

Sunday, October 19, 2025 AM
AUTHENTIC FAITH: Truth or Consequences 4
Mike Teel, Pastor

FOCAL PASSAGE:

I John 2:20-25

²⁰ But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth. ²¹ I do not write to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it and because no lie comes from the truth. ²² Who is the liar? It is whoever denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a person is the antichrist—denying the Father and the Son. ²³ No one who denies the Son has the Father; whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also. ²⁴ As for you, see that what you have heard from the beginning remains in you. If it does, you also will remain in the Son and in the Father. ²⁵ And this is what he promised us—eternal life.

I John 4:1-6

¹ Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. ² This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³ but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world. ⁴ You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. ⁵ They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶ We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood.

John reveals to the believers of his day the signs and the practices of those promoting false teachings. Please understand, we too are dealing with multitudes of false prophets, doctrines and teachings in our world today. They are designed to confuse us and to get us to buy into something that looks real but is not. The danger is that it can have eternal consequences if we are not sensitive to the Holy Spirit and His revelations. To this point John has been revealing the false movement of his day called the “Gnostics”. This was just one of the false religions of his day. Judaism was still a real threat to the spread of Christianity and almost all the authors of New Testament dealt with their attempts to bring us back under the law, the very same thing Jesus battled when He walked the earth.

The characteristics of these false teachers of John’s day are still active today. The first mark of a false teacher was “THEY DEPARTED FROM THE TRUE FELLOWSHIP”. They claimed they had new and advanced revelation that was the key to true salvation. So, they left the established local church and started their own group. The second characteristic of false teachers is “THEY DENY THE FAITH.” What this means is they deny that Jesus was God in the flesh reconciling the world back to Himself.”

II Corinthians 5:18-19

¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.

Sometimes the devil modifies these characteristics to be successful in our day and time. So, as we return to God’s Word this morning let’s ask the Lord to allow the Holy Spirit to guide us and reveal to us if we are in the faith or not. My prayer for you is that if you discover you have been misled you will take steps this morning to line your life up with Jesus and accept His wonderful gift of Eternal Life.

WHAT WE BELIEVE REALLY DOES _____

Remember the hypothesis we started with in this section of study. “It doesn’t matter what you believe, as long as you are sincere.” But all true Christians have some things Scripturally in common, regardless of church affiliation:

- 1) They believe that the Bible is the infallible inerrant Word of God.
- 2) They believe Jesus is the Son of God who came in the flesh to redeem mankind.
- 3) They confess that men are sinners and that the only way one can be saved is through faith in Christ.
- 4) They believe that Christ died as man’s substitute on the cross, and that He arose again from the dead.
- 5) They believe that the Holy Spirit indwells true believers.
- 6) Finally, they believe that one day in the future Jesus will come again.
- 7) We may differ on other matters but we agree on the basic doctrines of faith.

_____ IS JESUS CHRIST?

I John 2:20-22

²⁰ But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth. ²¹ I do not write to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it and because no lie comes from the truth. ²² Who is the liar? It is whoever denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a person is the antichrist—denying the Father and the Son.

The key question for any group and for any person is “Who Is Jesus Christ?” Understand each and every one of us will be required to answer this question in eternity. Some will say Christ is merely a good example; others will say He was a good man or a wonderful teacher and some will deny He was God in the flesh. This is still the vital question today. Many people are asking, “Who I Jesus Christ?” How do we truly know who Jesus is today?

1. THE GREAT _____

The great assertions of the faith that sets a Christian apart from others is this: Jesus Christ is God come in the flesh.

I John 4:2

² This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God,

Not all preachers and teachers who claim to be Christian are really Christians in their beliefs.

I John 4:1-6

¹ Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. ² This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³ but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world. ⁴ You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. ⁵ They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶ We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood.

If they confess that Jesus Christ is God come in the flesh, then the most likely belong to the true faith. **Matthew 1:23** is a quote from **Isaiah 7:14**.

Matthew 1:23

²³ *The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call Him Immanuel (which means “God with us”).*

There are a good number of false religions or cults at work in our society today. To find a list you can google Cults in America or False Religions in America today. It will go into great detail. There was a cult that was very active in Lawton in the past few years. Their approach was to engage you in a discussion about “if you have heard of the Mother God”. Known as World Mission Society Church of God. It was established in 1964 by Ahn Sang-hong in South Korea (happens to be a place where God was doing a great work). The church believes that the founder Ahn Sahng-hong is the second coming of Jesus, and that Jahng GJ-jah is god incarnate in the form of “god the Mother.” They were very aggressive not too long ago, even approaching some of our folks.

When you are looking for a new church, please take time to sit down with the leadership and find out exactly what they believe and if you missed last week go back and review the basic Scriptural tenants we discussed. Far too many False Prophets do not want to divulge what they truly believe. The want to mask it in what is acceptable and then slowly introduce you to the false concepts or introduce you to things that has been privately revealed to them.

George Whitfield, the great British evangelist, was speaking to a man about his soul. He asked the man, “Sir, what do you believe?” “I believe what my church believes,” the man replied respectfully. “And what does your church believe?” “The same thing I believe.” “And what do both of your believe?” The preacher inquired. “We both believe the same thing!” was the only reply he could get. The number one question you should ask is “What do they believe about Jesus and secondly what do they believe about God’s Word.” The one thing we see is if false teachers were content to enjoy themselves in their own meetings, it would be bad enough; the tragedy is that try earnestly to convert others to their antichristian doctrine.

