



# 1<sup>st</sup> John

God is Light, Love and Life

*Lesson 09*

## Spirit of Truth

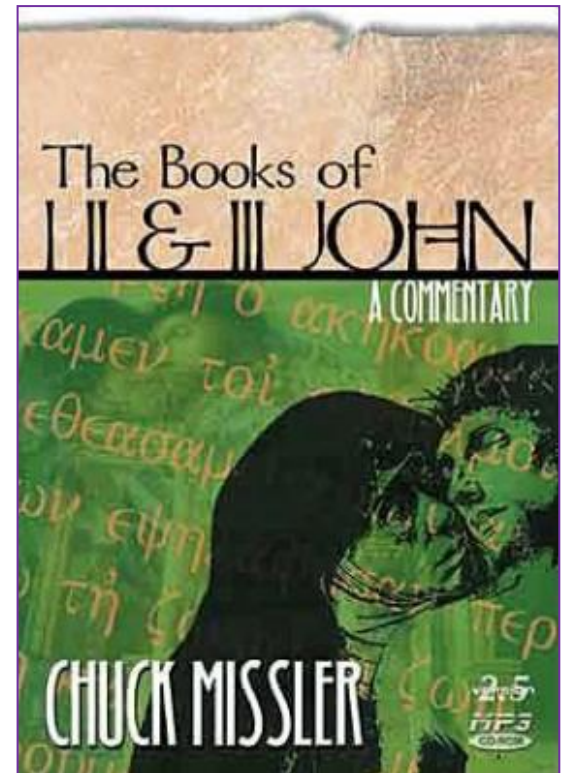
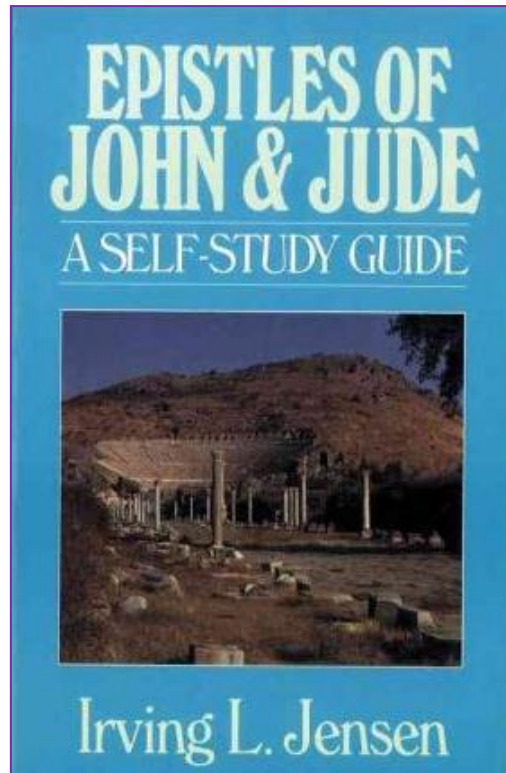
1<sup>st</sup> John 3:24 - 4:6

Philip Giorgio

Sojourners Sunday School Class

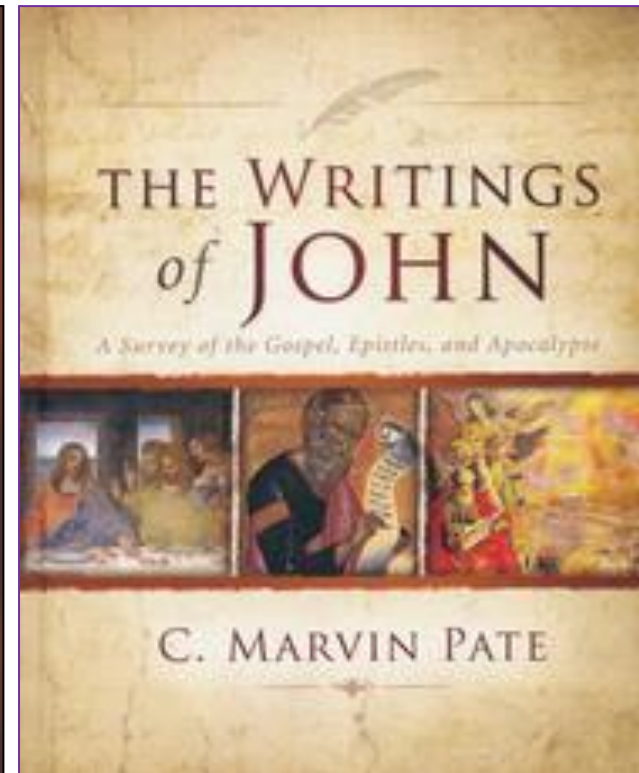
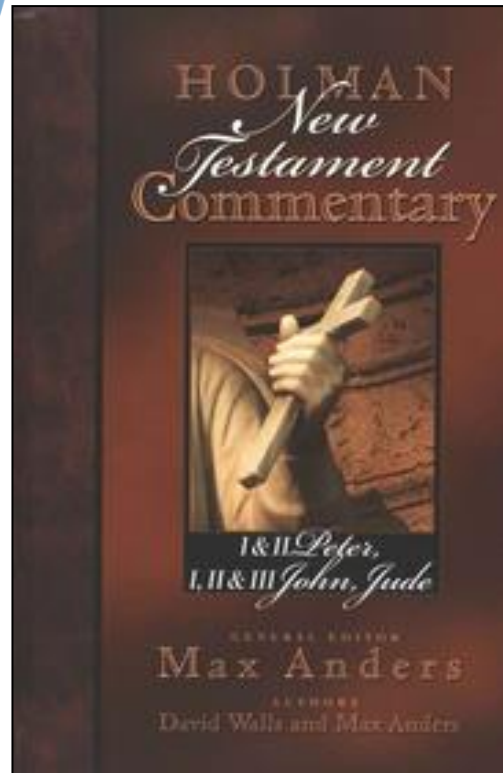


