



## SERMON SERIES STUDY GUIDE

### Discerning the Daze of Deception, Pt. 2

Pastor John Riggs

#### Key Scriptures:

- 2 Corinthians 11:3–4  
(Main teaching passage.)
- John 14:15–17  
(Reference to the Holy Spirit as the “Helper” and “Spirit of Truth.”)
- John 16:13–15  
(The Spirit guides believers into all truth and glorifies Christ.)
- John 14:26  
(The Holy Spirit will teach and bring remembrance of Christ’s words.)
- Acts 2  
(Referenced as the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.)
- Ephesians 6:10–12  
(About putting on the armor of God and standing against the devil’s schemes.)
- John 8:44  
(Jesus calls Satan the “father of lies.”)
- 1 Timothy 4:1–3  
(The Spirit warns that in latter times people will follow deceiving spirits and teachings of demons.)
- Genesis 3  
(Mentioned when explaining Satan’s early deception of Eve and the protoevangelium.)
- 1 John  
(General reference — the Holy Spirit teaches believers through the Word.)
- Revelation  
(General reference — identifies that one-third of the angels followed Satan.)

## Key Points:

- All spiritual and religious teaching originates from one of two sources: the Holy Spirit or demonic spirits.
- The Holy Spirit is identified as the 'Spirit of Truth,' a divine helper sent by God to guide believers.
- Demonic spirits are the source of 'the spirit of error' and all false religious teachings.
- Distinguishing between the true Christ and false Christs is crucial for discerning truth.
- Religious deception originates from Satan and demonic forces, leading to false teachings that deviate from the spirit of truth.
- There is a significant and unprecedented rise in Protestant and evangelical denominations straying from biblical doctrine into error and worldly teachings.
- Christians must engage in spiritual warfare by putting on the "whole armor of God" to withstand the cunning schemes of the devil.
- Satan, a fallen angel, uses deception and lies, having successfully deceived a third of the angels in his rebellion.
- The enemy's forces are organized into ranks, including rulers, authorities, cosmic powers, and spiritual forces of evil.
- Satan is the "father of all lies" and operates out of his own character, which is devoid of truth.
- In the latter times, some will depart from the faith by following deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, which masquerade as truth.
- Christians must "grow up fast" and deeply study the Word of God to discern truth from Satan's sly deceptions.
- Believers are commanded to "earnestly contend for the faith" that was once delivered, actively defending it against those who pervert God's grace and deny Christ.
- False apostles and teachers disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, mirroring Satan's disguise as an angel of light.
- Christians must "test the spirits" to discern if they are from God, as many false prophets and religious systems are active in the world.
- Scripture is the ultimate standard and litmus test for all doctrine and teachings; believers must prove all things by the Word of God.
- The core test of a spirit is its confession that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh, signifying God's incarnation.





**Question and Answer:** (answers provided on pages 25-28 of the study)

Q: What does the Bible say about the Holy Spirit?

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Q: Where does false religious teaching come from?

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Q: How can I identify a false teacher or teaching?

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Q: Are groups like Mormons or Muslims considered Christian?

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Q: What is the source of religious deception according to the speaker?

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Q: Which religious groups are mentioned as examples of false teachings?

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Q: What is the speaker's concern about contemporary Christianity?

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Q: What is spiritual warfare and how should Christians prepare for it?

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Q: How does Satan operate and deceive people?

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Q: What does the Bible say about deception in the end times?

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Q: Why is it crucial for Christians to study the Bible diligently?

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Q: What does it mean to "contend for the faith"?

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Q: How can Christians identify false apostles and teachers?

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Q: What is the primary test for discerning true spirits from false ones?

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Q: What is the role of scripture in discerning truth?

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Q: Is Jesus Christ God?

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Q: Why is the confession that Jesus Christ is God so important?

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Q: What is the significance of Jesus coming in the flesh?

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Q: How can one distinguish between the true Christ and a false Christ?

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Q: Who is ultimately responsible for a child's spiritual education?

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Q: What does it mean to be saved by grace through faith, and why are works not part of salvation?

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Q: What is the significance of the Council of Trent's decrees regarding justification?

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Q: Why is it problematic for Christian universities to have high rates of pregnancy or worldly practices?

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Q: What is the danger of equating love for figures like Pope Francis with love for Jesus?

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Q: What does it mean to 'test the spirits' and why is it important?

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Q: What is the core message of the gospel that should not be added to?

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**NOTES:**

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## Sermon Transcript:

All right. Well, let's read together 2 Corinthians 11:3-4. We've been on this passage for about three weeks now. And I'm going to pick up in verse three. Now, there's going to be a lot of scriptures to look at this morning, like we do every week. We won't get through all of them, but, um, we want for you all to have many, many scriptures to see how the word of God, um, is tied together and how it all works together. And, uh, so we want to study the word of God together this morning. Paul writing to these Corinthian believers, he says, "But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ. For if someone comes and proclaims another Jesus than the one we proclaimed, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or if you accept a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it readily enough."

Now, we know Paul's great concern and love for these people. He knows and has heard that there are those that have been coming in and been teaching different teachings than the apostolic foundational teachings of the, the church. And so he's addressing these false teachers. And he has a great love and concern for these believers and understands that many of them are being led astray. And he understands that one of the reasons that they're in sincere danger is because they're putting up with these false teachings. And so that's why Paul is addressing this personally to them. The cunning work of the enemy through false teachers had skewed the minds of many at Corinth. As I mentioned and we looked at last week or two weeks ago, they were putting up with false teachers that were teaching a different Christ or a different, uh, savior, the Lord Jesus Christ than the one that scripture teaches. And we really looked at that in depth last week and partially the week before as we talked about, um, the significance of who Jesus Christ is and the fact that when you hear the buzzword Jesus today, you can't assume that it is the Jesus of scripture that is being referred to. And so we know that that's very, very important. And what you're going to see today, that the litmus test that is given for us as believers on how we test the spirits, one of the elements of the test that we use is Christology. In other words, we answer the question biblically, who is Jesus? And so you can't get away from this. Who is Jesus? Very, very important. They were putting up with someone teaching a different Christ than the one the Apostle Paul had taught them. Number two, they were putting up with these false teachers that were teaching from a different spirit. And that's what we're going to be really focusing on today in our study together is what about the spirit? And this different spirit that is so prevalent in our time today. They were teaching by a different spirit. Not the Holy Spirit, but a different spirit. And these false teachers were presenting a different Christ by a different spirit. And they were promoting, thirdly, a different gospel. Because if you don't preach the true Christ by the true spirit, you can't be preaching the true gospel. It's impossible.

