

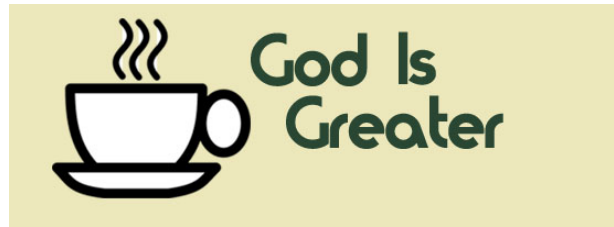
Day 1

Sermon Sentence: God has equipped you to know and follow the life that He has called you to even though you are surrounded by doubts, fears, and lies.

1 John 4:1-2

John says “Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God”. Unfortunately as a world we have progressed along the apostate path so far it is now common to have to verify two things consistently in the claims of a believer. One that Jesus Christ is the son of God and is also God and two He came in the flesh and died for our sins. The test has the same result however, and any true follower of Christ has the discernment to know if what a person says they believe lines up with the truth of The Gospel of Jesus Christ. If someone attempts even in the smallest way to separate Jesus from the deity of God or the fact that He led a sinless life and died a substitutionary death on our behalf, they are preaching another Gospel! (Galatians 1:8)

- What does the word “Christ” mean in the original Greek?
- What is its equivalent in Hebrew?
- Why is it so important for the Devil to “tweak” the small details about Salvations requirements?
- What were some of the changes that were being introduced about Jesus?
- Why does Paul give such a strong warning in Galatians?, What is truly at stake?



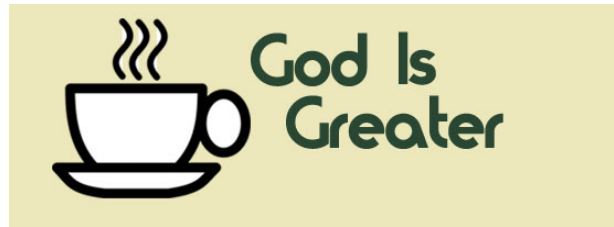
Day 2

Sermon Sentence: God has equipped you to know and follow the life that He has called you to even though you are surrounded by doubts, fears, and lies.

1 John 4:3

Have you ever studied any of the cult groups that call themselves “Christians” but do not follow the Biblical definition of what it means to be a Christian? In every case, these cults have been founded by a small inner group with “secret” knowledge that was given to them supernaturally and of course they hold control over that knowledge and the interpretation of that knowledge. In every case Jesus is relegated to a status that is quite different from the truth given to us in the Bible.

- Can you name some of these groups?
- Have you ever been approached by these groups or have ever been a part of one of them before finding the true Gospel?
- What are some claims or changes that these groups will make about Jesus?
- Included in the groups that claim the “Christian” title are the Jehovah Witnesses and the Mormons (Church of Latter Day Saints). What do they claim about Jesus?
- Although they don’t call themselves Christians, adherents of Islam will claim that their God is the same God of the Bible. What do they claim about Jesus and God in general and what should we say to refute this claim when confronted?



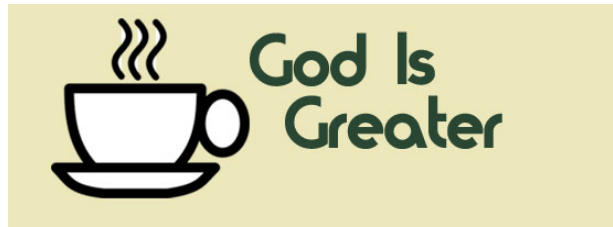
Day 3

Sermon Sentence: God has equipped you to know and follow the life that He has called you to even though you are surrounded by doubts, fears, and lies.

1 John 4:4

What a beautiful truth that John gives in this verse and it should be one of the governing principles in every Christian life, especially during hardships. If we remain aware of this truth that “God is greater”, we can handle anything that comes our way secure in the knowledge that there is no thing that can enter our lives that our God has not already defeated and everything is under His control even death.

- When confronted with hardships in your life, do you remain aware that “God is greater” than anything in your life?
- It is easy to run to God in prayer when we are having hardships but is it easy to believe that He has perfect control over all the things in our lives.
- What character traits are displayed in our lives when we truly believe this fact?
- Have you ever pondered that God has conquered everything including death?



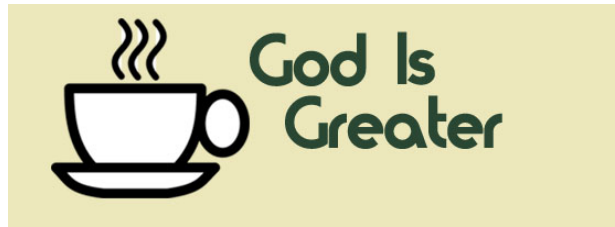
Day 4

Sermon Sentence: God has equipped you to know and follow the life that He has called you to even though you are surrounded by doubts, fears, and lies.

1 John 4:5

Now you find yourself in a crowded sports bar with a group of friends that are busily discussing things in their lives over some beers. The conversation takes many turns, from coarse jokes, to insulting jabs, to sports, and their dating lives. As a Christian we often feel a separated from these conversations (and we should) because we know that we are not supposed to be acting in a way grievous to the Holy Spirit and will often feel a tug of conviction on our hearts. This of course is the Holy Spirit working in our lives and not that any of the examples above can not be conducted in a Christian way but we know this is generally not the case in a mixed crowd of believers and nonbelievers. Some things belong to the world and we were purchased out of the world at a great price and that should help us to understand the separation that we feel concerning worldly things.

- Do you feel separated from the world and worldly things?
- Do you understand why being a friend of the world makes you an enemy of God?
- Can you relate to times before being saved when you were immersed in worldly behavior? Did you ever feel like you shouldn't be doing it?
- Now relate to the same situation after being saved, do you feel the same way now?



Day 5

Sermon Sentence: God has equipped you to know and follow the life that He has called you to even though you are surrounded by doubts, fears, and lies.

1 John 4:6

Back to our sports bar illustration from day 4, imagine during the heated banter back and forth between a couple of guys. They are trading insults and saying words that would make a sailor blush and right in the middle of it you burst in with “What do you guys think about Jesus?” You can almost hear the conversation screeching to a halt followed by awkward silence! This is of course an exaggeration and most Christians don’t just burst out awkwardly at inopportune times but this serves to show the drastic contrast between things of God and things of the world.

- Have you ever tried to interject something spiritual into a conversation among unbelievers?
- How was it received?
- If it was a mixed crowd, how did your fellow believers react?
- Were they supportive and outspoken, or quiet?
- What factors drive our behavior when we are in a group like this? What makes us more or less likely to stand for the things of God?
- Why is John telling us this identifies the “spirit of error” for us?