

“Testing for Truth”

1st John 4:1-6 Study Guide

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Background and Theme

Author: The Apostle John

Date Written: 90-92 AD

Audience: The global church close to the turn of the first century who was growing, persecuted, and learning to live for Jesus.

Theme of 1st John: Walking in the Light

I. Called to Test

- **Key Word:** Test, “dokimazō” (Greek)
- **Meaning:** To scrutinize and investigate closely.

II. Test One: View of Jesus

III. Test Two: Viewed in the World

Verses Referenced: Jude 1:3, 2nd Peter 2:1, 1st Thessalonians 5:19-22, Acts 20:29-31, John 10

Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

- 1. Knowing that false teaching was/is rampant, John calls every believer to be ready and willing to test for truth. Do you believe that this call is for every believer, including yourself, or just for some (apologists, pastors, elders)?

- 2. John’s first test of a teacher’s legitimacy is their view of Jesus. What are some “red flags” for the listener of a message that doesn’t represent the biblical Jesus? Where do you find the truth to combat those red flags in scripture?

- 3. John’s second test of a teachers’ legitimacy is how they are viewed and accepted by the unbelieving world. In what ways have you seen pastors and teachers seeking acceptance from the world today so as to build their own kingdom instead of God’s? How can the church combat this type of behavior?

This week, re-read 1st John 4:1-6 and pray through the truths you find while reading. Find someone to discuss these chapters with, and share the word with someone you don’t know as well.

Notes:

For questions or comments email Pastor Justin at ccparis.mail@gmail.com