## References



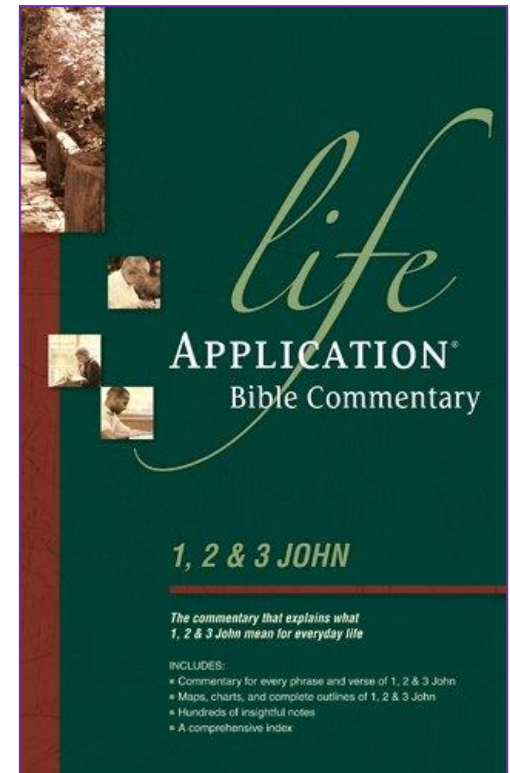
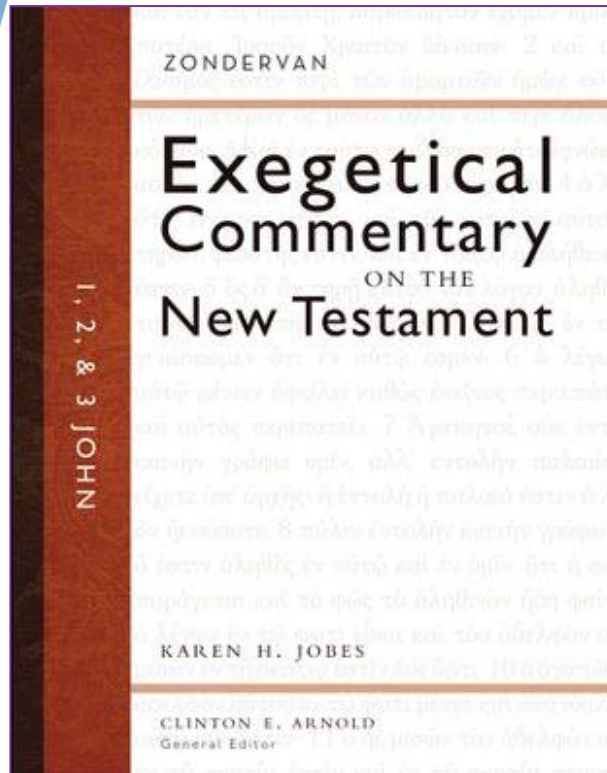


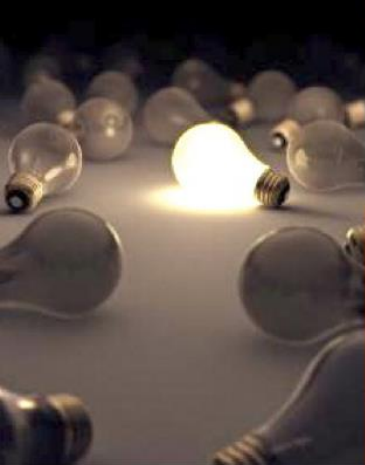
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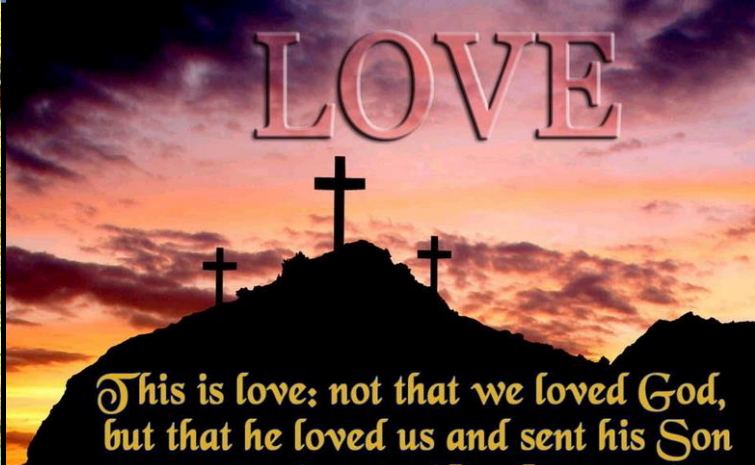
## References





