

McCoy Memorial Baptist Church

Date: May 9, 2021

Title: Assurance: Launch Pad for Righteous Living

Title: "Discerning Truth From Error"

#### INTRODUCTION:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ ("I found it"). The life slogan for the "forty-niners".
2. But watch out for "\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_" (iron pyrite)
3. They developed \_\_\_\_\_ to discern what was genuine and not.
4. Christians need to be wary of \_\_\_\_\_ "fools gold"

#### THE COMMAND TO TEST THE SPIRITS (4:1)

1. The Command is \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 1a)
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ is Given (vs. 1b)  
Compare "many antichrist" (2:18) and "many deceivers" (2 John 7)  
Satan's basic strategy: a 3-pronged assault on God's Word (Gen. 3)
  - A. \_\_\_\_\_: "Did God really say?" (vs. 1)
  - B. \_\_\_\_\_: "You will not die" (vs. 4)
  - C. \_\_\_\_\_: "God knows . . ." (vs. 5)

#### THE \_\_\_\_\_ FOR TESTING THE SPIRITS (4:2, 3)

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the Confession  
"Jesus is the Christ (the Son of God) come in the flesh."
  - A. In John's day . . .
  - B. In our day . . .
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the Confession  
An "open and bold" profession of faith in him as the incarnate Lord
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the Confession  
The Rock-foundation upon which the church is built (Matt. 16:13-18)

## THE \_\_\_\_\_ IN TESTING THE SPIRITS (4:4-6)

The pronouns which begin verses 4-6 (You ... They ... We) are emphatic in the original (the Greek text) and mark off three groups:

1. "You" (vs. 4) ... the readers/hearers
  - A. The \_\_\_\_\_ of victory: "you have overcome them"
  - B. The \_\_\_\_\_ of victory:
    - 1) The \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ (4b; 2:20-27 - "the anointing")
    - 2) The \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ (6)
2. "They" (vs. 5) and "We" (vs. 6)
  - A. The \_\_\_\_\_ mind (vs. 5)  
"they are from the world" and "the world listens to them"
  - B. The \_\_\_\_\_ minds (vs. 6)  
"we are from God" and "whoever knows God listens to us"

### PERSONAL CHALLENGE:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ on the Lord Jesus as Savior (2 Cor. 2:14-16)
2. Be \_\_\_\_\_. We're living in treacherous times. Discernment plays a vital role in surviving such times (1 John 4:1).
3. Know the \_\_\_\_\_ (the whole counsel of God).
4. Know "\_\_\_\_\_ " (8x in the Pastorals)
5. Connect with a \_\_\_\_\_ that has a high view of Scripture
6. It's the job of the church's \_\_\_\_\_ to guide & guard the ministry (Acts 20:28-30; Tit. 1:9-10)
7. Finally, a strong & healthy church \_\_\_\_\_ is no guarantee of a strong & healthy church \_\_\_\_\_.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ from anyone (group) that casts doubt, denies, distorts, or diminishes the truth of God's Word.