 5:1-2** ¹ *Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children;* ² *and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.*
 - **Colossians 1:10** ¹⁰ *so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God*
 - **Colossians 2:6** ⁶ *Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him*
- Our walk in the light is a test of our fellowship with God, since the life of fellowship is a life that is continually cleansed from sin by the blood of the cross. It also involves our relationship with one another, which indicates that a walk 'in the light' is lived accountably before both God and man.

Test 2 – Loving Your Neighbor

1 John 2:7-11 ⁷ *Beloved, I am not writing a new commandment to you, but an old commandment which you have had from the beginning; the old commandment is the word which you have heard.* ⁸ *On the other hand, I am writing a new commandment to you, which is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true Light is already shining.* ⁹ *The one who says he is in the Light and yet hates his brother is in the darkness until now.* ¹⁰ *The one who loves his brother abides in the Light and there is no cause for stumbling in him.* ¹¹ *But the one who hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes.*

❖ The test: The supreme command – love

- John starts this section by calling the reader (us) ‘Beloved’. He is talking to us as God the Father would talk to us – as believers united together in special bonds of holy love. He is reminding us of what we are supposed to know – and what we are supposed to be doing, as we endeavor to be like Jesus. Just as Jesus was in a special, loving relationship with the Father, so also are we who are His Church. We are God’s ‘beloved, dear children’.
 - **Beloved** – ἀγαπητός (agapētos) – dearly loved
 - **Matthew 5:43-44** ⁴³ *“You have heard that it was said, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR and hate your enemy.’* ⁴⁴ *But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you*
 - **Matthew 22:37-40** ⁷ *And He said to him, “ ‘YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.’* ³⁸ *This is the great and foremost commandment.* ³⁹ *The second is like it, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.’* ⁴⁰ *On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.”*
 - **John 13:34** ³⁴ *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.*

❖ The professing man: Professes God but hates his brother

- They say they are saved, that they love the Lord, they are even in a church assembly – yet there is hatred in their hearts and actions for their Christian brothers across the world, or even hatred for God’s chosen people the Jewish nation. This was the manner of the Gnostics who hated Christians and Jews.
- The idea that one could hate a brother and yet claim fellowship with God shows the utter darkness that had blinded them to the truth.

- **1 John 3:15** ¹⁵ *Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer; and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.*

❖ The obedient man: Loves his brother

- These are the Believers who abide in the light of Jesus – they love their brothers, are willing to support them and help them in any way they can.
 - **1 John 3:16** ¹⁶ *We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.*
 - **Ephesians 5:8-9** ⁸ *for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light* ⁹ *(for the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth)*
 - **Romans 13:12** ¹² *The night is almost gone, and the day is near. Therefore, let us lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light*
 - **2 Peter 1:10** ¹⁰ *Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble*

❖ The bitter and hateful man: Is hypocritical

- Darkness has blinded their eyes and they cannot see how their actions are proving them to be bitter and hateful. But because of this, they wear a mask (the meaning of hypocritical) and say one thing but mean another; they do one thing, but their intention is to have an opposite effect.
 - **John 12:35** ³⁵ *So Jesus said to them, “For a little while longer the Light is among you. Walk while you have the Light, so that darkness will not overtake you; he who walks in the darkness does not know where he goes*
 - **2 Corinthians 4:4** ⁴ *in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*
 - **2 Peter 1:9** ⁹ *For he who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins.*
 - **John 12:40** ⁴⁰ *“HE HAS BLINDED THEIR EYES AND HE HARDENED THEIR HEART, SO THAT THEY WOULD NOT SEE WITH THEIR EYES AND PERCEIVE WITH THEIR HEART, AND BE CONVERTED AND I HEAL THEM.”*

Test 3 – Remembering Your Spiritual Growth

1 John 2:12-14 ¹² I am writing to you, little children, because your sins have been forgiven you for His name's sake. ¹³ I am writing to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I have written to you, children, because you know the Father. ¹⁴ I have written to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