And so I want to really begin to help us understand some things that we are facing today in our day, like Paul and those that were part of the first century church were facing. We have to understand, guys, that all religious and spiritual teaching comes from one of two sources. All spiritual and religious teaching, you need to hear me. Throughout the history of the world, comes from one of two sources. Not many. Now, there are many platforms out there, many voices out there, many teachers out there, many religions out there. But the spirit now behind all of this comes down to two different spirits. And I want you to understand this. This is why it's so important for us as Christians to understand what we're talking about. And what Paul was really addressing with these first century Christians in Corinth about putting up with a different spirit that was actually teaching this through these false teachers. So, number one, it

either comes from a divine, the divine spirit, which would be the Holy Spirit. Or number two, the only other option that any of all these teachings throughout history of religion and also, um, all the religious teachings and all the different religions, everything spiritual, all that is either, number one, comes from the Holy Spirit. Number two, it comes from demonic spirits. There's only two. There's not a plethora of them. There's only two. They come from either the divine source, which is Jesus Christ, His Spirit, the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Triune Godhead. It's why the Trinity and the teaching of the Trinity is so very, very important. That is one God in three persons, not three separate gods, but one God in three persons. And we have God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit. All of them are from eternity past. They've never had a beginning. They've always been. Jesus Christ, the eternal Son, was with the Father before the foundation of the world, as was the Spirit, as is God the Father. They're one God in three persons, always have been, always will be. They are eternal. And so we need to understand how important this is because of the spirit that is behind all religious teaching and spiritual teaching.

Now, in John chapter 14, we're going to look at the Spirit of Truth, as scripture calls the Holy Spirit. We're going to look at the first one, which is the divine source of all spiritual truth, the Holy Spirit. God the Spirit is what we're looking at now. So, John chapter 14. Now, you can write a lot of these passages down, or if you're, we're trying to go slow through some of them, we have a whole lot to cover today. So, um, I will be moving along, but go to the Gospel of John. John chapter 14. This is going to be prior to Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. He's giving some instructions to his, his disciples, his apostles, letting them know about what they can expect, what is coming, what he's going to do. And so he's leaving them some very, very important information. In John 14-17, he says, "If you love me," here's a key point, "you will keep my commandments." In other words, you won't do it perfectly, but you will, out of your love for Christ, you will desire to keep the word of God. And I will ask the Father. Notice Christ is distinct, but yet he is God. He talks about the Father, and he will give you another Helper. Now, that word Helper here, what we're looking at is the Triune God right here in this passage. Christ the Son is speaking to his apostles about the Father. And the Father will send another Helper. And the Helper is capitalized because who is the Helper? The Helper is God the Spirit, which is the Holy Spirit here that we're learning about. And that word Helper is a very important word because it's the word *\*paraclete\** in the Greek. It's where we get our English word *parah*. So, someone who is a quadriplegic has a *parah* to help them do what they can't do for themselves. And so we are learning here that Christ says that he'll ask the Father, and the Father is going to send a Helper or a *\*paraclete\** for these apostles. And he says, notice, "to be with you forever." This is important because Jesus says that he is leaving and going to the Father. But he says, "I'm not going to leave you as orphans. I'm going to send you a Helper, a *\*paraclete\**, the Spirit of God. And the Spirit of God will be with you forever. He won't leave. He will be with you forever." And notice now we get more information about who is the *\*paraclete\**, who is the Helper. "Even the Spirit," capital S, that's the Holy Spirit, "the Spirit of Truth." So we find here that the Holy Spirit is the Helper that God has sent or will send these apostles, that we also have received as Christians, and that the Holy Spirit is called the Spirit of Truth. So we have falsehood and we have truth. We have deception and we have truth. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth. This is why we need to test, as we're going to learn, the spirits in our time. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. And then Jesus says, "But you know him, for he dwells," key word, "at this time with you. He dwells with you." And then notice the promise, "and will be in you." Now, we know if you study scripture, that in Acts chapter 2, Pentecost happens, and the Holy Spirit comes, and he indwells the believers there in the, that upper room. And all of us who have

come to faith in Christ since the time of the giving of the Holy Spirit, when we by faith trust in Jesus through the gospel message and are born again, regenerated, we are regenerated by the Holy Spirit who indwells every single believer. Did you know that within you as a Christian? Now, if you're not a true Christian, a follower redeemed of the Lord, then you don't have the Holy Spirit dwelling within you. But if you are a true Christian, a follower of Christ, one who has been born again by faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ, and you have been regenerated by the power of God, been reborn, you actually now, within you, have the Spirit of Truth, who is your \*paraclete\* to help you. He's your \*paraclete\*. And he's going to help you do what you and I cannot do in our own self. We cannot do this. That's why keeping our relationship with God through obedience and X, Y, and Z is important. Why? Because we have one who has been given to us, the Spirit of Truth, to help us. This is what we're going to learn about. Why we need to take sin very seriously in our lives because the Holy Spirit has been given to us to be the Spirit of Truth.

Now, in John 16:13, just flip over a page in your Bible, maybe two, depending on where you line up in scripture here. But in John chapter 16, verse 13-15, we're in this same section of scripture. And he's going to tell his apostles a few more things that are very important. They're important for us today. "When the Holy Spirit," that is the Spirit of Truth, comes, notice what the Holy Spirit will do. "He will guide you." He will guide you. You and I need someone to guide us in this world. Listen, I love to hunt the backcountry. Most of you know that. But when you're hunting the backcountry and you're hunting at night, not hunting, but getting back to camp or going out from camp in the dark, and you're coming back in the dark, you cannot see anything up there. It's so dark. You need something to help you navigate the darkness of the backcountry. And so I have something, a GPS that I use to show my tracks and give me direction that I can follow in order that I can go from where I am and make it back to my camp in a very strange, dark place. We are living in a dark world. We need help navigating this day and this time in this life. The Holy Spirit has been given as the Spirit of Truth to guide you. You have someone to guide you. That doesn't mean you're leading the way. That means you're allowing the Spirit of God to guide you. We need someone to guide us. That is the Holy Spirit. And "he will guide you into all truth." Into all truth. This is very important. He is the Spirit of Truth. And he will guide you in truth. "For he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me." The Holy Spirit glorifies Jesus Christ. He brings glory to Christ. "He will take what is mine and he will declare it to you." Who Jesus tells his apostles, "All that the Father has is mine." Jesus says, "Therefore, I said he will take what is mine and he will declare it to you." Christian, you need to walk in the Spirit of God in this time. You need the Holy Spirit, who is the Spirit of Truth, to guide you in all truth so that you are not deceived. And one of the ways the Spirit of God does that is through His Word. And the Holy Spirit will teach us through the Word of God. You can read about that in First John.

Now, in John 14:26, go back to the left in your Bible there, just a few pages, something else I want you to see. "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 have said to you." This was important for the apostles because the Holy Spirit would bring to remembrance what Christ had said through the three-year ministry that he had with them after Christ was the death, burial, and resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit would bring this to their remembrance.