# LIGHT, LIFE & LOVE

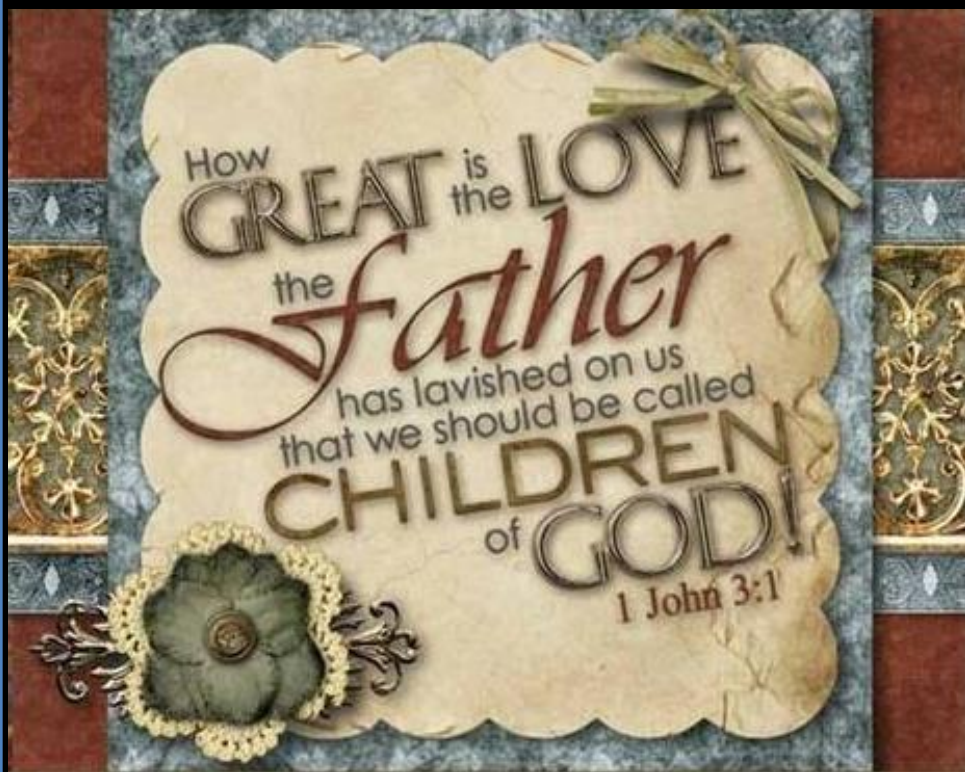
1, 2 & 3 JOHN



LOVE

This is love: not that we loved God,  
but that he loved us and sent his Son  
as an atoning sacrifice for our sins

1 John 4:10 NIV



love

God

Whoever loves another like Jesus knows the love that has been perfected in us, so that we neither fear nor hatred. But the love that we have for one another is based on what we have heard: Jesus Christ came in the flesh. Whoever does not love Jesus who came in the flesh is the deceiver and the antichrist. Whoever denies Christ who came in the flesh is the denier of the Father and the Son who sent him. Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father who sent him. The one who confesses the Son of God, the Father also loves him, and he and the Father will keep him. The one who does not confess the Son of God, the Father does not love him, and the Father will not keep him. The Son of God is the one who came in the flesh and who has been glorified with the Father from now on. The one who has heard the voice of the Son of God and has believed in him, he has eternal life and will not be judged but will have passed from death to life.



# Course Outline

# Course Outline - Lessons

## ■ 1 John: God is Light, Love and Life

- Lesson 01: Overview ... [1 JOHN]
- Lesson 02: Jesus Christ is God's Son ... [1:1-4]
- Lesson 03: Fellowship ... [1:5-2:2]
- Lesson 04: The Test of Knowing Him ... [2:3-11]
- Lesson 05: Do Not Love the Evil World ... [2:12-17]
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- Lesson 07: Children of God ... [2:2-3:9]
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# Lesson Outline

# Lesson 09 - Outline

## ■ 1 John: God is Light, Love and Life

- Lesson 09: The Spirit of Truth
  - ✓ **SCRIPTURAL CONTEXT**
    - Scripture Text - 1 John 3:24-4:6
  - ✓ **THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH VERSUS THE SPIRIT OF ERROR**
    - We Know He Abides in Us (3:24)
    - Test the Spirits (4:1-3)
    - We are of God (4:4-6)