❖ Step 1: Remember how you have grown

- Pastor Jon Courson jokes that there are four stages in our physical life – childhood, youth, adulthood, and 'My, you're looking wonderful!', before going on to tell us that there are three stages of our spiritual life: little children, young men and mature fathers.
- John in this writing, is showing us (men & women) that as believers that there are increasing degrees of maturity in the faith. As we see overcoming the evil one, knowing the Father, being strong with the word abiding in us, and having overcome the temptation – we need to review our walk with the Lord – to see how we have grown.
- Perhaps you are as a little child in your faith just beginning to know about your wonderful forgiveness in Jesus. Perhaps you are the young person in your faith, fighting battles and overcoming the evil one. Perhaps you are at the mature stage of your faith – you have gone through many things, situations, people but have kept the faith for many long years.
- Remember where you are, who you are in Christ, what you have gone through no matter how small or great, and that Jesus was there at your side walking with you in your journey.
 - **John 16:33** ³³ *These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world."*
 - **Matthew 5:37** ³⁷ *But let your statement be, 'Yes, yes' or 'No, no'; anything beyond these is of evil.*
 - **Philippians 4:13** ¹³ *I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.*
 - **Psalms 143:10** ¹⁰ *Teach me to do Your will, For You are my God; Let Your good Spirit lead me on level ground.*

❖ Step 2: Confirm who you are – your relationship to God – over and over

- Now confirm who you are in Christ – be strong in the Lord – no matter where you are on your walk. And always be ready to share your faith with everyone from the youngest to the oldest; from the hardly known to the lifetime friend to absolute complete strangers.
 - **John 14:6** ⁶ *Jesus *said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.*
 - **Ephesians 6:10-11** ¹⁰ *Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.*
 - **Psalms 91:15-16** ¹⁵ *“He will call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him. ¹⁶ “With a long life I will satisfy him And let him see My salvation.”*
 - **Psalms 90:12** ¹² *So teach us to number our days, That we may present to You a heart of wisdom.*

Test 4 – Not Loving The World

1 John 2:15-17 ¹⁵ *Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. ¹⁷ The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.*

❖ The test: Do we love the world

- The Greek use of the word ‘world’ here is clear – it does not refer to people, but rather to the philosophy and mentality of the world system – a morally evil system that is opposed to all God is. In this sense, the world is the satanic system opposing Christ’s kingdom on earth.
- By loving that which opposes God and His precepts, John clearly says the Father is not in him or her. So, our test is do we love the world?
 - **Romans 12:2** ² *And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.*
 - **Galatians 1:10** ¹⁰ *For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a bond-servant of Christ.*
 - **Colossians 3:1-2** ¹ *Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.*
 - **Matthew 6:24** ²⁴ *“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.*

❖ The professing man: Loves the world

- Those who love the world are characterized by the 3 lusts, which John sees as the different ways believers could be lured away from the loving God.
 - The World and the man-made systems of the world – **Romans 13:14** ⁴ *But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts.*
 - The Lust of the Flesh and the desires of sinful pleasures – **Ephesians 2:3** ³ *Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.*
 - The Lust of the Eyes and the covetousness of materialism – **Proverbs 27:20** ²⁰ *Sheol and Abaddon are never satisfied, Nor are the eyes of man ever satisfied.*
 - The Boastful Pride of life and of being proud about one’s position in this world – **James 4:16** ¹⁶ *But as it is, you boast in your arrogance; all such boasting is evil.*

- **James 3:14-16** ¹⁴ But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth. ¹⁵ This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic. ¹⁶ For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing.

❖ The obedient man: Is immortal and lives forever

- This world is passing away, God in His abundant grace has given us two thousand more years that even John could have imagined when he penned this letter. Life for him and for us is brief – and to be consumed with the things of this life, is to make us unprepared for the next life.
- We will all live forever – somewhere. We must be doing the will of the Father – so our somewhere is with Him!
 - **Colossians 3:3-4** ³ For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.
 - **1 Peter 1:24-25** ²⁴ For, “ALL FLESH IS LIKE GRASS, AND ALL ITS GLORY LIKE THE FLOWER OF GRASS. THE GRASS WITHERS, AND THE FLOWER FALLS OFF, ²⁵ BUT THE WORD OF THE LORD ENDURES FOREVER.” And this is the word which was preached to you.
 - **John 6:58** ⁵⁸ This is the bread which came down out of heaven; not as the fathers ate and died; he who eats this bread will live forever.”
 - **John 10:27-29** ²⁷ My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; ²⁸ and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand.

Test 5 – Guarding Against Antichrists or False Teachers

1 John 2:18-23 ¹⁸ Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour. ¹⁹ They went out from us, but they were not really of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us. ²⁰ But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you all know. ²¹ I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it, and because no lie is of the truth. ²² Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son. ²³ Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also.