Now, the second is the spirit of error, the spirit of lawlessness. This is the demonic spirits that have gone out into the world. And you say, "Where does this come from?" This is Satan and the demonic kingdom of darkness. That's what we're looking at. He is the source, and they are the source of all spiritual and religious false teaching. It's where it all comes from. For example, where do you think all the stories of the pantheon of gods and goddesses came from? Where do you think stories of all of the, the Egyptian gods came from, and the Greek gods, and the Roman gods, and the pantheon of gods? Where do you think all of these all came from? They didn't come from the Spirit of Truth. They came from these fallen demonic spirits who are teaching these things. And so the world is full of all of these false religious teachings and religions. And where does it all come from? It comes from Satan and the fallen angels who went with him in his rebellion, that are in opposition to God. And listen, they know some things. They know a little bit. Satan does, even from Genesis chapter three, where we he learned that the seed of the woman would crush the head of the serpent. He knows a little bit. And if you study the pantheon of gods, you're going to understand that there is a male god. There will be a female goddess, and they will have a son, or they will have daughters as well. All of these teachings are all demonic, and they are all part of the spirit that is false. All of that is what that is. It's why we need to understand this.

So this is where we have teachings from false prophets, guys like Muhammad. Muhammad is a false prophet. Now, listen, I don't doubt that he saw a vision. Don't doubt it one bit. But the vision that he received and what he received was not from the Holy Spirit, who is the Spirit of Truth, but from these demonic spirits that led him astray. And that's where this whole teaching of Islam comes from. Oh, they talk about Jesus. Do you know they believe that Jesus is coming back again? But the Jesus that they talk about is nothing but a secondary prophet to that of Muhammad. See, it's all about the Christology of Jesus Christ. It's a false teaching with false writings and false books with a false prophet by false spirits. This is where it comes from. Also, um, men like Joseph Smith, for example. Joseph Smith, who, um, is the father of what you'd call the cult of Mormonism. And they use buzzwords like the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. And so many people go, "Oh, isn't that nice? They're one of us." No, they are not one of us. Not any way, shape, form, or fashion are they a Christian. Because they believe in a different Christ. They believe in a different gospel, and it has been given by a different spirit. We went over that a few weeks ago. I could spend a lot of time going over their teachings. But they also have teachings about Jesus Christ. But Jesus Christ was not from the beginning. He was actually one of the spirit children, as I mentioned two weeks ago, of God the Father and God the Mother, a spirit child, as was Satan, as is everyone who was ever born. We were spirit children of this God who is a man who has flesh and bone, speaking of God the Father. Jesus was begotten. He wasn't from eternity past. So many very, very, very, very intricate things that are said, but you need to know the truth. It goes back to who is Jesus? And they'll all try to confuse you.

Here's another one that we, the Dalai Lama of Tibetan Buddhism. Where is all that come from? Not from the Spirit of Truth, folks. The spirit of demonic hordes is where this comes from. How about Mary Baker Eddy of Christian Science? Notice the word Christian there. You have all kinds of people who get sucked into Christian Science because they use a buzzword called Christian. Christian Science is an absolute pagan cult. And we have a false prophet who starts that, Mary Baker Eddy. David Miscavige of Scientology. You ever study any of the Scientology stuff out there? Some of the greatest, most respected, um, Hollywood actors and actresses are part of this cult called Scientology. Where does all this come from? It comes from Satan and these demonic hordes who teach these false teachings. We have Charles Taze Russell, who's

the founder of the Jehovah's Witnesses. They even use the name Jehovah. They don't even have the same Bible that we have, nor do they serve the same Christ that we have, because he is not God incarnate, not God in the flesh. He is not God from eternity past. We also have the Pontifex Maximus, the Pontifex Maximus and the papal, um, leadership of a false religious system, the Roman religious system. And I've taught a lot about this. And we also have their sister, which is the Greek Orthodox Church. And we have all of this stuff that's been added to Jesus Christ and his gospel. Where does it all come from? It doesn't come from the Spirit of Truth. It comes from these demonic teachings. It's where they come from. The teachings of Hinduism. And the list goes on and on and on. These religious faiths and many, many more come from the spirit of error.

Here's a very, very, very serious thing we face in our time. The number of Protestant denominations who are slipping off into error, guys, right now in our time is unprecedented. It is unbelievable to see what these evangelical denominations and some even Protestant denominations are doing in our time, where they're going, and what they're leaving behind. They are leaving the ridgeline of scripture and they're giving way to the world and the teachings and doctrines of demons, and they're being led astray. And I could go one denomination after another that are experiencing these very things. It's very serious. We need to understand this.

So, in Ephesians chapter 6, 10-12, if you would turn there with me, go to the right in your Bible, and you'll shortly come to the book of Ephesians. Ephesians chapter 6, verses 10-12. I'll give you just a moment to be there. I'm glad you're flipping the pages in your Bible. That's a great thing for me to hear. I can tell you that. I had a lady bring me some packets this week. Um, she takes and types up all of the scriptures that we actually teach here every Sunday. She goes online and listens to the message, and then she types up this entire, uh, study that she puts together, and she has them for her non-believing family members that she gives them to them. So she types up, and I mean, she's got pages and pages just from every single week that she's taken and going through the scriptures. And, uh, she said, "I want to bring these to you and have you go over and to make sure that what I'm doing is good." It's not just good, it's great. And it's, it's, it's so encouraging to hear that.

So Paul says, "Finally," he's wrapping up his letter. He says, "Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand." And here we're going to see this word again, "against the schemes." That's the cunning. That's the trickery of who? The devil, of Satan, this fallen angel who once was an archangel of God. And his pride, he rebelled against God and said he would set himself up as God to be worshiped as God. This is Satan. And then he has, of course, we read in scripture in Revelation, we learn there's a third of angels that followed him in his rebellion. I don't know what all Satan promised these angels, but whatever it was, it was a deceptive scheme. Now, listen, if he could lead a third of the angels in his scheming and his cunning and his craftiness through lying, you better take this serious. Better take it serious. Sometimes we make so little of this thing now. Greater is he who is in you than he who is in the world. No question. But you, in your own self, don't stand a chance. Need to understand this.

So now he's going to tell us there's scheming that is going on by Satan. Has been since the inception. The first century church was facing it. We face it today on a scale that is not even calculable. It's, it's incredible. Now, notice what, what Paul continues. "For we do not wrestle or war, if you will, against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present age." Don't you forget that. "Against the spiritual forces of

evil in heavenly places." Satan only has the authority that God has allowed him to have. That is a fact. But nonetheless, he has that authority. So here we're going to learn, we have the schemes and trickery and cunning of the enemy. We have rulers, we have authorities, and we have cosmic powers over this present darkness. And then lastly, spiritual forces of evil in heavenly places. So Paul here is going to share with us, as you look these Greek words up, you're going to be able to see that Paul has given us rank and file here of this order within the kingdom of darkness. Where do you suppose that came from? Well, we know that God has his own order in the way that there is in the angelic community as well. There is a rank and file within the angelic community. God is a God of order, not chaos, by the way. And so Satan has this in place.

Now, John 8:44, listen to this. We've, we've read this before, but I want you to see it. Jesus speaking to the religious people of his day here. "You are of your father, the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning." This is Christ, the eternal Son of God, who created all things. He created everything. He says, "Satan was a murderer from the beginning. He does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him." No truth. When he lies, he simply speaks out of his own character. "For he is a liar and the father of all lies." Where does all religious deception and spiritual teaching come from that is demonic? Right here is the foundation of it all.

