

McCoy Memorial Baptist Church

Date: April 4, 2021

Title: Assurance: Launch Pad for Righteous Living

Title: "The Test of Truth: Dealing with Deceivers"

INTRODUCTION:

1. Think about a time in your life when you were DECEIVED
Marital deception ... Investment deception ... Real Estate deception, etc.
2. Nothing is worse than SPIRITUAL deception (2 Cor. 4:6)
Paul had this in mind when he wrote the Corinthians (2 Cor. 11:2-6, 13-15)

SERIOUSNESS OF THE SUBJECT: John uses two special terms ...

1. The LAST HOUR
It began in John's day and has been growing in intensity ever since
2. Antichrists John emphasizes that there are many
This term is used in the Bible only by John (2:18, 22; 4:3; 2 John 7)
 - A. The SPIRIT of antichrist
'anti' has a dual meaning: "against" Christ or "instead of" Christ. The term denotes anyone who opposes Christ or falsely represents Him
 - B. The FALSE TEACHERS - PROPHETS who embody this spirit
There are "many" who embody this spirit (2:18; 4:1; 2 John 7)
 - C. A PERSON who will head up the final world rebellion
A 'satanic superman' whom the Bible calls 'Antichrist' (capital A). He's called "the man of lawlessness" (2 Th. 2:3) and "the beast" (Rev. 13:1-8)

ANTICHRISTS and CHRISTIANS

John distinguishes between false teachers and true believers
CONTRASTS

1. Characteristics of false teachers (the "many antichrists") --
 - A. They DEPART from the fellowship (2:19) —
 - B. They DENY the faith (2:22-23) —
 - 1) Their teaching is DEFECTIVE
 - 2) Their teaching is DIABOLICAL
 - 3) Their teaching has a dreadful EFFECT (23)

CONFUSE

Titus 1:9, 11

- C. They DECEIVE the unsuspecting (2:26; 3:7)
2. Characteristics of true believers
 - A. You have the Holy Spirit Anointing (vv. 20, 27).
 - B. You have the capacity to know the truth (vv. 20b-21, 27)
 - C. You have been given DISCERNMENT (v. 21)

SAFEGUARDS AGAINST HERESY

John identifies two safeguards which will protect his readers from being led astray (deceived). If we're to be guarded, two things must "remain" in us.

1. The Objective Safeguard
The APOSTOLIC Word (v. 24) (APOSTOLIC TEACHING)
2. The Subjective Safeguard
The ANOINTING Spirit (THE HEAVENLY TEACHER)
3. The Ecclesiastical Safeguard:
The LOCAL Church (1 Tim. 3:14-4:16; 2 Tim. 3:14-4:5)
"An elder must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it." (Titus 1:9)

DEALING WITH DECEIVERS

How to walk in the truth; how to walk in triumph!

1. Renew your COMMITMENT to the Word of God
 - A. Fill your tank DAILY
 - B. Take OPPORTUNITIES for serious, systematic study
 - A suggestion for study ...
 - A one year, concentrated Bible course at Bible college or institute
 - Some key areas for study ...
 - Understanding the Bible; Surveys of both Old and New Testaments
 - How to Study the Bible
 - Systematic Theology (ten major doctrines)
2. STAND FIRM in your convictions (1 Pet. 3:15)
3. Stay FOCUSED (like a "laser beam") on Christ