

July 17, 2022

The Bridge Bible Fellowship

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1 John 2:18-27

Doctrinal Test #1: Abiding in the Truth – Part 3

1. True Christians Joyfully Abide in a Biblical Church (18-19)
2. **True Christians Joyfully Abide in the Biblical Gospel (20-25)**
 - a. **The Anointing (20-21)**

“*Biblical Doctrine*,” by MacArthur & Mayhue, pp. 389-390. “While Holy Spirit illumination is indispensably helpful, there are certain things that it is not and certain things that it cannot do. These limitations remind believers not to expect what Scripture does not promise:

1. Illumination does not function outside God’s Word (Ps. 119:18; Lk. 24:45).
2. Illumination does not guarantee that every Christian will agree doctrinally, because the human element can cause false doctrine (Gal. 2:11-21).
3. Illumination does not mean that everything about God is knowable (Deut. 29:29).
4. Illumination does not render the need for human teachers unnecessary (Eph. 4:11; 1 Tim. 3:2; 2 Tim. 4:2).
5. Illumination is not a substitute for dedicated, personal Bible study (2 Tim. 2:15).
6. Illumination is not a one-time experience (2 Tim. 2:15).”

b. The Antichrist (22-23) - ²² Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son. ²³ Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also.

1) False Christian (22-23a)

a) Confession

b) Consequences

2) True Christian (23b)

a) Confession

b) Consequences

So What?

Discussion and Application:

1. What is “**sound doctrine**?” Why is it important? How does sound doctrine unite true believers?
2. What are some doctrines that are not essential to knowing that you have eternal life? [Doctrines where true Christians may disagree] Is it important to strive to be right on those doctrines? How should we approach discussions with true believers on doctrinal issues that are not essential to salvation?
3. **Who is Jesus?** Is it essential that we believe in His **deity** (that He is eternal God)? How do we know He is God? What Scriptures support this? What is the Trinity? Is it essential that we believe in the Trinity? What Scriptures support the **Trinity**?
4. Why is it essential that we be right about the **Person** of Jesus? (See John 8:12-30, especially vv. 24, 28) If someone believes in “a Jesus,” but it’s not the true Jesus of the Bible, is that good enough for God? If not, why not? [Note: discuss the difference between “faith” and the “object of your faith” when it comes to salvation]
5. What does the word “**Christ**” mean? What does this tell us about the work of Christ? What does the Old Testament teach us about the **work** of the Christ (Messiah)? (See Gen. 3:15; Ps. 22; 110; Is. 52-53; Dan. 9:24-27...) What does the New Testament teach us about Jesus fulfilling that work?
6. What happens to the person who puts their **trust in their own works plus the work of Jesus** to be saved? (See Rom. 3:19-28; Eph. 2:8-9; Gal. 2:15-16, 21; 3:11; 5:1-9; Titus 3:5-7)
7. What does John say about the person who claims to have a relationship with God, but they don’t believe in Jesus? Why can we only go to the Father through the Son?
8. Can a person who trusts in their own works have absolute **assurance** they have eternal life? How does trusting in the Person and finished work of Jesus Christ alone give us that assurance? How does (should) that impact our joy?
9. What do **you** believe about the Person and Work of Jesus? Have you publicly confessed that you have faith in Jesus Christ alone for salvation? Are you sure that you have eternal life right now?
10. Make a list of people you know who don’t currently have a correct understanding of the Person and Work of Jesus Christ. Pray for them daily asking the Lord to send His Spirit to open their eyes to the truth of the Gospel. Make plans to get together with them and share the truth of the Gospel with them, how the Lord opened your eyes, and how you know for sure that you have eternal life.
11. **Memorize 1 John 2:22-23.**