1 Timothy 4:1-3. We learn this. Flip in your Bibles. I know we're going quickly. There's a lot of scriptures. I think I had almost 20 in this section to go through. We won't get through them all. 1 Timothy chapter 4, 1-3. If you flip right in your Bible, you're gonna, you're gonna come there. Keep flipping. Keep flipping. It's pretty small and you can miss it. But 1 Timothy chapter 4. 1 Timothy chapter 4, 1-3. All right.

"Now the Spirit," capital S, that is the Spirit of Truth. That is the third person of the Triune Godhead. God the Spirit. God the Holy Spirit. Listen. "The Spirit expressly says," Paul says to Timothy, "that in the latter times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to what?" Not the Spirit of Truth, but "to deceitful spirits." Notice the word deceit there. Remember how scripture tells us that Satan masquerades as an angel of light? He wants to put out the appearance of light, but he's actually darkness itself. He is a liar, wicked, a murderer. That's who he is. But he wants to give off the persona that he's actually the angel of light, but he's not the angel of light. And so that's the deception here. He wants things to be so close to the, to the right side of things that he throws in some deception there. And for the unlearned, the new believers, and for those that that are not walking in the Spirit of Truth, they could be misled and they could be led astray from these deceitful teachings. Listen, if you want to print money that you want to get by with and spend, you don't spend something that looks like it came from Saudi Arabia. You want it to look as close to the American currency that you can. And this is the thing. This is what Satan does in many ways. He infiltrates, has infiltrated the church, and he brings in these doctrines and all of these things, the teachings of man. You're going to hear this a lot. And he brings all these things in. And they're going to use all the buzzwords. Jesus Christ, he is God. He died. He, they're going to use them all. But then he throws in this stuff over here. And what it does is it, it takes away from the truth and makes it all a lie. Do you see what I'm saying? It's so close. In fact, the words are all used. They might even use at least some of our Bible. They might have a few added books, 10, 15, 12, whatever that's been added to it. The teachings of man, so on and so forth, not inspired teaching. The traditions of man is held up high with the Word of God. We go to these other books, and they all, listen, it's, it's Satan's way of working, masquerading as an angel of light, but in all the

while he's bringing in deceptive, deceiving ways. And Christian, you have to hear me. You have to grow up fast today. If you were to go over to Afghanistan in a war-torn country that, that's all they do is fight and battle and war, if you were to meet an eight-year-old boy there and take an eight-year-old boy from America, they are not the same in any way, shape, form, or fashion. Because this little guy here, he had to grow up so fast because of the world he was living in. Christian, you've got to grow up. You've got to, you've got to grow up. You've got to know the Word. Learn the Word. Read the Word. Study the Word. You've got to know it because Satan is so sly. He's so sly. He has deceived 2.8 billion people alone in the Catholic Church. 2.8 billion people. If that doesn't break your heart, something's wrong with you. And they use many of the same things, the lingo, and the Bible, and no, but they have all the paganism smashed in with it. And they have a different gospel than the gospel of Jesus Christ. And it's by a different spirit. And it's a different Jesus. We have to be serious. And how many Christian leaders out there talk about them being brothers and sisters in Christ? And if we don't tell them the truth, they will die without Jesus. See, here's the problem. Here's the problem. But oh, how deceptive Satan is. He's so deceptive.

So the Spirit expressly says that in latter times, some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons. This is demonic teaching. Oh, it'll sound good. It'll look good. Through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared. Thank God if you have your conscience. Thank God if you can still feel the conviction of the Holy Spirit. If you ever get to a place where you are no longer convicted by the Holy Spirit, you need to worry. You need to worry. Why? Because he's your link to being in, to be guided through all this stuff. You need to hear it. You need to be convicted of sin. If you're not convicted of sin, your heart has become hardened. And if you can't hear, how are you going to know what to do? You don't want to be a deaf Christian. It's dangerous, man. That's what's wrong with the gospel that's preached so much today. It's a punch-your-ticket gospel to heaven. It's all it is. It's not true. Yes, the gospel message is free. Yes, it is by faith alone in Christ alone. All by God's grace alone, not merited by anything we've done. That is true. But you can't just skid your way through this life. No.

And then he gives a few examples of what some of these teachers he was talking about were doing. They were forbidding marriage. Oh, you can't marry. They were also requiring absence from some foods. That was a big deal in Paul's day because the Judaizers were much like this. They were telling the, the Gentiles and those that had come to faith in Christ, listen, hold on, stop this. You can't eat that food. You got to keep that celebration. You got to do this, do that, do this, do that. And all the while, Paul says, that's not true. You got to circumcise. You got to have your flesh circumcised. I mean, not your flesh, but you have to have circumcision be a part of all this. And Paul, oh, he got so irate. He even says, "I wish they'd go on and just mask, emasculate themselves because it's not true." They were adding to the gospel. Adding to the gospel of Jesus Christ. A lot of people take away from the gospel. They take grace and they stomp on it and say, "Well, hey, I'll just sin more because there's more grace." That's not the way it is if you love Jesus. No.

In Jude, flip over to your right in your Bible to Jude. Now, this has only got one chapter, so it's easy to miss. Go to Jude. Show you a little bit more about these wicked demonic spirits. Jude, we're going to look at verses three and four. Jude here is the half-brother of Christ, as was James. Beloved, Jude 3-4, not chapter 3, but just verse three. "Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints." Notice, it's no

different. "For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation. Ungodly people who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord Jesus Christ." Jude tells his audience to contend for the faith that was once delivered to the saints. We need to contend for the faith today. The word contend means earnestly contend for. This is where we get the English word agonize, by the way. It's the Greek word \*epagonizomai\*. It's where we get our word agonize. Paul says, or Jude says, that they need to agonize or contend with the faith, or the faith. Jude chooses a vigorous athletic and military illustration to exhort Christians to active engagement against doctrinal deviation and moral compromise. Here's my thing. In the denominations that are veering off center, where are the men of God in those denominations who are calling those things out? Calling them out for what they are. Oh, you will be chastised. You probably will be kicked out. But we're told here more than once in scripture, we need to contend, like agonizing for this type of thing, the faith that we have been given, the gospel, the truth, Christ, all of this is what we should be doing. We must take an active, not passive, approach to guarding, defending, and preserving the truth of the gospel and the word of Christ. This is what we should do.

Paul in 2 Corinthians 11:12-15. It's just really just a little bit past where our main scripture was this morning and has been for a few weeks. Notice what he says he's doing and will continue to do. He says, "And what am I doing? I will continue to do in order," why? "to undermine the claim of those who would like to claim that their boasted mission that they work on the same terms as we do. For such men are false apostles. They are deceitful workmen. They are disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. So it is no surprise if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, their end will correspond to their deeds." I think it's interesting that the papal leader of the Roman Catholic Church, who is the Vicar of Christ, he is the, calls himself the Vicar of Christ. They say it goes all the

way back to Peter. It's not true in any way, shape, form or fashion. But what they've done is you notice how he always wears what color? White. It's that appearance of purity and righteousness and holiness. They also have a second pope. Did you know that he's called the black pope? He's a he's the head of the military militant arm of the Roman Catholic Church. No, this this whole thing is unbelievable to portray it as being something of God and of light and all of these things. It's it's Satan's best work. It's what he does.