# The Spirit of Truth

## *Scriptural Context*

# Lesson 09 - Outline

## ▪ 1 John: God is Light, Love and Life

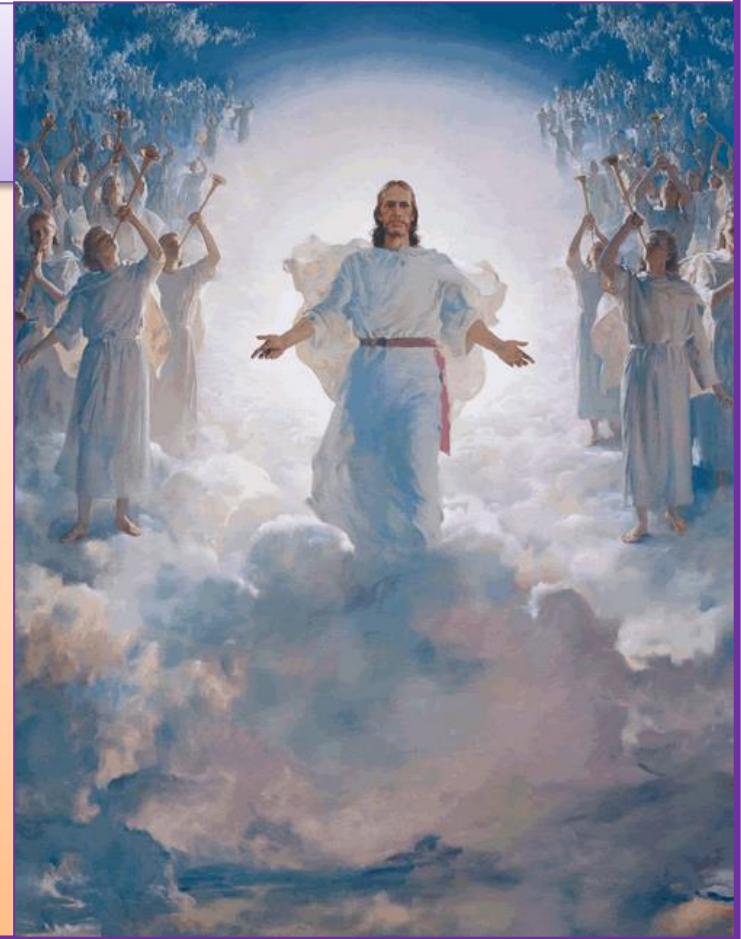
### • Lesson 09: The Spirit of Truth

#### ✓ SCRIPTURAL CONTEXT

➡ - Scripture Text - 1 John 3:24-4:6

#### ✓ THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH VERSUS THE SPIRIT OF ERROR

- We Know He Abides in Us  
(3:24)
- Test the Spirits  
(4:1-3)
- We are of God  
(4:4-6)



Scriptural Text: 1 John 3:24-4:6

THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH AND THE SPIRIT OF ERROR 1 JOHN 3:24-4:6

**24** Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

... 1 John 3:24 ...NKJV

Scriptural Text: 1 John 3:24-4:6

## THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH AND THE SPIRIT OF ERROR 1 JOHN 3:24-4:6

**4** Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. <sup>2</sup> By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God,

... 1 John 4:1-2 ...NKJV

Scriptural Text: 1 John 3:24-4:6

## THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH AND THE SPIRIT OF ERROR 1 JOHN 3:24-4:6

<sup>3</sup> and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the *spirit* of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.

... 1 John 4:3 ...NKJV

Scriptural Text: 1 John 3:24-4:6

## THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH AND THE SPIRIT OF ERROR 1 JOHN 3:24-4:6

<sup>4</sup> You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. <sup>5</sup> They are of the world. Therefore they speak *as* of the world, and the world hears them. <sup>6</sup> We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

... 1 John 4:4-6 ...NKJV



# The Spirit of Truth

## *The Spirit of Truth Versus the Spirit of Error*

# Lesson 09 - Outline

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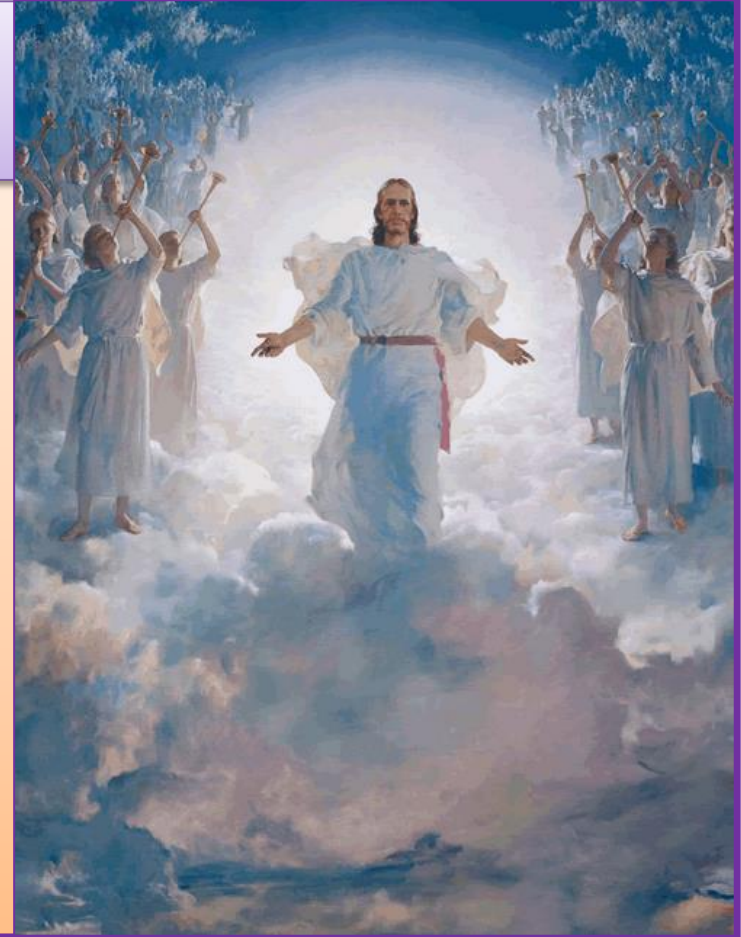
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- Scripture Text - 1 John 3:24-4:6

#### ✓ THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH VERSUS THE SPIRIT OF ERROR

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- Test the Spirits (4:1-3)
- We are of God (4:4-6)

