

Week two: Test the Spirits

1 John 4:1-6

We are looking the subject of Apostates in the pulpits in 2 phases.

- 1) The forerunners of the Antichrist – the antichrists”
- 2) The revelation of the Antichrists – The “beast”

Don't forget: We are approaching the midnight hour. (2:18)

Eureka! **“I have found it!”**

Because there are so many false prophets gone out into the world we must learn to put the prophet to the test.

1. The work of the Holy Spirit - 1 John 3:24
 - a. We have already seen this but it was called the **anointing**. *Lk 11:10-13*
 - b. We saw this as the **anointing**. Look back at
 - i. 2:20;2:24;2:27;Jn 14:26;Jn 15:26-27;Jn 16:13
 - c. Here in 3:24 it is called the **Spirit**. Note that:
 1. We abide in the Son by **obeying** his commandments.
 2. The Spirit then abides in us. We have just one duty regarding fruitfulness, **“abide”**
2. The workers of the “spirits”. 1 Jn 4:1-6
 - a. We are required to test the spirits (verse 1)
 - i. **Stop believing** every spirit. (verse 1a) 1 Th 5:21 Test all things; hold fast what is good. 22 Abstain from every form of evil.t the spirits.
 - b. We are given reason to test the Spirits. (verse 1)
 - i. Not every spirit is **of God**. (1a)
 - ii. Not every spiritual **messenger** is of God. (1b)
 1. Let's look at a passage clearly states that Satan is sending his messengers. Matt 13:24-30; 36-43
 2. Where ever God is sewing the good seed; Satan is sowing his **counterfeit**.
 - c. We are given the right tests for the spirits (4:2-6)
 - i. The test of right **theology** (verse 2-3) – Does the person confess Jesus Christ? *Mt 22:41; Mt 27:22*

1. Is he fully **man**
2. Is he fully **God**
- ii. The test of righteous **behavior** (verse 4-5) – is there evidence of righteous living evident?
 1. When Jesus came to earth he partook of our **physical nature**
 2. When we come to Jesus we partake of his **divine nature**. 2 Peter 2:4
 3. 1st John 2:15-17; 1st John 3:4ff.
- iii. The test of right judgment (verse 6)
 1. They will only listen to the **Truth**
 - a. Jn 8:47; Jn 10:4; Jn 10:26
 2. They will not continually follow **an error**. 1 Cor 2:14-17

Scripture sheet

False teachers

- Deut. 13:1–3 - Dt 13:1 "If there arises among you a prophet or a dreamer of dreams, and he gives you a sign or a wonder, 2 and the sign or the wonder comes to pass, of which he spoke to you, saying, 'Let us go after other gods'—which you have not known—'and let us serve them,' 3 you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams, for the LORD your God is testing you to know whether you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.
- Isa. 8:19–20- Is 8:19 And when they say to you, "Seek those who are mediums and wizards, who whisper and mutter," should not a people seek their God? Should they seek the dead on behalf of the living? 20 To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.
- Matt. 7:15 - Mt 7:15 "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.
- Matt 24:4–5 - Mt 24:4 And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you. 5 For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many.
- Matt 24:11 Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.,
Matt 24:24 - For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.
- Acts 20:29 For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock.
- Rom. 16:17–18 Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them. 18 For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple.
- 2 Cor. 11:4 For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted—you may well put up with it!
- 2 Cor 11:13–15 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. 14 And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. 15

Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.

- Jude 4 For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.
- False Teaching
- Ac 20:30 Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.
- 1 Tim. 1:4–7 nor give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which cause disputes rather than godly edification which is in faith. 5 Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith, 6 from which some, having strayed, have turned aside to idle talk, 7 desiring to be teachers of the law, understanding neither what they say nor the things which they affirm.
- 1 Tim 6:20–21 O Timothy! Guard what was committed to your trust, avoiding the profane and idle babblings and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge— 21 by professing it some have strayed concerning the faith. Grace be with you. Amen.
- 2 Tim. 2:17–18 - And their message will spread like cancer. Hymenaeus and Philetus are of this sort, 18 who have strayed concerning the truth, saying that the resurrection is already past; and they overthrow the faith of some.
- 2 Peter 2:1 But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction.
- Isa. 30:10 Who say to the seers, "Do not see," And to the prophets, "Do not prophesy to us right things; Speak to us smooth things, prophesy deceits.