Now, Paul is on a mission to undermine the claims of false apostles and false teachers who are disguising their lies and true motives of deception, claiming to be apostles, but were servants of Satan. Now, go to First John. If you were in 2 Corinthians, you're going to go right. If you were in Jude, you're going to go left. First John, chapter 4.

Now, we're going to get into the main part of our message this morning. And we're going to move fairly quickly just because of time. First John chapter 4, the Apostle John is writing here. And in this section of scripture, John the Apostle is going to give us the litmus test for what we should do as Christians when it comes to testing the spirit. We're going to learn here what this is. Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God. Why? For many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the spirit of God. Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God. And every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of Antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. Little children, you are from God and have overcome them. For he who is in you is greater than he who's in the world.

Number one, we're going to look at this. We're going to begin to break these things down this week. I hope we can make some some some miles here. Number one, John the Apostle tells his his audience, "Do not believe every spirit." Do not. But we are told to test the spirits to see whether they are from God. And the reason for this is because there are many, many, many, many, many false prophets and teachings that have gone out into the world. And I'm telling you today with our phones and the platforms of social media and everything that we have guys it's everywhere. So John exhorts his readers and us today do not believe every spirit for many false prophets teachers and religious systems have gone out into the world and behind every teacher every teaching in every religious system is a spirit. It is either a deceptive evil demonic spirit or divine holy spirit. The word test means to examine. And here's a good one. Prove. That's a great word. Prove, scrutinize, put to the test to see if it's real, true, and authentic. In order for you to prove it, you got to have the standard to prove what's being said.

In Acts chapter 17 verse 11, these believers here were were really um notorized for their work in this. Now these Jews, they called them um the Bereans. Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with all eagerness. And notice what they were doing. This is now examining the Old Testament and they were examining the scriptures daily to see if these things were so. What were these believers doing? They were commended by the apostle for doing what? Even though he was an apostle, they were taking what the apostle was saying, and they were opening up the Old Testament, if you will, the Torah, and they were reading through the Old Testament and examining to see if what Paul was saying was lining up with what the word of God said. See, what they were doing is they were making Paul prove what he was saying to be true. And this is what we need to do. You'll meet people all the time and they'll say, "Well, there's just X, Y, and Z about this in the Bible." You know, the first thing you need to do is just grab your Bible and say, "Well, great, man. I'd like to learn. Would you show me? That's all you got to do. That's it." Well, I've read in there. Nope. Show me. Well, somewhere in there it says X, Y, and Z. Show me. Somewhere in there, the Bible's full of passages that approve transgenderism and homosexuality and and heterosexual sin. And you go down the list. God loves me. Love is love. Loves me. I'm loved in my sin. Hold on. You're missing the whole point about why Jesus Christ came. He died because of sin. Let's get to the real truth here. All you got to do is someone want to tell you that stuff, just say, "Well, great. Wonderful. I am a student of the word of God. Would you please show me where it says that? All we're doing with everything that we hear as Christians in this day, listen to me, you better prove it with the word of God. Prove it.

But here's the thing. A lot of these false religious systems don't want their people to know the Bible. Let the priest tell you what it means. Hold on. There is no priests priesthood, if you will, in the church. Read the New Testament. Show me one place that there is this special group of people that are leaders over the church that are called priests. Not in there. Where'd that come from? Pagan systems, Judaism, all the way back. It came from that. There is no priesthood. Do you know who the priesthood is in the church? We are the priesthood of believers. You don't go to a priest and have him abolish your sin by telling him your sin and he gives you a few Hail Marys to do. He doesn't have the right to forgive your sin. There's only one mediator between God and man and it's not me and it's not a priest and it's not a pope. It is the Lord Jesus Christ. He's the only mediator and it's not a dead saint and it's not Mary. Bless her soul. If she knew what they've done with her, I don't even know if she could handle what they've done. She needed a Lord and a Savior just as much as we all do. And they make her mediatrix in heaven that you can pray to her and Jesus has to obey her because he's her son. I could go

down the list and this is what breaks my heart and why I teach on this so much because we have so many Christian churches out there that are acknowledging all of this as Christian truth and it's not. And people are lied to and deceived. And if we truly love people and we hate deception, we will make it be proven by scripture. So take your Bible with you and make it be proven by scripture. We don't care really anymore. Should break our hearts. So scripture is the number one source.

Now Revelation 2:2, the church there was commended by Christ. Let me show you what they were commended for. This is the church of Ephesus. I know your works, your toil, and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false. And how did they test them? They proved them by the truth. Prove them. Scripture is the source of all truth, guys. It is. It is the foundational truth of the litmus test. It all starts and ends right here. So, here's the thing. That's why I encourage you all the time to get in the word of God and to study it and to read it. You have the Holy Spirit if you're a Christian. And he will teach you in all truth. And that's why we preach and teach so much scripture here is because that's really all that matters. You don't need to hear three points and a punt from me. What you need to hear is the word of God. So scripture is the standard of all doctrine. Every teacher, every preacher, every evangelist, every podcaster, every social media influencer, every religious system, go down the list, must be proved and held up against the standard of the word of God.

John continues in verse two, "By this you know the spirit of God." Here it is. Every spirit that confesses, and this is going to get tricky as we look through this, that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God. And every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. That means God coming in the flesh. God coming in the flesh. There's some tricky things about this as we're going to see. So, christology is really the first part of what we need to look at here. And we've talked about this for a few weeks and it just keeps coming back to who's Jesus. When John says that those that confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh, he's referring to the fact that God the son, the second person of the triune God, one God, three persons, has come in the flesh. It's what Paul is referring to to the Philippian church in Philippians chapter 2. If you want to turn there with me or write it down in verse 5 through 8, what we're going to look at is the great humiliation of Jesus Christ. The great humiliation Paul writes and says, "Have this mind among yourselves which is yours in Christ Jesus who though he was in the form God, he was in the morphe God." That's a word morphe for form. He did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped. But he emptied himself by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men and being found in human form. Noah is found in human form. Born in the likeness of man, he was God as we're going to see. He humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on the cross. This is God displaying for us the greatest humiliation that could ever be expressed in humility.

