

DISCERNING EVIL & DECEPTION

1 JN 2:18-27

Part 2

I. (Review) CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DECEIVERS

- A. 19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us.
- B. They went out from us → “us” is the church, → they will eventually leave
 1. **Deceivers are in the church!** They looked like faithful men/women of God at one point!
 2. But, “they were not of us” → these were NOT true believers, false converts
 3. for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us.
 - a. John emphasizes here that true believers remained through all the turmoil caused
- C. **Perseverance is the ultimate test of True Saint**
 1. for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us.
 2. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us.
 3. Their leaving demonstrated exactly who they were— imposters

II. BELIEVERS HAVE BEEN GIVEN THE TRUTH!

- A. 20 ¶ But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and you all have knowledge.
- B. you → are the true believers who walk steadfast in the faith of the gospel
 1. No man can sell himself the faith to believe in Jesus Christ
 2. John explains that true believers are anointed
- C. Heidelberg Confession – Q32. “Why are you called Christian?”
 1. “Because by faith I am a member of Christ and so share His anointing. I am anointed to confess His name, to present myself to Him as a living sacrifice of thanks, to strive with a free conscience against sin and the devil in this life, and afterwards to reign with Christ over all creation for all eternity.”
- D. Anyone can know information and facts about God and salvation but only when one is anointed do they actually put faith in that information.
 1. This is not some ceremony of oil or baptism by holy water
 2. 2Co 1:21 And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, 22 and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.
 3. God anoints through Christ and by the Holy Spirit
 4. Jesus is the Holy One → Lu 4:34. . . Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!"
 5. **Anointing is the coming of the Holy Spirit into the heart of a believer to reveal truth to their hearts.**

E. TRUE BELIEVERS are guided the Holy Spirit- they all have knowledge.

1. Lit. "You have an anointing from the Holy One and you know all."
 - a. Does not mean that believers know all there is to know about go
 - b. Rather "all" pertains to the truth of the gospel
 - (1) God is holy, man is completely sinful
 - (2) Jesus Christ is the only hope for salvation.
 - (3) Christ is both God and man
 - (4) lived a perfect life, therefore was the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all that would believe
 - (5) that in a way we do not understand, our sin is put on Him and His death becomes payment for our sins
 - (6) and His righteousness is put on our account
 - (7) therefore we as believers stand positionally perfect before God.
2. They may have heard it before, but Spirit actually makes it "the truth" in the person's heart→ this truth becomes Saving Faith

F. v21 "I do not write because you do not know truth, but because you know truth!"

1. John 14:26 "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.
2. Joh 16:13 "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.

III. TRUE BELIEVERS KNOW AND HOLD ONTO THE TRUTH!

- A. 21 I write to you, not because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and because no lie is of the truth.
- B. True believers, because of the Spirit living in them, know when they hear a lie
- C. These that left were NOT children of God→ they have NOT been born from above!
 1. 19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us.
- D. As John already has said, Believers know the truth and they know what lies sound like
- E. John reminding them of who they are and what they already know– don't be lured into confusion by false teachers
- F. "no lie is of the truth" – stick to what you have been taught by the Holy Spirit
- G. Then and now, believers must stand on truth that God has reveals to them
 1. From the beginning in Eden the attack of Satan was against God's truth
- H. You know who Jesus Christ is and what Work He has done→ you must stand on truth
- I. True believers know truth and are able to discern truth from error or lies

IV. WHAT IS THE TRUTH?

- A. **22 Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son.**
- B. How do you know if a person is a false teacher?
1. Straight forward test of truth—> anyone who questions or denies that Jesus is actually the Messiah, the Christ is a liar!
 2. Not talking about one that occasionally misrepresents the truth
 3. **To deny and truth about Christ is to Deny of the entire gospel!**
 4. Christian faith is based on the fact that Jesus was both man and God!
 - a. And that Christ is the only way to Eternal Life
- C. Gnostic heretics denied everything about Jesus— they are liars.
- D. **This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son**—> these are sons of Satan
1. Not addressing the one antichrist that comes at the end of time, but anyone who claims that Jesus is NOT the Christ.
 2. All that deny the deity of Jesus Christ are in this category!
 3. **Without the Son, there is no Father.**
 4. **John 1:2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.**
- E. **23 No one who denies the Son has the Father.**
1. God the Father sent God the Son to redeem sinners
 2. One who rejects Christ, rejects the Father and rejects the gospel
 3. no such thing as having a relationship with God the Father and deny His son.
 4. **Any religion that rejects the absolute deity of Jesus Christ is a false religion.**
 5. Any teacher that preaches anything that contradicts salvation through Christ alone by faith alone—> is a false teacher, a LIAR!
- F. **23b . . .Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also.**
1. Every believer's confession must be, "Jesus is the Son of God"
 2. Purified by the blood of the Son— **1 John 1:7 . . . the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.**
 3. Eternal Life promised by the Son—> **1 John 2:25 And this is the promise that he made to us—eternal life.**
 4. Atoning Sacrifice by the death of the Son -> **1John 4:10 In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.**
 5. Through the Son we have fellowship with the Father -> **1John 1:3 . . . indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.**
 6. **Simple definition of Christianity -> those who profess Jesus Christ**
 7. And they that profess Jesus Christ are in true fellowship with God the Father

V. DISCUSSION

- A. WHAT ARE SOME OF THE DECEPTIONS YOU SEE IN THE WORLD TODAY?
- B. HOW DO YOU PROTECT YOURSELF FROM DECEPTION?
- C. HOW DO YOU COMBAT DECEPTION AROUND YOU?