

FIRST JOHN STUDY

CHAPTER 4:1-6

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“Living in the Daze of Deception” - Part 5

The Deception of Easy Believe-ism

“What’s with the Cross?”

THE THEME OF THE BOOK:

1 John 1:3

“that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.”

TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Deception, False Doctrine, Last Days Signs & Wonders

Verse 3

“and every **spirit** that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God..... And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming.... and is now already in the world.”

Back - 2,000 years ago, John was Warning the early Church that Even as it was Growing in the Grace and Knowledge of Jesus Christ. Parallel Alongside such healthy church Growth There would be dangerous impostors within the faith

Matthew 13:24-33

A parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; 25 "but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. 26 "But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared. 27 "So the servants of the owner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?' 28 "He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' The servants said to him, 'Do you want us then to go and gather them up?' 29 "But he said, 'No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. 30 'Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn.'""

Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field, 32 "which indeed is the least of all the seeds; but when it is grown it is greater than the herbs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches." 33

Another parable He spoke to them: "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened."

2 Timothy 3:1-5

But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: 2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, 4 traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

#1

That There were spirits confessing a falsehood about Jesus Christ...

A Denial of His Bodily Existence

1 John 4:3a

and every **spirit** that does not **confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh** is not of God.....

#2

That There are spirit powers diametrically opposed to Jesus Christ...

AN ATTACK AGAINST HIS PREEMINENCE

1 John 4:3b

..... And this is the **spirit** of the **Antichrist**,
which you have heard was coming....

#3

And that there has always been an increasing agenda to deceive and to mislead away from Jesus Christ...

An ever increasing presence in the church

1 John 4:3c

...and is now already in the world."

Paul Warned Earnestly !!!

Acts 20:27-31

"For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God. 28 "Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. 29 "For I know this, that after my departure savage **wolves will come in among you**, not sparing the flock. 30 "**Also from among yourselves men will rise up**, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. 31 "Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.

Again Paul Warned !!!

2 Timothy 2:16-18

But shun profane and idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness. 17 And their message will spread like cancer. Hymenaeus and Philetus are of this sort, 18 who have strayed concerning the truth,

Living in the Daze of Deception

The Deception of Easy Believe-ism

“What’s with the Cross?”

1.) *What is Easy Believe-ism ?*

Easy believe-ism is The preaching and teaching of a lesser gospel which is rooted in the conscious or unconscious neglect of the full counsel of God.

It is an attempt to alter, change, replace or recreate an alternative gospel message from that which has already been revealed in the Biblical account.

It’s an error that can be made easily if the “Respect of man” is anywhere present within the preacher, teacher or evangelist

a.) *It’s a Modernization of the Gospel*

The preaching of a social gospel

Often Masked In Colorful Flyers or Gilded Announcements
“12 Steps to Having a Meaningful Life”
The 5 Principles of Successful Living

!!! This is not the Gospel !!!
but a convenient substitute – that sounds great – but has no spiritual application

“The Bible was Written a Long Time Ago”

2 Timothy 4:2-4

Preach the word!

Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; 4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

1 Corinthians 1:17

For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect. 18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

DANGER

The church should never lower its standard, but it should come down to pick up all those who will listen and receive the grace of God

b.) It's a gospel without a cross

The preaching of a cheap gospel

NEGLECTS THE CROSS

It's A Cross-less Gospel

Philippians 3:18

For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the **enemies** of the cross of Christ:

* **enemies** grk 2190 echthros (ech-thros');
to despise, to hate, to be an adversary against. A chief enemy (satan)

Isn't it Interesting That Mormonism and the Watchtower Association (JW) Despise and Resist the Cross

Galatians 1:6-9

I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, 7 which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. 8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. 9 As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.

It is on the basis of the Cross that our sins were removed. This is the grand doctrine, - that justification and salvation are only through Christ and Him crucified, He having made an atonement for the sin of the world by his suffering and death.

1 Corinthians 1:18

For **the message of the cross** is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved **it is the power of God.**

**the message of the cross -- is the power of God
to us who are being saved
*What is Easy Believe-ism ?***

c.) It's a preaching that kills

It's preaching that inoculates against the truth

Preaching That Kills

Is a preaching that misleads people away from the only true source of salvation – Jesus Christ

Titus 1:16

They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him,

1 Timothy 6:3-5

If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness, 4 he is proud, knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions, 5 useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. From such withdraw yourself.