This is very very very important. This is where we need the ministry of the Holy Spirit's discernment. Why? Because the way to deceive is to make very subtle changes that are not at first glance visible or easily discerned. Don't take this personal. I don't mean this to be personal, but lazy Christians, just talking in generalities here, young Christians, Christians with hardened hearts due to living in known and unconfessed sin are all in great danger here. You are going to hear the name of Jesus everywhere you turn today, but it's not necessarily the Jesus of all creation. in 1 John 5:20. And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding so that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true, in his son, Jesus Christ. Underline this in your Bible. Because if you ever meet with a Muslim and

you want to talk about who Jesus Christ is, because they will. They're going to tell you one of the things they're going to say is, "Here's the problem. You believe Jesus Christ is God and nowhere in the Bible does it say that Jesus is God. That's not true. In fact, the whole scripture itself is the word. The next verse says, "He," speaking of Christ the son, "is the true God and eternal life." John 1:1, this is an easy one to go to. In the beginning was the word capital W and the word was with God and the word was God. Jesus Christ was in the beginning. He was with God and he was God. He's God.

Just this week, I read of a man who confessed to killing and crucifying on the wall of his home an Arizona pastor as part of his plan to kill 14 Christian leaders in 10 states. He called his operation first commandment, operation first commandment. What was his motive? His motive was that he claimed that these leaders were leading people astray, breaking the first commandment, you shall not have any other gods before me. That one, the first commandment, by claiming what? That Jesus Christ is God. This convict who had gotten out and supposedly seven years ago had come to know God. He was going out to kill Christian leaders who he says was leading people astray because he's back in the Judaism part of this thing. And the reason he was killing, he killed this pastor. He not only killed him, but he nailed him to his wall and he hung a sign that had all this stuff on it on the man. You can find it on the news. And he killed him because he claimed that Jesus Christ was God. Who do you think's behind that? You see what I'm saying? Pristologology is a big deal. Who is Jesus?

In John 16:1-2, Jesus said, "I have said all these things that to you to keep you from falling away." He told his apostles, "The reason I'm telling you this because what's coming soon is going to scatter you like a wolf running into a pack of sheep. I'm telling you ahead of time what's going to happen so that when it does, you won't fall away. They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God. It's exactly what this man was doing. He was offering service to God by killing this pastor who said Jesus Christ was God. Yeah.

James 2:19. This is where this is going to get important. You believe that God is one. You do well. Even the demons believe and shudder. The need for discernment here is critical, Christian. Why? Because there are so many who claim that Jesus Christ is God. But if you do a little due diligence and prove their message, their doctrine, and their religious system, you will find out by doing your work that they deny the true Christ being God from eternity past and many other things. What makes this difficult is there's some religious systems out there that say the right things about who Jesus Christ is. Here's the thing. You cannot separate Jesus Christ from his gospel. You can't do it. In other words, if you're really preaching the true Christ, you will be preaching his gospel. If you add to his gospel, you're not preaching the true Christ because they are inseparable because it is the gospel of who? Jesus Christ that we are referring to. And so some systems will even say that Jesus Christ is God from eternity past. But when you study their system and you read their writings and you listen to what they say, you will understand through their teaching that they're not preaching the same Jesus of the scriptures that we know to be true. And this is why so many are led astray. It's because they are not able to distinguish between truth and error.

And this is what we have to do, men. I'm calling on you and I'm I'm telling you, you are responsible for your family. Not those teachers back there teaching your kids scripture. Not the school system. I keep hearing people say, "Well, man, so and so, we're going to get those ten commandments back in ch in school system." It's not the school's job to teach your kids the

commandments of God, nor the word of God. They ought to be teaching them things like how to read and write and some of those important things. What we've done is we've passed the buck of our responsibility off on other organizations. No, here's the truth, sir. You are responsible for your kids knowing about Jesus. You are your wife will come alongside you and she will she will reinforce those things. You're to teach your wife. You are wives. If you read what Paul says, they are to go to their husbands if they have questions and ask. The husband should be doing his due diligence as the spiritual leader and protector and provider over his home. He has to be the one who is the gate that protects his family spiritually because of all that's being done in this world. And it's a heavy load, but it doesn't matter. It's your responsibility. Quit putting that off on the church. Stop expecting this corrupt government to tell your kids about Jesus. Certainly don't trust YouTube. Do not trust the school system. The worst and the most notoriously terrible thing we've done is to give away the spiritual guidance of our kids to someone else other than me, myself, and I, and my wife. It's the truth. And if you put a priority on worldly things, don't be shocked when your kids do the same thing. When you make travel ball the priority of your life, because they've screwed this whole thing up. They want every if Christians would if real Christians would have stood up and say, "No, you know what? I realize my son's the best player on your team, but we won't be there because we got other priorities." You know what that coach will figure out over time? Those coaches, well, by golly, we're not doing that on Sunday. I don't have any players in this what we call Christian nation we live in. But no, the priority and the worship is not on Jesus Christ. It is on athletics and all that it supposedly brings in the life of your kid. Telling you what, we're in a wreck. And men, you've got to do this. And I know I tell this to people all the time, but it's your responsibility. It's a heavy one. You better take it serious because I tell you what, there is no more pain than a pain of a child who's been led astray by some weird thing out there. And if you're send them off to university on a sports scholarship, oh, you have no idea what they're walking into. Sodom and Gomorrah on steroids. And I don't care if it's whatever the who's the Horn Frogs. Texas Christian University. They need to take Christian off that stinking university's name. Baylor, are you kidding me? You're representing Jesus down there. They have the highest pregnancy rate of students in the nation at that school. What's going on? The last days, folks. That's what's going on. You can't find a Christian university out there that is not any different than the rest of the world. They're all the same anymore. They just slap Jesus on its name. Make the kids go to go to their their u Bible study once a week or two. Like that that's that's what's doing it. I'm saying all this stuff because guys, diligence is needed here. Diligence is needed. We got to have we got to have this. Um, as I said, you can't separate Christ from his gospel. In other words, Paul says to the Corinthians that they were putting up with a different gospel. If the gospel taught in scripture has been altered in any way, added to, or taken away, then it is a different gospel and it is a different Jesus that they're talking about.

The Council of Trent in Roman Catholic doctrine says this in canon. If anyone says that the sinner is justified by faith alone, let him be cursed. What is the gospel? I'm going to show you here in a second. Turn to Ephesians chapter 2 8-9. Let me show you. Go to Ephesians chapter 2 8-9. Now, I could go on and on and on and on and on and on with this, and I'm not going to, but I want to show you what I'm talking about. And this is just, oh my goodness, I could spend a year going over all these things, but I think you would all get so tired of hearing about it all. Ephesians 2:8 and 9, the Apostle Paul here is going to lay out for us how we are saved. For by grace you have been saved. Grace is unmerited favor, not any action on your own part. It's an unmerited favor of God. For by grace you have been saved through works. That's not what my Bible says. You have been saved through faith. Faith. And this is not your own doing. It is a gift of God, not a result of works. Why? So no man could boast. You know, the real

problem with a lot of this is it all comes back to the sufficiency of the sacrificial atonement of Jesus Christ. When Jesus died on the cross of Calvary, did he die for the sins of the whole world? He died for sin once he did. Let me ask you, Christian, what kind of work do you have to do in order for you to be justified before God? How can you as a sinful person ever be justified before God by your works? Paul says our works are like filthy rags. No, it's all based off faith in the work that Jesus Christ provided in his sacrificial offering to atone for the sin of the world. See, there's no more work on my part that's going to bring justification before God in the works that I do. Now, we're saved unto works. Don't miss that. But that's not your salvation.

