

September 18, 2022

The Bridge Bible Fellowship

Pastor Paul S. Brown

1 John 2:18-27

Doctrinal Test #1: Abiding in the Truth – Part 5

C. The Doctrinal Test – 2:18-27

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)

b. The Antichrist (22-23)

1) _____ Christian (22-23a)

a) Confession – “Jesus is not the Christ!” (Deny His Person and Work)

b) Consequences

(1)

(2)

(3)

(4)

2) _____ Christian (23b)

a) Confession – “Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God the Father!” (Mt. 10:32f; 1 Jn. 4:2; 5:5; Rom. 10:9-13; Acts 2:36-40)

b) Consequences

(1)

(2)

(3)

(4)

c. The Appeal: _____ (24-25)

1) Perseverance

2) Promises

So What?

Discussion and Application:

1. The Pew Research Center believes the percentage of Christians in America is shrinking and projects by the year 2070 that Christians will make up less than 50% of the population. What percentage of the population in America do you think are “**true**” Christians right now? If you could give **tests** to determine if someone in America was a “true” Christian, what would you include? What **doctrinal questions** would you ask? What verses would you use to support using those questions as a valid test?
2. What are the **four negative consequences** of not believing the truth about Jesus Christ? If Jesus came back today, do you know people (even religious people) that would match that description?
3. What does it mean to “**confess**” the Son? How does this relate to **baptism** and the **Lord’s Supper**? What are the implications for a true believer’s daily life (**personal testimony**)? Are you characterized by confessing the Son publicly? If not, why not? What skills do you need to develop or strengthen to be a better public testimony for Jesus Christ?
4. If a person denies Jesus as the Son of God, they lose out on the Father. If a person confesses Jesus as the Son of God, they get the Father too. Why is that? What other Bible passages support that?
5. What are the **four positive consequences** of believing the biblical truth about Jesus Christ? How might meditating on those things deepen your assurance and joy? Plan several times this week to meditate on the biblical gospel of Jesus Christ and its implications in your life. Sing songs of praise to God for so great a salvation.
6. What is the Apostle John’s appeal in **1 John 2:24-25**? What is it that is supposed to abide in us? What is the doctrine of **perseverance** (preservation of the saints; eternal security)? Why does a true Christian abide / persevere to the end? What does God do? What is the true believer supposed to do? (See 1 Peter 1:3-5; John 6:37-47; 10:27-30; Eph. 1:13-14; Phil. 1:6; Rom. 8:28-39; Phil. 2:12-13; 1 Jn. 2:24; 2 Pet. 1:3-11) If a person who once professed faith in the true Gospel of Jesus Christ, and then turns away from it, what does that reveal about their “faith”? (See Mt. 13; 1 John 2:19)
7. What are the **two promises** in 1 John 2:24-25? What is “**eternal**” life? When does it start? Is it quantity or quality?
8. How are you doing on the **Moral Test, Social Test, and Doctrinal Test**? Are you **sure** that you have eternal life right now? Is it obvious that God has caused you to be born again? If so, rejoice in so great a salvation and share the gospel with others. If not, turn from sin right now and trust in Jesus Christ alone to be your Savior and Lord. Call on Him to receive forgiveness, righteousness, and eternal life.
9. Make a list of people you know who don’t currently have an assurance of salvation. 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.
10. **Memorize 1 John 2:24-25.**

[Answers to blanks: *False; True; Abide*]