

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1) 07 June	1John 1
2) 14 June	1John 2
3) 21 June	1John 3
4) 28 June	1John 4
5) 05 July	1John 5
6) 12 July	2 nd John & 3 rd John
7) 19 July	Rev 1
8) 26 July	Rev 2-3
9) 02 August	Rev 4-6
10) 09 August	Rev 7-13
11) 16 August	Rev 14-17
12) 23 August	Rev 18
13) 30 August	Rev 19-22

INTRODUCTION

- We need to discern God's will, & we need to discern other spirits as well, for we are marked as targets for deception by the enemy
- Scripture tells us, *"Do not deceive yourself"* (1Cor 3:18; Jam 1:26), *"Be not deceived by anyone"* (Eph 5:6; 2Thes 2:3), and watch out for the great deceiver, Satan (Rev 12:9; 13:14; 19:20; 20:10)
 - ◆ How do we deceive ourselves?
 - ◆ How can others deceive us?
 - ◆ How can Satan deceive us?
 - ◆ What is the common trait for getting deceived by ourselves, by someone else, or by Satan? *"Ooooo, something shiny...."*
- So, how do we prevent being deceived?
 - ◆ Cling to what is true. And what would that be?Ps 119
 - The Internet? | Co-workers? | Newsweek? | God's Word

Illustration. A trained dog who is told not to eat his treat won't focus on the forbidden treat, but instead will put his eyes on his master. In similar fashion, we need to keep our eyes on our Master

Passage	Comments
Sidebar Discussion	In brief, our hearts/minds are only truly known by our omniscient God. Satan can only guess real goodPs 139:1-4; Jn 2:23-25 The Bible never explicitly says that Satan cannot know our thoughts, but it never shows him doing so; though he might be able to inject thoughts into someone's mind, by God's allowance, of course.
How far can Satan go to deceive someone?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Satan & his demons may not be able to read and know our minds like God does, but they can monitor our eye movements and our checkbook, and tell where our heart is each and every day • Example. When Satan entered Judas we can only speculate that deceptive greedy thoughts were given to him, but Judas was still held accountable for acting on those thoughtsMat 26:24 We succumb to our own lusts for pleasure, power, and greed, which are often attributed to Satan as his lies and deceptions (e.g., Kings Saul & David, Judas, Peter, Ananias & Sapphira) since he is known as the father of all lies (John 8:44). Yet, we are totally accountable, like Judas, for acting on any thoughts we have in our minds.
How do we tell if a thought is from Satan or from our own evil heart?	What about the lying spirit that caused some false prophets to mislead King Ahab.....1Kings 22:22-23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First of all, it was God that allowed and even enabled the lying spirit to do what he did. We are not told how the spirit accomplished the job. We can only speculate it might've been temporary possession (Note. If this lying spirit was not an evil spirit, then this is the first and only case of an angelic possession – but it is speculation only) • 2nd, the false prophets were not robots or puppets, so they would have been accountable for every word that came from their lips
And can Satan even read minds and inject thoughts into our minds?	So how does a demon or demons control someone? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demons can ravish the bodies of believers and non-believers with disease & pain (e.g., Job). The demoniacs we see in Scripture seem to be in physical & mental torment, but even the possessed are held accountable for their actions – else, they would have an excuse before God for their sinful thoughts & actionsRom 1:20
And how do we tell if someone is demon-possessed?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several demons spoke through their hosts, which indicate they can inject thoughts into one's mind for words and actions to come out (e.g., a legion of demons spoke to Christ in Mark 5, and after being expelled from the man he was noted to be in his "right mind"; & an evil spirit spoke to & assaulted some would-be exorcists in Acts 19. • Conclusion. Christians can take comfort we cannot be possessed by demons, though we could be obsessed and afflicted by them

Passage	Comments
1John 4:1-3	<p>Test the Spirits – HOW?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The spirits in this context are not necessarily demonic or angelic, but the spirits of people. Our spirit is the real essence of who we are • Therefore, does someone's spirit (the real individual) truly believe, according to the Bible, in Christ or not? • Every belief or doctrine someone utters to us should be tested against the Bible. This is testing the spirits.
Let's Test the Spirits	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. God wants us healthy, wealthy, and wise 2. Speaking in Tongues and having other spiritual gifts are still for the church today 3. There are many roads one can take to get to God 4. Same sex marriages/unions should be accepted 5. It's OK to go militant on certain biblical issues 6. It's OK to speed and disregard police instructions 7. Others: _____ <p><input type="checkbox"/> True <input type="checkbox"/> False <input type="checkbox"/> Depends <input type="checkbox"/> Don't Know <input type="checkbox"/> Don't Care <input type="checkbox"/> Liberty</p>
4:4-6	<p>Recognize the Spirit of Truth and Error– WHERE?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He, the Holy Spirit, is in us and empowers us for service to the point we resonate with other believers • We compare all viewpoints with what the Bible says to determine truth from error
4:7-12	<p>God's Love is Made Complete In Us – WHAT?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does this love look like? <input type="checkbox"/> Encouraging? <input type="checkbox"/> Generous? <input type="checkbox"/> Helpful? <input type="checkbox"/> Self-sacrificing? • We are God's arms to hold, hands to help, words to heal – IOW, God accomplishes (completes) His love in others' lives through our words and actions
4:13-16	<p>Acknowledge Jesus is the Son of God – HOW?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior begins our sanctification process • At the point of salvation God takes residence in us and we also "live in Him" • Since God is agape love how do we exhibit His love?
4:17-18	<p>Love is Made Complete Again – WHEN?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observe the process in vs 17-18 in reverse order: (v18) If we have fear (no faith in God) we have no love → But God's perfect love (which is ours at salvation) eliminates this fear → (v17) we become like Him (because of His love) & we have confidence we are His, and we complete His love
4:19-21	<p>We Must Love – WHO?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who are our brothers? In brief, it is fellow believers • Why are they hard to love? Because they are like us: they are selfish sinners; they think they are right; they know it all; and they dare to try to correct us! • Shouldn't we love unbelievers? That's another lesson

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- We should have a healthy fear of our enemy; BUT greater is He who is in us than he who is in the world
- What confidence we should have then to battle the forces of darkness and snatch many away from the fires of Hell

NEXT WEEK: 1John 5. *"These things are written for us that we might know we have eternal life" ... Assurance of salvation and of God's approval brings such wonderful comfort, confidence, and joy for us to boldly accomplish things for God's kingdom*