Canon 11. If anyone says that men are justified either by the sole imputation of the justice of Christ or by the sole remission of sins or also that the grace by which we are justified is only the good will of God. Let him be cursed. The sufficiency of Christ, folks. What about purgatory? Purgatory is taught that all who die, Christians have to go to a place of suffering. Purgatory is a place that everyone will go in order that they can continue to burn off and and and make things right before God. Because as if Jesus Christ wasn't sufficient enough, now we got to go to purgatory and we're going to spend who knows how much time there depends on our sin. And we're going to have to have suffering that we go through to be cleansed and purified in order that we can get to heaven. Well, hold on. Do you know why you're not justified by works? Paul tells us that any work that we would do is something that we could boast in. See, the wages of our sin is death. We received an unmerited gift from God. There is no wages in that. Do you understand? In other words, if you could do something that would provide justification before God, you get to say, "I've got a part in bragging on what I did that God would receive me." Then God would owe you something. God would owe you something because you merited it. No, there is no meriting salvation, folks. It's all a gift of God in Christ Jesus by faith and it's a gift of his grace. So when you add anything to it in order to make it sufficient for God to receive you, you've added already to the gospel and you have taken away from the sufficiency of Jesus Christ. In other words, God dying and being a man and giving his life as the only one who's never sinned is not sufficient for the sin of the world. As God made him who knew no sin to be sin for us that we might be the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. 1 Peter 3:18 says, "For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit."

Colossians 2:8-15. I'm almost done. See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy or empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells, and you have been filled in Christ. Isn't that awesome? Who is the head of all rule and authority. In him also you were circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by the putting off of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. And you were dead in your trespasses and uncircumcision of your flesh. God made alive together with Christ having listen here it goes. Forgiven us all our sins. Isn't that good news? What did he do by cancelling? This is out of Colossians. By cancelling the record of debt of your sin, Jesus Christ cancelled the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This Christ set aside, nailing it to the cross, he disarmed the rulers and authorities and he put them to open shame by triumphing over them in Christ. This is the good news.

Galatians 1 6-10. We're just getting started. I am astonished that you were so quickly deserting him. Paul says, listen to this. This is the church of Galatia. Paul says, I'm astonished that you

were so quickly deserting him. That's Christ who called you in the grace or that's God who called you in the grace of Christ and turning to a different gospel. Not that there is another one. Paul says there's only one true gospel, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. But even, listen to what Paul says. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one that we preach to you, Paul says, "Let him be cursed." Paul says, "If an apostle of Christ was to come to you or an angel would come and preach to you a different gospel than the one you received, let him be cursed." Isn't that interesting? As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone is preaching to you a gospel that is contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed. Paul says, "For am I now seeking the approval of man or of God? or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.

I want to show you an example of one video here that I shot this week. I debated on even showing it. I don't even know if it's necessary, but I was trying to give you other ways to see what I'm talking about. Anybody ever heard of Saddleback Church in California? Saddleback Church is a 30,000 member church. Their pastor there was a man by the name of Rick Warren for 41 years I believe he pastored. They were the second largest church in the Southern Baptist General Convention and over the last two years they've been disassociated. One of the reasons for that is because Rick Warren is putting staff female pastors in his church which goes against scripture. And then here's some other things that we see, guys. Here's why it's so critical. And none of us are above being deceived. Go ahead and show this video. Turn the volume up. I want you to hear what he's saying now about the Roman Catholic Church. Okay? Remember, I want you just to hear what he's saying now as a leader of a flock of 30,000 people and the influence he has and the books he writes and so on and so forth. Listen to what he has to say. I think it's only a minute long and then we will wrap up with a word of prayer. But let's go ahead and start that. Authenticity, humility. Pope Francis is the perfect example of this. He is doing everything right. You see, people will listen to what we say if they like what they see. And as our new pope, he was very very symbolic in, you know, his first mass with people of AIDS, uh his kissing of uh of the disformed man, his loving the children, this authenticity, this humility, the caring for the poor, this is what the whole world expects us Christians to do. And when we when they go, "Oh, that's what a Christian does." In fact, there was a headline here in Orange County, and I loved the headline. I saved it. It said, "If you love Pope Francis, you'll love Jesus." That was a headline. That was a headline. It was a headline. I saved it. I showed it to a group of priests I was uh speaking to a while back. Now, there's a lot of different videos we could show you, but see, here's the here's the problem. our pope. He says, "Us Christians, if you love the Pope, you'll love Jesus." Do you see the deception in that? See, here's the problem. Here's why Christians, for the most part, are no longer protesting Rome. And here's why the church is no longer evangelizing these dear, sweet people. It's because of things like that where the Christian church says that we're all the same. But here's the thing, Rick. If they preach a different gospel, they're believing in a different Jesus. And scripture says there's only one name under heaven by which man can be saved. And scripture says in John 14:6, Jesus says that I'm the way, the truth, and the life. and no one comes to the father except through me. And there's only one gospel that men can be saved by. And when we do these kinds of things, it is the most whether not intentionally or not, it's deceiving people by the masses. Satan is doing his great work, man. And trust me, I'm not just picking on that particular uh uh uh religious system. There's there's I could do it for so many of them and it's concerning to me because they align themselves as saying, "Well, we're all Christian, but we're not that." There are maybe people who are part of that religious system that do really believe and trust in Jesus. There are some who probably do, but the system itself is a false religious





## Answers to the Study Questions:

Q: What does the Bible say about the Holy Spirit?

A: According to the sermon, the Holy Spirit is the 'Spirit of Truth,' sent by God as a 'helper' or 'paraclete.' He dwells within believers, guides them into all truth, teaches them through God's word, and glorifies Jesus Christ. He is distinct from demonic spirits.

Q: Where does false religious teaching come from?

A: The sermon explains that all false religious and spiritual teaching originates from demonic spirits, led by Satan and fallen angels. These spirits promote deception and opposition to God, leading to teachings that deviate from biblical truth.

Q: How can I identify a false teacher or teaching?

A: The sermon suggests that a key way to test spirits and teachings is by examining their 'christology' (what they teach about Jesus Christ). If a teacher proclaims 'another Jesus' than the one in scripture, comes with 'a different spirit,' or offers 'a different gospel,' their teaching is likely false.

Q: Are groups like Mormons or Muslims considered Christian?

A: The sermon explicitly states that groups like those following Islam (Muhammad) and Mormonism (Joseph Smith) are not considered Christian. This is because they are believed to teach about a 'different Christ,' a 'different gospel,' and are influenced by 'different spirits' than those found in orthodox Christianity.

Q: What is the source of religious deception according to the speaker?

A: The speaker attributes religious deception to "Satan and these demonic hordes" who teach "false teachings" and "demonic teachings" that come from the "spirit of error," rather than the "spirit of truth."

Q: Which religious groups are mentioned as examples of false teachings?

