Deep in the Bible PODCAST

John is again looking in two directions

(1) Tests to know the Spirit of God

(2) Tests to know the spirit of the antichrists

We Know: Study of 1 John (4:1-21)

1Jn 3:24 "the Spirit who he has given us."

Locate the Spirits (1-6)

(1) Christians must ***be equipped*** to ***test*** if these spirits are truly from God. ***How do we do that***? **-Phil 1:9-11**

(4) The ***Spirit*** in believers is ***greater than*** the ***false spirit*** in the antichrists! **-2:20, 27; 3:24; Acts 2:38; Eph 6:10-20**

***Little Children -John 13:33; 1Jn 2:1, 12, 28; 3:7, 18; 5:21**

Love the Saints (7-21)

Love one Another (7)

-1Jn 2:7-11; 3:10-24 -Jn 13:31-35; 15:12-13

This love is ***not naturally within us***, because it is ***from God*** **-1Jn 3:16**

Born of God: 2:29; 3:1-10; Jn 1:12-13

Knows God: 2:3-6

(9) ***see John 3:16***: **PERFECT demonstration of agape love**

(10) ***True agape love*** can ***only be given*** to ***God and others*** **AFTER** it has first been ***received from Him***.

No one has ever seen God (12)

This is a ***humbling***, terrifying ***statement*** because it indicates the **ONLY way** in which ***the world will see God*** is through the ***love we reflect from God within the community of believers***. **-Jn 1:14-18**

(17-18) ***God's love*** is ***perfected*** by the ***love shown*** within the ***community of believers***. This leads to ***confidence in eternity*** (Rom 5:1-5), which ***replaces fear of judgment***.

[1] **Beloved**, **do not believe** every **spirit**, but ***test the spirits*** to see ***whether they are from*** **God**, **for** many **false prophets** have ***gone out into the world***. [2] ***By this*** you know the **Spirit of God**: every spirit that ***confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh*** *is from* **God**, [3] and every spirit that ***does not confess Jesus*** is *not from* **God**. This is the **spirit of the antichrist**, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. [4] ***Little children***, you are from **God** and have ***overcome them***, for **he** ***who is in you is greater than*** **he** ***who is in the world***. [5] They are ***from the world***; **therefore** they ***speak from the world***, and the ***world listens to them***. [6] We are ***from*** **God**. Whoever knows **God** ***listens to us***; whoever is not from **God** ***does not listen to us***. ***By this*** we know the **Spirit of truth** and the **spirit of error**.

[7] **Beloved**, let us **love** ***one another***, **for** **love** is ***from God***, and whoever **loves** has been ***born of God*** and ***knows God***. [8] Anyone who does **not love** does ***not know God***, because ***God is*** **love**. [9] ***In this*** the **love** ***of God*** was made ***manifest*** among us, that ***God sent his only Son into the world***, so that we might ***live through him***. [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. [11] Beloved, if ***God so*** **loved** ***us***, we also ***ought to*** **love** ***one another***. [12] **No one has ever seen God**; if ***we*** **love** ***one another***, **God** ***abides in us*** and ***his*** **love** ***is perfected in*** us. **<< Propitiation: 2:1-2 | Perfected 2:5**

[13] ***By this*** **we know** that we ***abide in him*** and he in us, because **he has given us of his Spirit**. [14] And **we** ***have seen and testify*** that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. [15] Whoever ***confesses that*** **Jesus** ***is the Son of*** **God**, **God** ***abides in him***, and ***he in*** **God**. [16] **So** we have come to ***know*** and to ***believe*** the **love** that God has for us. ***God is*** **love,** and whoever abides in **love** ***abides in God***, and ***God abides in him***. [17] ***By this*** is **love** ***perfected with us***, **so that** ***we may have confidence for the day of judgment***, **because** as he is so also are we in this world. [18] There is ***no fear in*** **love**, but perfect **love** ***casts out fear***. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been ***perfected in*** **love**. [19] We **love** **because** ***he first*** **loved** ***us***. [20] If anyone says, "***I*** ***love God***," and ***hates his brother***, he is a liar; **for** he ***who does not*** **love** ***his brother*** whom he has seen ***cannot*** **love** ***God*** whom he has not seen. [21] And this ***commandment*** we have from him: ***whoever*** **loves** ***God must also*** **love** ***his brother***. **<< John 13:31-35; 15:12-13**

We CANNOT Love God AND HATE our Brother!

(2-3) The false spirits will ***deny Christ came in the flesh*** **-1:1-4** *Parallels **2:18-27** concerning ***antichrists***

(5) The ***world listens*** to the ***false prophets***, because their message ***accommodates the world's beliefs***.

(6) ***Belief of the gospel*** is the true test of the **Holy Spirit's** ***presence and work***.

*To ***discern false prophets*** and evil spirits ***we MUST*** listen to and follow God's word! **-Jn 8:39-47**

God is Love (8, 16) ♥

Love** is ***not just ***one of God's activities*** but rather ***all His activity is loving***, because that is ***His nature –compare to 1:5***

*Our ***failure to love*** means we ***lack true knowledge of God***, we have ***not*** really been ***born of him***, & we do ***not have his nature***.

(11) We **MUST be loving** because **He is loving:**

(13) **God's love** is ***poured into our hearts*** by the ***Holy Spirit*** whom we have received (**Rom 5:5**). ***This love*** MUST ***motivate us*** to ***love each other***.

-3:24; Acts 2:38; Rom 8:9-11; Eph 1:13-14

(14) **We -> 1:1-4**

(15) ***Confesses Jesus*** as ***opposed to anything else***. (**2:24**)

-Confession is ***more than just speaking His name***, but ***implies faith, belief, obedience***, etc.

(16) **We Must KNOW God's Word before we can BELIEVE**

(19-21) **HORIZONTAL and VERTICAL relationship**

2:3-11; Mt 22:34-40; Mk 12:28-31

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