2. _____ MESSAGES

A person is not saved by assenting to a church creed or even being able to give the right Sunday School answer to the question, “Who is Jesus Christ?” Most of you here this morning could answer that question. A question Jesus even asked His disciples.

Matthew 16:13-18

¹³ *When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?”* ¹⁴ *They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”* ¹⁵ *“But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”* ¹⁶ *Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”* ¹⁷ *Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven.* ¹⁸ *And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.*

Romans 10:9-10

⁹ *If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is LORD,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.* ¹⁰ *For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.*

Remember LORD means boss. Some of you profess with your mouth but your actions indicate something else. You say Jesus is LORD but you behave like He is not. The language you use, the stories you tell, the things you watch, the behaviors you engage in that no one else knows about, even your desires – if you don't feel like coming to church you don't but you sure get up on Monday morning and head to work. The business transaction or the general dishonesty of people today. Now don't get me wrong. I am not trying to be legalistic but if you believe that Jesus is God in the Flesh and you have trusted Him as your personal Lord and Savior – there should be a change in your behavior. If there is no change in behavior or even if the change was short lived, you do not have the Spirit of Christ living in you but the Spirit of Antichrist. And you have a false profession of faith. This is just where Satan wants you. He is extremely excited when people are religious but do not have a relationship. Sooner or later religion will fail and he will expose you.

Luke 22:31-32

³¹“Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat. ³²But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.”

This is true for fringe believers (those who are not yet fully committed to Christ). Satan wants to demonstrate, show our failures to the world to devalue Christianity.

3. SPIRIT _____

How can we discern a true relationship with Christ? How can we discern when we have been exposed to false teachings? We are told that those who are truly born of God have the Spirit of God within them that guides them in all truth. Notice John indicated that his reader's knew the truth about Christ, or else would not have been saved.

1 John 2:20, 27

²⁰ But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth.

²⁷ As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit—just as it has taught you, remain in him.

Romans 8:9

⁹ You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ.

False Christians in John's day used two special words to describe their experiences: “Knowledge” and “Anointing.” They claimed to have special anointing from God which gave them a unique knowledge. They were “illuminated” and living on a much higher level than anybody else. And this was necessary for Salvation. John points out all true Christians know God and have received the Spirit of God! Because they have believed the truth, they recognize a lie when they meet it.

4. THE _____ OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

There is so much misunderstanding about the Work of the Holy Spirit in our lives today. The inhabiting of the Holy Spirit in our lives begins at the moment we trust Jesus as Savior. When we are saved we have everything necessary for the Christian life – we do not get a portion now and then a second blessing or portion later on – Just like when a baby is born everything thing that baby will need is included, it may not be developed but it is included. The work of the Holy Spirit in our lives today is vital . . .

NEW BIRTH AND REGENERATION

The Spirit brings about Spiritual transformation, giving new life in Christ. Remember it was God through the Holy Spirit that sought us for a relationship with Jesus. **(Ephesians 2:1-5)**

INDWELLING AND EMPOWERMENT

He resides within every believer, providing the strength, wisdom, guidance needed to live the Christian life. **(I Corinthians 6:19; Romans 8:26)**

CONVICTION OF SIN AND GUIDANCE INTO TRUTH

The Spirit helps believers understand and apply God's Word, revealing God's thoughts and the whole counsel of God. **(John 16:8,13)**

INTERCESSION IN PRAYER

He assist in prayer, interceding on behalf of believers according to God's will. **(Romans 8:26-27)**

PRODUCING CHRIST-LIKE CHARACTER

The Spirit works to develop the "fruit of the Spirit" in believers' lives, such as love, joy, peace, and patience. **(Galatians 5:22-23)**

GIVING SPIRITUAL GIFTS

He bestows Spiritual gifts to believers for the function and building up of the body of Christ, the church. **(I Corinthians 12:4-11)**

SEALING AND GUARANTEEING

The Spirit indwells believers as a pledge, or guarantee, of their eternal inheritance and status as God's Children. **(Ephesians 4:30)**

EMPOWERING WITNESS

He empowers believers to live for Christ and to share their faith with others. **(Acts 1:8)**

5. _____ YOURSELF ABOUT YOUR PERSONAL FAITH

II Corinthians 13:5-6

⁵ Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test? ⁶ And I trust that you will discover that we have not failed the test.

Satan is the great imitator. He cannot create but he certainly wants to imitate what God is doing. So he designs a false Church with false teaching and false prophets in an attempt to mislead us. Satan knows once you become a child of God there is absolutely no way he will ever be able to have you as one of his children again – doesn't mean he won't attempt to use you against God.

We have examined now two of the three observations about false teachers. So, Where do you stand? Some of you thought well maybe I'm okay when we examined the first one "Forsaking the body of Christ." But now I have to question if my life really live up to the standards that Christ has set before us or am I denying the Faith? No one can answer these questions but you.

LIVE IT OUT

Who really is Jesus in your life?

Have you "departed from the fellowship" for any length of time in your Christian life?

Secondly, does your life "deny the faith" by the way you are living away from the church?