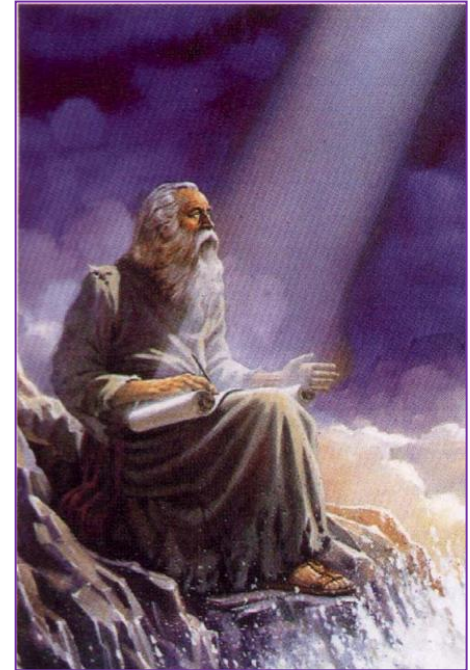


# 1 John Review

- Fellowship
  - Our Fellowship is in the Light
    - God is Light
    - Vertical and Horizontal Relationships
  - Not just coffee and a donut
    - Investment, Partnership, Commitment

## FABLE OF THE CHICKEN AND THE PIG

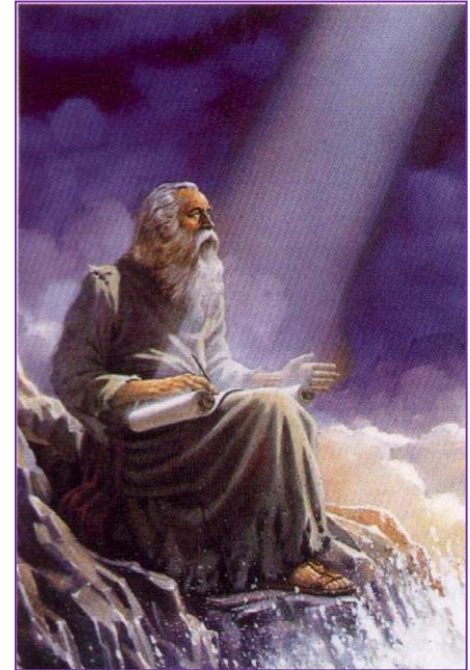
- Love Not the World
- Antichrists are Here
- Children of God
- Love the Bretheren



# 1 John 3:24 - OBSERVATIONS

<sup>24</sup> Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

- Condition for Abiding in Him
  - Keep His commandments
    - **Alternatively:** If you do not keep His commandments He does not abide in us
  - **How do we know that He abides in us?**
    - By the Holy Spirit whom He has given us ... who lives in us - “Born-again”
    - The Divine Nature living in us
      - At salvation the Holy Spirit came to live inside of you ... This is the divine nature
      - As a believer you have two natures living inside of you ... *Warring against each other*
        1. The Sin Nature ..... First birth
        2. The Divine Nature .... Second birth



# Lesson 09 - Outline

## ▪ 1 John: God is Light, Love and Life

### • Lesson 09: The Spirit of Truth

#### ✓ SCRIPTURAL CONTEXT

- Scripture Text - 1 John 3:24-4:6

#### ✓ THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH VERSUS THE SPIRIT OF ERROR

- We Know He Abides in Us  
(3:24)

➡ - Test the Spirits  
(4:1-3)

- We are of God  
(4:4-6)



# 1 John 4:1 - OBSERVATIONS

**4** Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

- **Beloved...** *Affectionate term for the Believer*

- **Spirit(s)**

- Two possible meanings here:



- 1. Spirit of God versus the Spirit of Antichrist

- 2. The Spirit of a man ... Believer versus False Prophet

- **False Prophets ...** *Gnostics then and now*

- **How do you recognize them?**

- Positive Test: *verse 2*

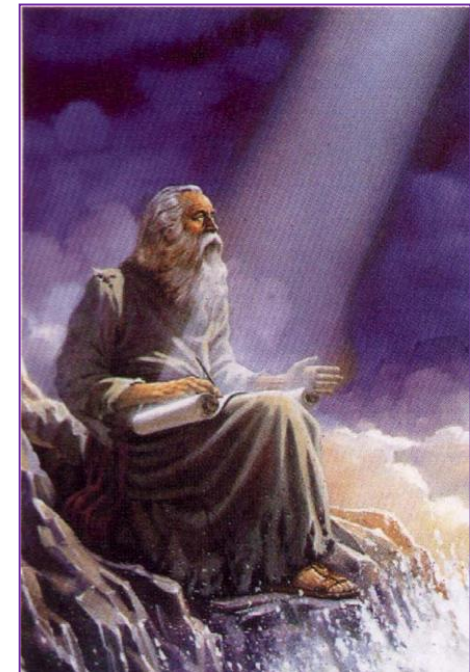
- Negative Test: *verse 3*

- Sadly today we have False Prophets that are

- in the pulpits

- on television

- on the internet



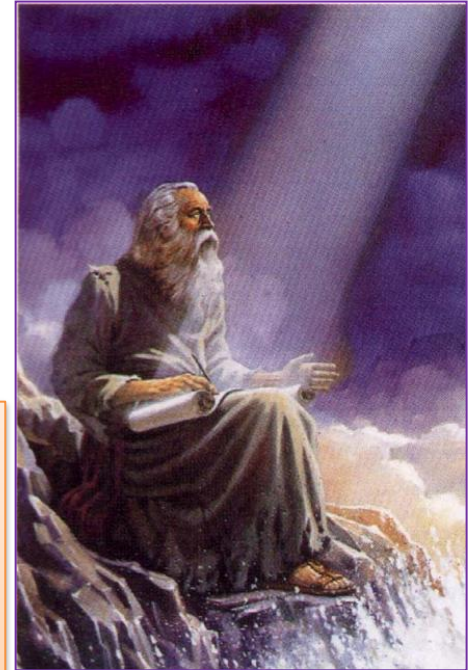
# 1 John 4:1 - OBSERVATIONS

**4** Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

## • False Teachers

- A false teacher is not a person who teaches false doctrine out of ignorance.
- Apollos taught mistakenly the message and the baptism of John, but he was not a false teacher.  
(Acts 18:24-28)

