

1 John 4:1-6

Pg 1023

Main Idea: Greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.

1. The Danger of False Prophecy (vs. 1)

a. The Supernatural Reality

b. The Natural Reality

2. The Victory for Believers (vs. 2, 4)

a. Apostolic Profession

b. Divine Power

3. The Need to Stay Alert (vs. 3, 5)

a. Antichrists have come

b. The King is coming

Sermon Study Guide

(Reminder: The purpose of the questions is to explore the text and themes of the sermon. **Do not feel a need to go through all of the questions.** The goal is to stimulate discussion/reflection and transformation related to the sermon text and themes.)

1. What do we know about the specific context in which John was writing his letter? What “spirits” and “false prophets” were present in John’s day? How does this translate to our context today? What are some ungodly spirits and false prophets that we see today both locally and globally?

2. What does John mean by “every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God?” How are we to understand this passage in light of other passages such as Mark 1:21-28 and Mark 3:7-12? What is the difference between a demonic profession of who Christ is and a Christian profession of who Christ is?

3. John is trying to bring his readers hope and encouragement by reminding them that “He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.” How does knowing this truth guard us from unhealthy fear knowing that the antichrist is coming and that many antichrists have already come? How does this same truth offer hope and encouragement for believers today?

4. John tells his audience to “test the spirits.” How does one do that? By what do we measure spiritual teaching? If John is writing to a local church, most likely Ephesus, what applications are there for us today that he tasks the whole congregation with testing the spirits? Is there a personal and congregational reality?

5. How do we guard our own hearts, families, and churches from the many antichrists that have gone out into the world?