❖ The warning against antichrists

(Mounce's Expository Dictionary) While there are references in the gospels to "false Christs and false prophets", only John actually uses the word antichristos. The prefix "anti" before "Christ" denotes either someone who is "against" Christ or someone who claims to be a messiah "instead of" Christ; both of these essentially mean the same thing. "Many antichrists" were around in John's day; they began in the church but then left it. They taught false teachings about Christ—in John's day, they denied that Jesus came in the flesh. But anyone in any era who teaches doctrines about Christ that are not in conformity with Scripture follows this spirit of the antichrist.

- In the first part of this chapter John talked about the light of God, here in the second part of Chapter 2, he gives us a warning about the darkness of the Enemy. These are those who seek to take the place of Christ, by denying Jesus' deity and putting themselves on the 'throne'. They are against Jesus, and we need to on guard against them.
 - Antichrist – g0500 antichristos – an opponent of the Messiah
 - **Matthew 24:5** ⁵ For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will mislead many.
 - **2 John 1:7** ⁷ For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist.

❖ The origin of antichrists

(Courson's Application Commentary) the term “antichrist” carries with it a three-fold meaning.... **First**, Antichrist is a person (Revelation 13; 16; 19). A world leader will come on the scene who will be so cunning, so clever, and so charismatic that he will actually take the place of Christ in the minds of many people. **Second**, there is such a thing as the spirit of antichrist (1 John 4:3). The spirit of antichrist has pervaded human history. For example, as the atrocities of Hitler and Stalin continue to come to light, the only explanation for their murderous insanity is the spirit of antichrist attempting to destroy God’s people, and, in Stalin’s own words, to become “the new Christ.” The **third** meaning of the term “antichrist” is seen here in our text in reference to teachers who, in denying Jesus’ deity, make Him out to be less than He declared Himself to be when He claimed to be God Himself (John 10:30).

- John says ‘*They went out from us, but they were not really of us*’ means that these people, were originally in their congregations, but they were not committed believers of Jesus. John says that we can recognize those who have been seduced by the spirit of the antichrist by their own words as they try to explain why they no longer come to services. They become linked to no one, accountable to no one, away from fellowship and then they deny the faith.
 - **Matthew 24:24** ²⁴ *For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect.*
 - **1 Timothy 4:1** ¹ *But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons.*

❖ The protection against antichrists

- John is saying that because ‘*you have an anointing from the Holy One*’, there are certain things you know—not because you have mentally figured them out, but because God has given you the intuition to know they’re wrong. That which false teachers teach falls into this category because their words simply don’t ring true in our hearts
- We have protection by the Holy Spirit. We have been sealed and the Spirit is in our hearts. We know the mysteries of the kingdom. Scripture reminds us daily, we have to read it.
 - Know – G3608a oida means to know intuitively
 - **2 Thessalonians 2:6-7** ⁶ *And you know what restrains him now, so that in his time he will be revealed. ⁷ For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way.*

- **2 Corinthians 1:21-22** ²¹ Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and anointed us is God, ²² who also sealed us and gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge.
- **Matthew 13:11** ¹¹ Jesus answered them, "To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been granted.
- **2 Peter 1:12** ¹² Therefore, I will always be ready to remind you of these things, even though you already know them, and have been established in the truth which is present with you

❖ The false teaching of antichrists

- The main false teaching is the denial of Jesus as the Son of God, the Messiah, the Anointed One. Peter says it very well:
 - **2 Peter 2:1-3** ¹ But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves. ² Many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned; ³ and in their greed they will exploit you with false words; their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.

Test 6 – Letting the Gospel Remain in You

1 John 2:24-27 ²⁴ As for you, let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father. ²⁵ This is the promise which He Himself made to us: eternal life. ²⁶ These things I have written to you concerning those who are trying to deceive you. ²⁷ As for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him.

❖ The test: Does the gospel remain in you

- Are you keeping safe in your hearts the message of salvation? Are you tempted to wander from the truth and ‘investigate’ other options? Are you listening to the world or to the Scriptures? Remember *“If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father.”*
 - **Psalms 119:10-11** ¹⁰ With all my heart I have sought You; Do not let me wander from Your commandments. ¹¹ Your word I have treasured in my heart, That I may not sin against You.
 - **Psalms 119:14-16** ¹⁴ I have rejoiced in the way of Your testimonies, As much as in all riches. ¹⁵ I will meditate on Your precepts And regard Your ways. ¹⁶ I shall delight in Your statutes; I shall not forget Your word.