**24** Now a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man *and* mighty in the Scriptures, came to Ephesus. **25** This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord, though he knew only the baptism of John. **26** So he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately. **27** And when he desired to cross to Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him; and when he arrived, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace; **28** for he vigorously refuted the Jews publicly, showing from the Scriptures that Jesus is the Christ.

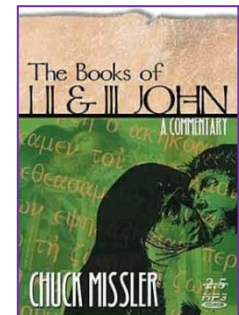
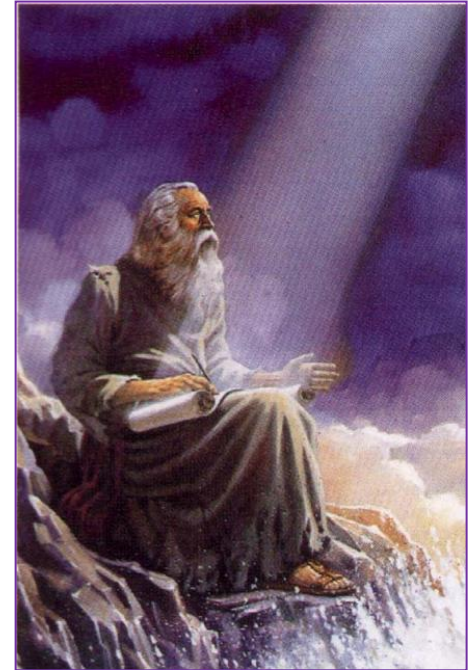


# 1 John 4:1 - OBSERVATIONS

**4** Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

## • False Teachers

- False teachers are professed believers who know the truth but who deliberately teach lies in the hope of promoting themselves and getting financial gain from their followers ...1 John 2:3,14
- they are able to live in sin to please themselves ...1 John 2:10, 13-14, 18-19
- they use deceptive means ...1 John 2:1, 3
- and twist the Word of God to suit their fancies.



# 1 John 4:1 - OBSERVATIONS

**4** Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

## • False Teachers

- Today as then we must heed Peter's warning

**2** 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.

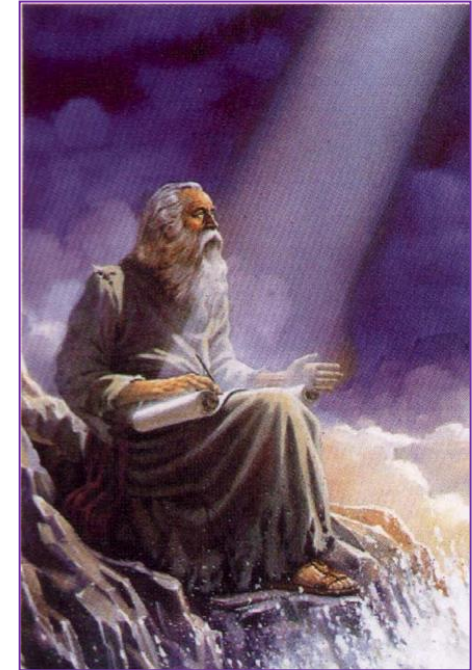
--- 2 Peter 2:1 ... NKJV

There is no heresy that has not been *anticipated* by the Holy Spirit.

Heresy is like leaven ([Galatians 5:9](#)); it corrupts all with which it comes in contact.

A direct rebuttal of limited atonement, the view that Christ died only for those whom He would later save

"...and not for ours only, but also for *the sins of the whole world*" ... [1 John 2:2](#).



Read [2 Peter 2](#) in it's entirety to see the Doom , Depravity and Deceptions of False Teachers.

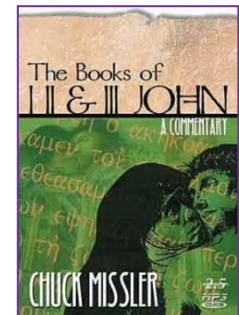
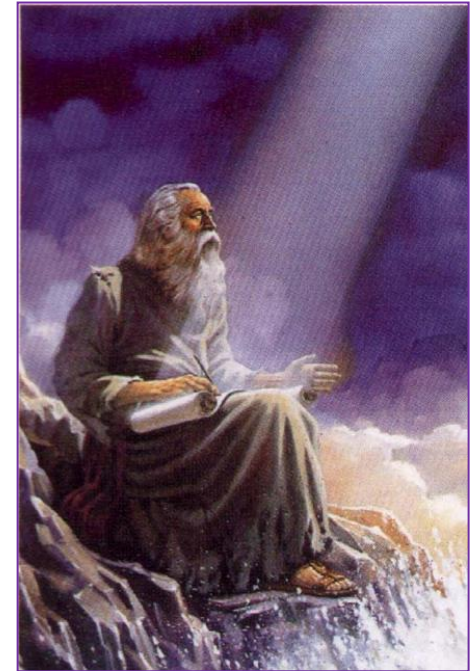
# 1 John 4:2 - OBSERVATIONS

<sup>2</sup> By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God,

- By this you know the Spirit of God
  - Positive Test
    - Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God
    - Jesus the Messiah (Christ) has come in the flesh
    - Jesus the Son of God has come in the flesh

John 1:1-5, 14

- Christ is not Jesus' last name
- Christ is a title ... *The Anointed One of God*
- Christ is *Greek* ... Messiah is *Hebrew*



# 1 John 4:3 - OBSERVATIONS

<sup>3</sup> and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the *spirit* of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.

