

# authentic christianity

## THE LETTER OF I JOHN

**1** That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— <sup>2</sup> the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the

**2** My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. <sup>2</sup> He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. <sup>3</sup> And by

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# Beliefs Matter

## **I John 4:1-6 (ESV)**

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. <sup>2</sup> By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God

## **I John 4:1-6 (ESV)**

<sup>3</sup> and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. <sup>4</sup> Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

## **I John 4:1-6 (ESV)**

<sup>5</sup> They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. <sup>6</sup> We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

## **I John 4:1 (ESV)**

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.

## **I John 4:2-3 (ESV)**

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 antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already.

## **I John 4:4 (ESV)**

Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

## **I John 4:5 (ESV)**

They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them.

## **I John 4:6 (ESV)**

We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

## **Luke 24:39 (ESV)**

See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.

## **Your Beliefs Matter:**

When a crisis hits – How do you deal with suffering?

In a changing world – Homosexuality

In everyday life – Finances and Possession

## **Your Beliefs Matter When Suffering**

I Peter 4:12 not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.

# Your Beliefs Matter When Suffering

## Suffering:

grows us in holiness - Psalm 119:67

produces perseverance - Romans 5:3

grows us in maturity - James 1:2-4

is used to teach us the word - Psalm 119:71

allows us to encourage others - 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

weans us off of self-reliance - 2 Corinthians 1:8b-9

glorifies God - 1 Peter 1:6b-7

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## **Your Beliefs Matter When Suffering**

Hebrews 2:18 because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted

## **Your Beliefs Matter in a Changing World**

*Some people think of world religions as Christianity's main competitors. Yet I think it can be fairly said that the main competitor that Christianity faces today in the West is not Islam or Judaism. It is not atheism or Hinduism. It is eroticism—the increasingly uninhibited search for fulfilling our sexual passions in whatever form we please.*

Mark Dever

## **Your Beliefs Matter in a Changing World**

Matthew 11:28-30 <sup>28</sup> Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

## Your Beliefs Matter in Everyday Life

Luke 12:15-21 <sup>15</sup> And he said to them, “Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.” <sup>16</sup> And he told them a parable, saying, “The land of a rich man produced plentifully, <sup>17</sup> and he thought to himself, ‘What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?’

## Your Beliefs Matter in Everyday Life

<sup>18</sup> And he said, 'I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. <sup>19</sup> And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.'" <sup>20</sup> But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?'

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## **Your Beliefs Matter in Everyday Life**

<sup>21</sup> So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.”

## How Do We Correctly Test the Spirits?

Receive the Word with Humility

James 1:19-21 <sup>19</sup> Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; <sup>20</sup> for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. <sup>21</sup> Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

## How Do We Correctly Test the Spirits?

- 1) Receive the Word with Humility
- 2) Read the Word:

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 <sup>4</sup> “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. <sup>5</sup> You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

## How Do We Correctly Test the Spirits?

<sup>6</sup> And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. <sup>7</sup> You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. <sup>8</sup> You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.

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## **How Do We Correctly Test the Spirits?**

<sup>9</sup> You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

# Your Beliefs Matter in Everyday Life

How Do We Correctly Test the Spirits?

1. Receive the Word with Humility
2. Read the Word
3. Obey the Word:

I John 2:4 Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

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**If you would like to talk to Tad about the sermon, please feel free to call him or email him.**



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