❖ The promise: Eternal life

- The promise of eternal life is clearly stated. Jesus promised us and He keeps His promises!
 - **John 3:15** ¹⁵ so that whoever believes will in Him have eternal life.
 - **John 6:40** ⁴⁰ For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day.”
 - **Luke 18:29-30** ²⁹ And He said to them, “Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, ³⁰ who will not receive many times as much at this time and in the age to come, eternal life.”

❖ The warning: some will try to lead us astray from Christ

- Yes, there will be ones who try to deceive us, who try to lead us away from the Cross of Christ. They may be our spouse, our children, our friends, the evening news shows, social media, non-Christian pastors – someone or thing will try to deceive us... remember what you are learning as you do this lesson and DO NOT Be Deceived.

(BE Series Commentary by Wiersbe) As never before, Christians today need ability to distinguish between right and wrong, between truth and error. The notion is widespread in our generation that there are no “absolutes”—that nothing is always wrong and that nothing is always right. False doctrines, therefore, are more prevalent than at any time in history—and most men and women seem to be willing to accept almost any teaching except the truths of the Bible.

- **2 Timothy 3:13-14** ¹³ *But evil men and impostors will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.* ¹⁴ *You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them*

❖ The provision of God to protect us – The Holy Spirit

- When we accepted Christ, we also accepted the Father and the Holy Spirit – for all three are one, and God in all His triune fullness lives in our bodies. Jesus said basically the same thing in the Gospel of John:
 - **John 14:16-17** ¹⁶ *I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever;* ¹⁷ *that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.*
 - **Ephesians 3:16** ¹⁶ *that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man,*
 - **Romans 5:5** ⁵ *and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.*

Test 7 – Continuing, Abiding in Christ

1 John 2:28-29 ²⁸ Now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming. ²⁹ If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone also who practices righteousness is born of Him.

❖ The test: Do we continue in Christ?

- Are we living in Him with an unwavering faith? This is the question – now that you are a believer will you abide in Him, will you run the race finishing strong as Paul did?
 - **John 8:31-32** ³¹ So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, “If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”
 - **1 Thessalonians 2:19-20** ¹⁹ For who is our hope or joy or crown of exultation? Is it not even you, in the presence of our Lord Jesus at His coming? ²⁰ For you are our glory and joy.
 - **Hebrews 12:1-2a** ¹ Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith

❖ The purpose for continuing:

- That we may have confidence & not be ashamed when Christ returns for us
 - **Confidence** – g3954 parrhēsia literally ‘the speaking of all one is thinking’. Boldness to speak without concealment, or ambiguity or circumlocution without the use of figures and comparisons
 - **Shame** – g0153 aischynomai disgrace, to feel shame for oneself. We see today that shame conveys the general state of being uncovered and exposed, usually in the sense of nakedness. The contemporary cliché “caught with your pants down” captures the sense of this term when it is used to denote one’s shame
 - **Ephesians 3:11-12** ¹¹ This was in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹² in whom we have boldness and confident access through faith in Him.
 - **Mark 8:38** ³⁸ For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.”
 - **Hebrews 3:6** ⁶ but Christ was faithful as a Son over His house—whose house we are, if we hold fast our confidence and the boast of our hope firm until the end.

- **Hebrews 4:16** ¹⁶ *Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

❖ The proof of continuing – living a righteous life

- May we all be answering a definite YES to the question ‘Do we continue in Christ’. That we will practice righteousness (doing what is right and conforming to God’s will). That we will be faithful to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
 - **John 1:13** ¹³ *who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.*
 - **Philippians 2:14-15** ¹⁴ *Do all things without grumbling or disputing; ¹⁵ so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world*
 - **2 Corinthians 5:21** ²¹ *He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*
 - **Titus 2:12-13** ¹² *instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, ¹³ looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus*

We have gone through the Apostle John’s 7 tests for the proof that one really knows God.

1. Obeying God’s Commands
2. Loving Your Neighbor
3. Remembering Your Spiritual Growth
4. Not Loving the World
5. Guarding against Antichrists or False Teachers
6. Letting the Gospel Remain in You
7. Abiding in Christ

Did we pass them all? Probably not completely. Should we aspire to pass them? Absolutely, we are children of God our Father, and we should always seek to do our Father’s Will.

Jesus told us this in Matthew 6:7-13 ⁷ “And when you are praying, do not use meaningless repetition as the Gentiles do, for they suppose that they will be heard for their many words. ⁸ So do not be like them; for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.

⁹ “Pray, then, in this way: ‘Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. ¹⁰ ‘Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. ¹¹ ‘Give us this day our daily bread. ¹² ‘And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. ¹³ ‘And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.’