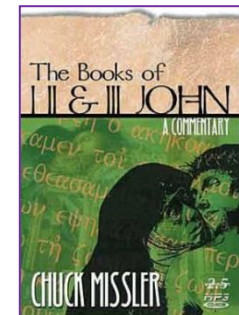
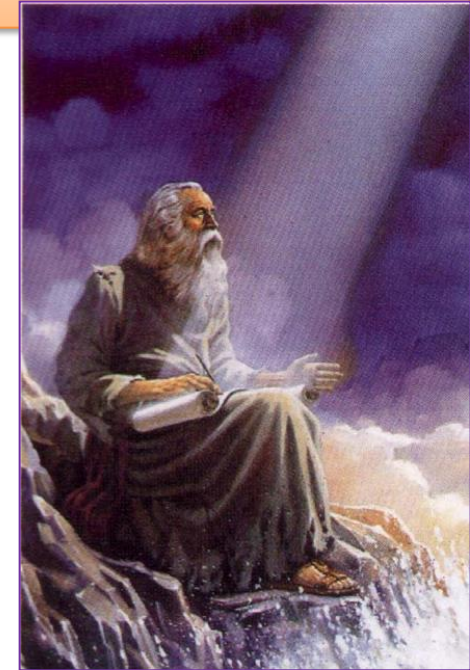
- Not confessing Jesus has come in the flesh

- Negative Test

IF you do not confess Jesus Christ has come in the flesh  
THEN you are not of God

- This is the spirit of Antichrist (*against or instead of Christ*)
    - Do cults confess Christ? ..... NO!
    - Do other religions Confess Christ? ... NO!
  - Spirit of Antichrist ... (Revelation 13)

- This is the third reference to the spirit of Antichrist
      - 1 John 2:18
      - 1 John 2:22
      - 1 John 4:3



# Lesson 09 - Outline

## ▪ 1 John: God is Light, Love and Life

### • Lesson 09: The Spirit of Truth

#### ✓ SCRIPTURAL CONTEXT

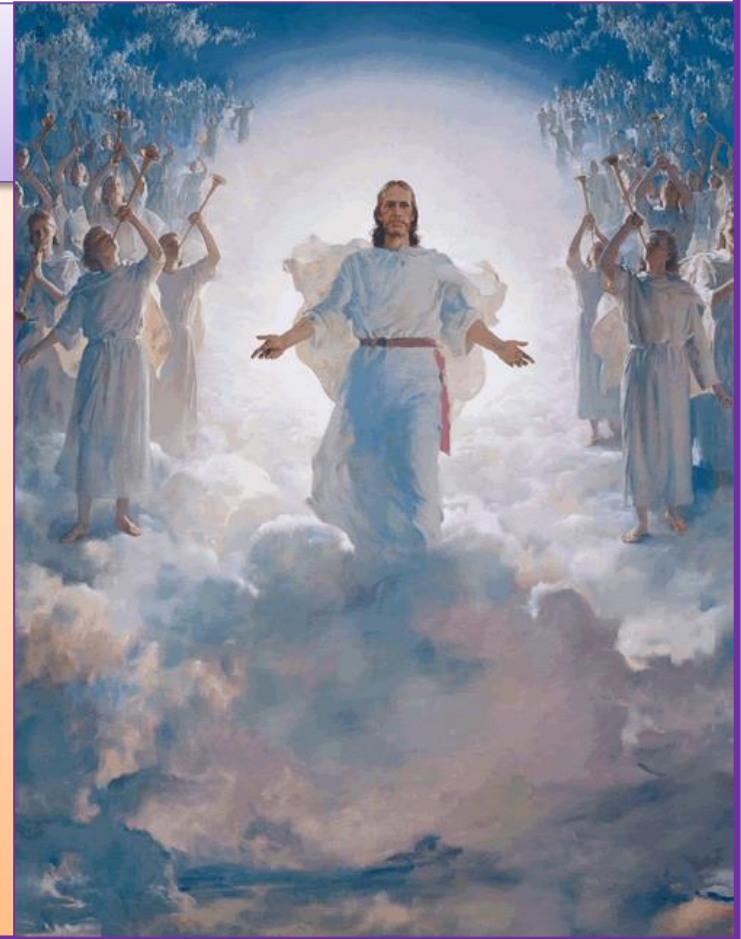
- Scripture Text - 1 John 3:24-4:6

#### ✓ THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH VERSUS THE SPIRIT OF ERROR

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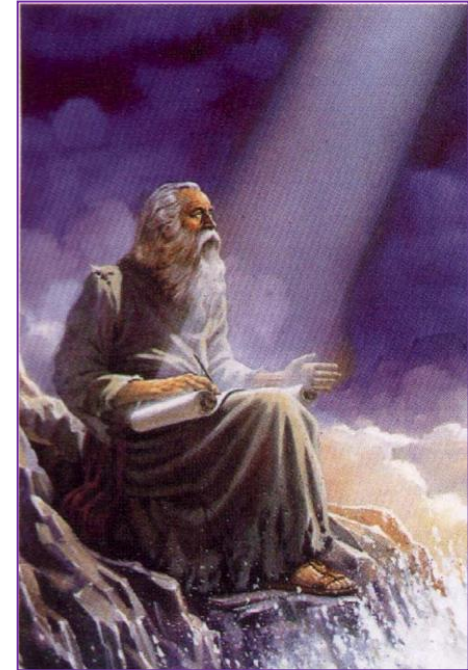


