

10/29/23- 'TRUTH & DECEPTION' (7)

PASTOR LEE

Be
Discerning

- Pastor Lee tells funny story....codeword/'dinosaur monster'/6 year old....frustrated the Dad but...he had obviously begun to effectively teach his child to be discerning and observant!! The point: Pastor Lee, as Pastor, is responsible for protecting the flock against those who look to deceive the children of God. Scripture is truth....not to be changed...It warns us!

Rely On
Scripture!

1 John 1-3— - (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 anti-christ, which you heard was coming and is now in the world already.

Distinguish:
Good
vs.
Demonic

- (1)...reminds us that there is a good Spirit and BAD spirits...the good Spirit, the Holy Spirit is leading and convicting you in truth...in God's way. But....there are unholy spirits roaming this earth trying to steal us away.....infiltrating... sometimes so subtly.. our minds (eg. the 'horror side' of Halloween).
- Between (1) and (3) we leap from a spirit not confessing in Christ (un-Godly) to the anti-christ! One and the same....in the world already! Don't be fooled by our human natural and our natural interest in the supernatural and beware the false attribution to God). **DO NOT BELIEVE EVERY SPIRIT! DISCERN!** Recognize there are demonic spirits!
- In your discernment, **WORDS MATTER!** The spirits (the unholy spirits) will try to guise satanic messages in manipulative, spiritual tones. Culture can lead us astray (eg. energy-emitting rocks) in ways we don't even detect. This is Satan at work.....imitating the Spirit. In fact, **EVERYTHING GOD HAS DONE.....SATAN TRIES TO COUNTERFEIT.....AND SEEKS YOU TO WORSHIP HIM.**
- We need to be able to call out false prophets! Pastor Lee's example: witnesses a conference speaker....a supposed respected expert, espousing that we should ignore 'that bothersome' Old Testament. Of course, in reality, horrifying teaching.....**ALL** scripture is inspired Word of God and is profitable for doctrine, reproof, training and righteousness. Don't be fooled by such false teachers/teaching!

Beware
Cultural
Trends

... And
false
teaching

Pursue
Godliness
&
Spirit of
Jesus

- There has never been a greater need for the Holy Spirit to be present and powerful in our lives than there is today! We need that welling up Spirit....this is why we need to be living holy lives, saying "NO" to sin, to be praying, to be in Scripture. **WHAT YOU WORSHIP CONTROLS YOU....WE WORSHIP JESUS! IT IS SPIRITUALLY EMPOWERING!**
- There are only two types of spirits: 1. Spirit of God; 2. Spirit of darkness and unholiness.

The
'Anti-christ'
is coming!
Soon???

- Litmus test: does the spirit confess Jesus...then from God. If not....dealing with evil spirit. Johova's Witnesses, Mormons, Muslims (teaching Jesus was a prophet, and even Judaism (still looking for a Messiah). **JESUS IS THE TEST OF ALL SPIRITUAL THOUGHT.** Other thought is the spirit of the anti-christ. It is Jesus, our God, that divides!
- Contrary spiritual thought conjures up the spirit of the anti-christ.....which V-3 says"....is now in the world already." Pastor Lee reminds of past two sermon themes: 1. Love God/Love others- intrinsically intertwined, and (previous) 2. Abiding in Him (and praying for peace in Jerusalem). This week: discernment....true spirit of God vs. false spirits.....leading us to realization that **THE ANTI-CHRIST IS COMING.**
- This anti-christ will come under the guise of peace. Relate that to horrifying events in the middle-east right now. Pastor Lee contrasts our very comfortable lives here in Chester County with the darkness/evil going on over there....can have a lulling effect on us. Pastor Lee reminds us of Ez 38 which tells how the armies of the world will surround Israel and the final battle will begin.
- At that time, a supposed peacemaker will rise up...one actually empowered by Satan (*the 'anti-christ'*), and will convincingly offer to quell war/discord. His disguise will be superb and work for a time (3.5 years). We need to harken back to these past sermons: truth- -discernment; love- -discernment.
- Pastor Lee predicts that...in our life time....we are going to have to deal with this.....the appearance of **THE anti-christ** - TRUTH crucial...discernment CRUCIAL.

Prophetic
Bible..

2 Peter 1:19— -And we have something more sure, the prophetic word, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

Be Prepared!

- Are we in a dark place right now?....this prophetic Word illuminates for us 'bible people'. 25% of the whole Bible is prophesy.....Pastor Lee believes that awareness of these prophecies will crystalize as we live our lives. In Mathew, it says that there will be wars and 'birth pangs'.... Are we now experiencing continuing iterations of these pangsor...might we really be at the start of 'end times'? We need to be ready and prepared.
- This anti-christ is referred specially in the Bible 5 times (1 John x 4....2 John x 1). ...in 2 Thess, he's referred to as the "man of lawlessness"....Rev 13, called "the beast". All the same figure created by Satan. Literally, "anti-christ" means "against or in place of Christ" (the Anointed One/Messiah).
- The "anti-christ" term has 2 dimensions: 1. the false prophets and the 'underchurning' spirits of anti-christ (sending us down ungodly paths/ ungodly worship, (putting Satan in control (eg. the 'dark side of halloween celebration...seemingly harmless to some but satanic)(or acceptance of multi-/fluid genders, christian cancelling, etc.)watch our culture with discernment! 2. The ultimate anti-christ arriving at any moment, satanic/evil by nature but, initially, *the 'grand masquerader'*. He will fool some in the Church but not informed, discerning believers.

'Anti-christ'
... who is
he?

Two
dimensional

Do Not Be
Deceived
or
Fear...

Wait For
Christ!

Stand Firm:
With Hope &
Faith In Him!

2 These 2: 1-7— - Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to Him (sic. the 'Rapture'), we ask you, brothers, not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed (sic. not a time for fear!), either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us , to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day (sic. 'Day of the Lord') will not come, unless the rebellion (sic. A deliberate turning away from God) comes first, and the man of lawlessness (sic. The 'anti-christ') is revealed, the son of destruction (sic only Judas also had this name), who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so the he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself (sic. the 'anti-christ') to be god. Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? And you know what is restraining him now so that he may be revealed in his time. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work (sic. Why are we ok with this now?!) Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way.

- There is Hope: 1) 1 John 4:1 ..."Beloved"....God loves you! 2) 1 John 4:4He who is in you is great than he who is in the world! **YOU ARE CONTROLLED BY FAITH....NOT FEAR!** 3) 2 Thess 2:8....the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of His mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming.

Jesus Wins!!!!
(2 Thess 2:16-17)

Trust Him!!!