

10/15/23- 'TRUTH & DECEPTION' (#5)

Pastor Lee

Deception
Is
Increasing!

- 1 John: 2 -- 2 words describe these passages: TRUTH AND DECEPTION
- No doubt....we are in the 'End Times'....the closer we get to the return of Jesus Christ, the more deception will be coming our way. There are already, as John cites, anti-Christ's among us who would turn us against Jesus.....be aware and be rock-solid on the truth! But such a challenge in this modern, digital age.

We Are
Anointed!

1 John 2:26-27 -- I write these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you. But the anointing that you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as His anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie -- just as it has taught you, abide in Him.

- John's expressing concern because so much deception is coming your way. The good news is found in one word: "anointing". Connotes 'special'....but more...when you put your faith and trust in Jesus, God placed on you His 'anointing' of the Holy Spirit! It the church leaders and the whole body of the Church that are lifted up. THIS IS OUR PROTECTION against deception.

1 John 2:20-21 -- But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and you all have knowledge. I write to you, not because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and because no lie is of the truth.

- So- -if the Holy Spirit is in my life- - and I have this ANOINTING, you could expect everything to be so crystal clear....but do we feel that kind of clarity? Key word (back to v 27) "ABIDE" (NIV: "REMAIN") or (TO BE BESIDE).

Abide
In
Him!

1 John 2:28 -- -And now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears we may have confidence and not shrink from Him in shame at His coming.

- So....be withbe beside....and remain in Him. Refer to John 15:4.....'ABIDE in Me and I will abide in you and you will bear much fruit'. This fruit will be life-changing! Notwithstanding our crazy, hectic lives.... still- - abide (remain in Him) daily! How do we do that?? Just take small steps....eg. open your bible for a bit....spend time with Him every day!
- Do this and your life will look different! So when He APPEARS, your APPEARANCE will give you confidence. Prepare for His appearance! John is saying ...those of us who are believers (anointed) ...by the Holy

"Appear"
(Jesus)

- Spirit He gives us this power....in order for us to apply this power (and avoid deception), we just have to spend some time with Him (abiding!).
- Also, knowing that He is coming back should stir us to think very carefully about how we live our lives. When the Spirit of God is in our lives, it transforms everything.
 - Looking at the end of Ch. 2 and the beginning of Ch 3, the word 'appearing' is used five different times. Speaking of 'appear'.....and in the context of the startling/unsettling news about Israel, the question people are asking is: is this the end of times?....is Jesus coming back? Speaking in the context of Jesus appearing, we have never been closer than we are right now.

Increasingly
Fearful
Atmosphere

- Pastor Lee observes that a number of people (and particularly Jewish) are expressing fear....Pastor Lee encourages us to reach out/support them. He notes that only about 2% of Jewish people know Jesus and are thereby saved. Paradox: these are God's chosen people!
- Pastor traces the biblical history of Israel beginning with Abraham and God's promise of a great people and land...which moves to Isaac, Jacob, etc. Notwithstanding the ultimate faith that Abraham displayed, he earlier attempted to control God's promise via a son by Hagar. This son, Ishmael (and his descendants), as described in Genesis, would always be in contention with God's people.....today known as Islam. So the notion of Isaac coming up against Ishmael continues these many centuries til today.

Israel...
.....

- As we move thru the Old Test.Satan is always trying to end the genealogical line leading to Jesus. So the battle continues...even these past through weeks. Bible told us that Israel would be brought back into the land (1948)...means we are set up to be living in the final days. Israel is surrounded by countries looking to destroy it...a continuation of the Bible story. Anti-Semitism, boiling right now, is a demonic ideology promoted by those who hold an Anti-Christ agenda.

We Stand
With Them

- Pastor Lee refreshes our memories from last week: Verse 18: Children, it is the last hour and as you have heard, the anti-christ is coming and so now many anti-christs have come. Genesis 12 says....God will bless those who bless Israel and curse those who curse Israel.....and all people on earth will be blessed through you. So, **WE MUST STAND WITH ISRAEL.....Against Hamas violence...against their obvious deception. THE ENEMY IS ALIVE AND WELL AND SEEKS TO DESTROY US!** 1 Peter: 5:8 saysyour adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

SATAN is
Everywhere

- In our comfortable, seemingly safe world.....easy to forget that the enemy is seeking to destroy us! Israel, once again these past weeks, was deceived by evil. Warning: don't let Satan lie to you in your personal life. Everything is **NOT** fine! **SATAN WANTS TO DESTROY YOU.** Remember: you are anointed.....take time to abide in Jesus!!!!

Pray &
Abide

God
Loves
Us!

1 John 3:1-3 — -See what kind of love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know Him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared ; but we know that when He appears, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who thus hopes in Him purifies himself as He is pure.

Live,
Hope &
Abide
In Him!

- Encourage each other....don't let anyone slip away....we are God's children....whom He loves! Live in Him...Hope in Him.... **ABIDE** in Him... There is hope in the End....Jesus IS returning! Take comfort....even as the enemy surrounds Israel in the End and with the whole Nation seemingly doomed....God will not let that happen! Jesus will Win!!!!!! Steadfastly keep your eyes on Jesus....we know the ending!!!! 1 Thess: 4-18.....encourage one another!!!!!!!!!!!!!! He IS coming back!

Benediction: 1 Thess: 5 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

ABIDE:

1. WALK IN FAITH
2. SPEND FOCUSED TIME WITH GOD
3. ENGAGE IN INTENTIONAL GODLY ACTIONS
4. ABIDE IN CHRIST