2.) *Easy Believe-ism Discredits the Cross*

It Breeds a Humanistic Based

a.) *It devalues the necessity of the cross*

By Cheapening the Gospel

**The Cross of Jesus Christ is the Center Piece of
Humanity**

John 3:14-15

"And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15 "that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

Hebrews 9:22

...without shedding of blood there is no remission.

b.) *It is contrary to biblical doctrine*

**The New Testament is a Commentary on The Old
Testament**

Psalm 22:16

...They pierced My hands and My feet;

Zechariah 12:10

"And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they have pierced; they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.

Matthew 16:24-25

Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. 25 "For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

Why Easy Believe-ism Discredits the Cross

c.) It attempts to soften man's sinfulness

Romans 3:23

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Romans 3:10-12

As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one; 11 There is none who understands; there is none who seeks after God. 12 They have all turned aside; they have together become unprofitable; there is none who does good, no, not one."

Romans 5:17-18

For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.) 18 Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life.

3.) Identifying Easy Believe-ism

Listen for What is not There
(Void of Biblical Content)

a.) A message void of conviction

John 8:9

Then those who heard it, being convicted by their conscience, went out one by one, beginning with the oldest even to the last. And Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.

Jesus Wasn't Interested in Winning the Case, I think He was Interested in Their Conversions

Isaiah 55:10-11

As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, 11 so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

Psalms 107:20

He sent forth his word and healed them; he rescued them from the grave.

2 Timothy 4:3-5

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; 4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. (VERSE 5 IS THE INSURANCE AGAINST THEM) But you **#1** - be watchful in all things, **#2** - endure afflictions, **#3** - do the work of an evangelist, **#4** - fulfill your ministry.

b.) A message void of repentance

**Jesus' Preaching was Intended
to Result in Repentance**

Mark 2:16-17

And when the scribes and Pharisees saw Him eating with the tax collectors and sinners, they said to His disciples, "How is it that He eats and drinks with tax collectors and sinners?" 17 When Jesus heard it, He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."

Peter Reminds us That Salvation must first Come via Repentance

2 Peter 3:9

The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

It was Paul's Goal to Instruct Timothy To preach Repentance

2 Timothy 2:24-26

And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, 25 in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if **God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth**, 26 and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.

Acts 17:30-31

"Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, 31 "because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."

c.) A message void of power

A Denial of the Cross and the Power thereof

d.) A message void of joy

A Cheap Presentation of the Cross Lessens the Effect of the Cross. – a Joyless Belief

1.) *Why is The Cross So Important ?*

In a Way, The Cross Acted Like an Altar

“Behold The Lamb...”

“Behold Our High Priest...”

Hebrews 9:11-12

But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.

Hebrews 10:12

But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever,
sat down at the right hand of God,

Hebrews 9:14

how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

the message of the cross -- is the power of God

The Cross Was a Gross and Brutal Tool

Hebrews 12:2

looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Why is The Cross So Important

a.) It satisfied God's demand for justice

Isaiah 53:8-11

He was taken from prison and from judgment, and who will declare His generation? For He was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgressions of My people He was stricken. 9 And they made His grave with the wicked-- but with the rich at His death, because He had done no violence, nor was any deceit in His mouth 10 Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; he has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, he shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand. 11 He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, for He shall bear their iniquities.

b.) It cancelled my sin-debt

Colossians 2:14-15

having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. 15 And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

The Doctrine of Atonement Was Provided At Calvary's Cross

- 1.) It was the place of Substitution (in my place)
- 2.) It was the place of Redemption (bought me out)
- 3.) It was the place of Propitiation (satisfied wrath's demand)
- 4.) It was the place of Reconciliation (united us to God)
- 5.) It was the place of Forgiveness (to cancel the debt)
- 6.) It was the place of Judgment (took my penalty)

7.) It was the place of Fulfillment of the Law (did what I couldn't do)

- It Accomplished for You **Justification** (declared righteous)
- It Accomplished for You **Adoption** (receiving total heir-ship with Christ)
- It Accomplished for You **Sanctification** (sainthood, holiness to God)

c.) It purchased my salvation

Colossians 1:19-22

For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, 20 and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross. 21 And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled 22 in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight--

c.) It's provided forgiveness for all mankind

1 John 2:1-2

My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. 2 And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only **but also for the whole world.**

2 Corinthians 5:19

...that God was in Christ **reconciling the world to Himself**, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.