# 1 John 4:4 - OBSERVATIONS

<sup>4</sup> You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

## • Us verses Them

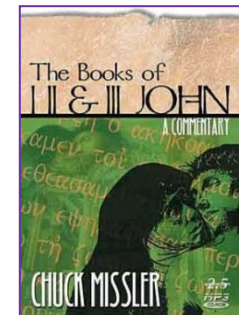
- Notice the personal pronouns in the next 3 **verses**
- Verses written to fortify us against spiritual gullibility
  - **You** are of God *The target* **verse 4**
  - **They** are of the world *The enemy* **verse 5**
  - **We** are of God *The fearless* **verse 6**
- Great memory verse! ... Love it, Learn it, Live it!
- He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world



- Who is the He that is in you? ... The Holy Spirit
- Who is the he in the world? ..... Satan & Minions

Satan is a created being.  
Powerful, yes, but **NOT** God!  
Satan can not read you mind.

Holy Spirit is God.  
Creator of all things!  
Only **God** can read you thoughts.



# 1 John 4:5 - OBSERVATIONS

<sup>5</sup> They are of the world. Therefore they speak *as* of the world, and the world hears them.

- They are of the world
  - Who is the prince of this world?

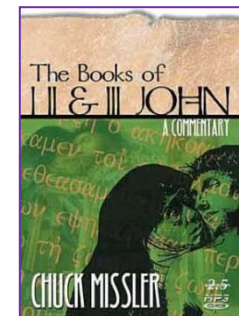
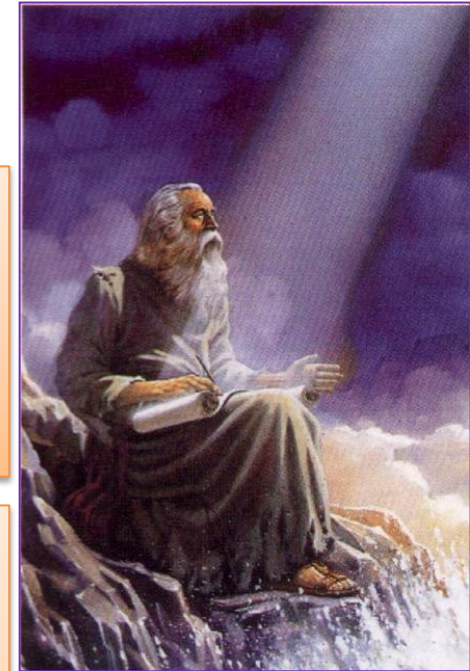
- Satan

<sup>2</sup> And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins, <sup>2</sup> in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, -- [Ephesians 2: 1-2 ... NKJV](#)

<sup>8</sup> Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. <sup>9</sup> And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me."

<sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'"

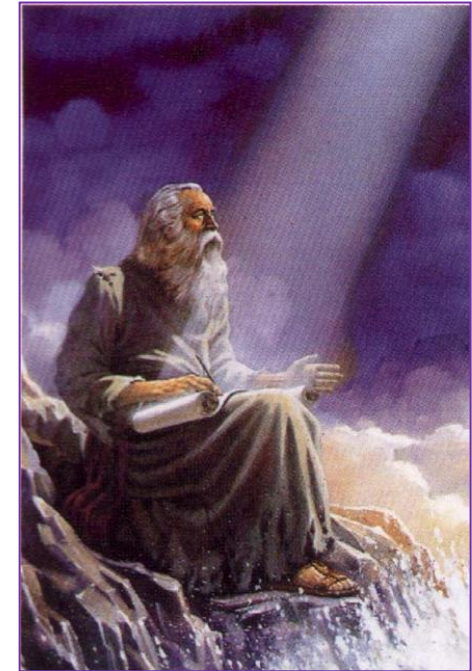
<sup>11</sup> Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him. -- [Matthew 4:8-11 ... NKJV](#)



# 1 John 4:6 - OBSERVATIONS

<sup>6</sup> We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

- **We are of God vs those of the world**
  - **WE:** the true teachers of Christ
  - **How do we know the difference between the spirit of truth and the spirit of error?**
    - He who knows God hears us - spirit of truth
    - He who does not hear us - the spirit of error
  - **Spirit of True**
    - Spirit coming from God and teaching truth
  - **Spirit of Error**
    - spirit coming from Satan and seducing into error



**ARE YOU LISTENING TO THE TRUE TEACHERS OF CHRIST?**

<sup>11</sup> These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily *to find out* whether these things were so. --- Acts 17:11 ... NKJV



# **THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS CHRIST**



# 1 John: God is Light, Love and Life

## Lesson 10: The Consummation of Love

***Next Week's Lesson***

# Next Week's Lesson

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