

“Obeying Truth and Shunning Error”

1 John 4:1-6

Introduction

- I. Contrary to popular sentiment, there is truth and there is error.
- II. Polar opposites as they may be, they still exist.
- III. We should do everything that we can to obey the truth and refuse the error.

Discussion

- I. John instructed that Christians are to “try the spirits” (1 John 4:1-3).
 - A. There were definitely false teachers in the first century.
 1. Jesus warned about them (Matt. 7:15-20).
 2. Paul warned about them (2 Cor. 11:12-15).
 - B. John dealt directly with those who were known as “Gnostics”.
 1. They rejected that Jesus actually came in the flesh (John 1:14; 1 John 1:1-4; 4:3).
 2. These were true “antichrists” (1 John 2:22).
- II. By obeying truth and shunning error, Christians have “overcome” (1 John 4:4).
 - A. Christians demonstrate their rejection of error by obeying the Gospel (Rom. 1:16; 1 John 5:4-5).
 - B. Christians must remain diligent or else they can be swayed by error (Gal. 1:6-8; 2 Pet. 3:14-18; 2 Tim. 3:13-15).
- III. As “overcomers”, Christians can claim to “be of God” (1 John 4:5-6).
 - A. We must readily accept that the world by large does not want to hear what we have to say.
 - B. As such, the world wants us to conform to what they want us to say and do (2 Tim. 4:3-4; John 15:18-20).
 - C. We must continue to strive against the error and the upholding of truth!
 - A. God has plainly shown throughout history that there is a difference (John 8:31-32).
 - B. By properly utilizing the Word of God, we can be trained to identify and defeat error (Heb. 5:12-14).

Conclusion

- I. While some belittle it, truth is very valuable (Prov. 23:23).
- II. May we be those that obey truth and shun error!