A: The speaker mentions Scientology, Jehovah's Witnesses (specifically referencing Charles Taze Russell), and the Roman Catholic Church (including the Pontifex Maximus and papal leadership) as examples of religious systems that deviate from true teachings.

Q: What is the speaker's concern about contemporary Christianity?

A: The speaker expresses serious concern that an unprecedented number of Protestant and evangelical denominations are "slipping off into error," abandoning biblical scripture for worldly doctrines and "teachings and doctrines of demons."

Q: What is spiritual warfare and how should Christians prepare for it?

A: Spiritual warfare involves battling against "the devil, Satan, this fallen angel." Christians are instructed to "put on the whole armor of God" (Ephesians 6:10-12) to stand against Satan's "schemes," "cunning," and "trickery."

Q: How does Satan operate and deceive people?

A: Satan, a prideful fallen angel, uses lies and deception. He is described as a "murderer from the beginning" and the "father of all lies" (John 8:44). He masquerades as an "angel of light" to make his false teachings appear close to the truth, especially to those who are not well-grounded in scripture.

Q: What does the Bible say about deception in the end times?

A: According to 1 Timothy 4:1-3, in the "latter times," some will "depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons."

Q: Why is it crucial for Christians to study the Bible diligently?

A: Studying the Bible is essential for Christians to "grow up fast" and discern truth from Satan's "sly" deceptions. Knowing the Word of God is presented as the primary defense against being misled by false teachings.

Q: What does it mean to "contend for the faith"?

A: To "contend for the faith" (Jude 3-4) means to "earnestly contend" or "agonize" for the truth that was "once for all delivered to the saints." It requires an active, not passive, approach to guarding and defending the gospel against doctrinal deviation and moral compromise.

Q: How can Christians identify false apostles and teachers?

A: False apostles and teachers disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, similar to how Satan disguises himself as an angel of light (2 Corinthians 11:12-15). Christians must "test the spirits" to see if they are from God.

Q: What is the primary test for discerning true spirits from false ones?

A: The primary test, according to 1 John 4:1-2, is whether a spirit confesses that "Jesus Christ has come in the flesh." This confession signifies that the spirit is from God; denial indicates the spirit of Antichrist.

Q: What is the role of scripture in discerning truth?

A: Scripture is the ultimate standard and "litmus test" for all doctrine. Christians are urged to "prove it with the word of God," just as the Bereans examined the scriptures daily to verify the apostles' teachings (Acts 17:11).

Q: Is Jesus Christ God?

A: Yes, the speaker strongly affirms that Jesus Christ is God. He is identified as the "word" who "was God" (John 1:1) and the "true God and eternal life" (1 John 5:20). This is a crucial aspect of Christology and a test of true doctrine.

Q: Why is the confession that Jesus Christ is God so important?

A: The confession that Jesus Christ is God is a fundamental truth. The speaker notes that even demons believe this and shudder (James 2:19). Conversely, denying Christ's divinity is a sign of the spirit of Antichrist. The speaker also highlights a disturbing event where a man killed a pastor for claiming Jesus is God, viewing it as a violation of the first commandment.

Q: What is the significance of Jesus coming in the flesh?

A: Jesus coming in the flesh refers to God the Son, the second person of the Trinity, taking on human form (Philippians 2:5-8). This act of "great humiliation" demonstrates God's humility and is a core tenet of Christian faith, distinguishing true doctrine from deception.

Q: How can one distinguish between the true Christ and a false Christ?

A: One can distinguish between the true Christ and a false Christ by examining the doctrine and religious system associated with them. If a system denies the eternal deity of Christ or

adds to, subtracts from, or alters the gospel message as presented in the scriptures, it is preaching a different Jesus. The true Christ and His gospel are inseparable; preaching the true Christ means preaching His gospel, and vice versa.

Q: Who is ultimately responsible for a child's spiritual education?

A: The primary responsibility for a child's spiritual education lies with the parents, particularly the father as the spiritual leader of the home. External institutions like schools, the government, or even churches should not be relied upon for this crucial task. Parents must actively teach their children about Jesus and biblical truths, rather than 'passing the buck' to others.

Q: What does it mean to be saved by grace through faith, and why are works not part of salvation?

A: Being saved by grace through faith means that salvation is an unmerited gift from God, received through faith in Jesus Christ's atoning sacrifice. It is not earned by any actions or works performed by an individual. The Bible, as cited in Ephesians 2:8-9, states that salvation is a gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one can boast. If salvation were based on works, individuals could claim credit, but Christ's sacrifice is presented as fully sufficient, meaning no human work is needed for justification before God.

Q: What is the significance of the Council of Trent's decrees regarding justification?

A: The Council of Trent, a significant event in Roman Catholic doctrine, issued canons that cursed those who believed in justification by faith alone. For example, Canon 11 states, 'If anyone says that the sinner is justified by faith alone, let him be cursed.' This highlights the historical and doctrinal opposition to the Protestant principle of 'sola fide' (faith alone) and underscores the speaker's argument that adding works or other requirements to salvation negates the sufficiency of Christ.

Q: Why is it problematic for Christian universities to have high rates of pregnancy or worldly practices?

A: It is problematic when Christian universities exhibit worldly practices, such as high pregnancy rates or a lack of distinction from secular institutions, because it contradicts the very purpose of a Christian education. Such institutions are expected to uphold biblical standards and provide spiritual guidance. When they fail to do so, they become indistinguishable from the world, potentially leading students astray and undermining the credibility of Christianity. The speaker uses Baylor University's high pregnancy rate as an example of this compromise.

Q: What is the danger of equating love for figures like Pope Francis with love for Jesus?

A: Equating love for figures like Pope Francis with love for Jesus is a dangerous deception. While Pope Francis may exhibit positive qualities like humility and care for the poor, the Roman Catholic Church's doctrine, particularly regarding salvation and the gospel, differs significantly from biblical Christianity. The speaker argues that if a religious system preaches a different gospel, it believes in a different Jesus. Therefore, aligning with or praising such figures without discernment can lead people astray from the true Jesus and the one true gospel, as salvation is only through Jesus Christ alone.

Q: What does it mean to 'test the spirits' and why is it important?

A: To 'test the spirits' means to critically evaluate teachings and spiritual influences by comparing them against the Holy Scriptures. It is important because many false teachings and

deceptive spirits exist, especially in the current era. By going to the scriptures, believers can discern truth from error, ensuring that what is being taught aligns with the character and message of Jesus Christ as revealed in the Bible, particularly concerning His deity, humanity, and the sufficiency of His atoning work.

Q: What is the core message of the gospel that should not be added to?

A: The core message of the gospel, as explained by the Apostle Paul in Ephesians 2:8-9, is that salvation is by God's grace, received through faith, and is a gift of God, not a result of human works. This emphasizes the complete sufficiency of Jesus Christ's sacrificial atonement on the cross for the sins of the world. Adding any human effort, merit, or ritual to this foundational message detracts from Christ's finished work and constitutes a different, false gospel.