*“With the Master Before the Mirror of God’s Word”* by Susan Heck

A Ladies Bible Study on First John

Tuesday, November 5th, 2019

*“As we begin our study of chapter four of 1 John, Susan presents us with a couple of questions that we all may have asked ourselves at one time or another. Her questions are these: “Can a genuine believer be led into error? Can a genuine believer be led astray by false prophets?” Susan say, “I’m grateful that I don’t personally have to answer that question for you, as God the Holy Spirit through the aged old Apostle John gives us the answers.” (pg.209)*

**Susan’s Summary** of Chapter 15– “Discerning Truth from Error” – 1 John 4:1-6 (pg.’s 220-221)

In this lesson we have considered:

*“Our responsibility to Discern False Teachers” (v 1)*

So what is our responsibility in discerning false teachers?

It is to not believe but to test every teacher.

*“Our Methods for Discerning False Teachers “ (vv 2,3)*

So what is our method for discerning false teachers?

Those who confess that Jesus is the Christ and came in the flesh is of God, and those who do not confess that Jesus came in the flesh are not of God!

*“Our Promise to Overcome False Teachers” (v 4)*

John promises that we will overcome false teachers because greater is the One in us than the one in the world.

*“Our Vast Differences with False Teachers” (vv5,6)*

What are our vast differences with false teachers?

They are of the world; they speak like the world; and the world hears them.

Those who are of God, however, know God and listen to the true teachers.

I have had a growing concern over the past few years seeing the number of professing believers who are being swallowed up by false teachers has multiplied. People are following a name, but do not consider the message that is being preached. I have heard several speakers over the past few years take liberties with Scripture, pervert the gospel, and use the Bible for their own means, giving no thought or study to its original meaning or context.

What is so sad about this is that men and especially women, sorry to say, sit in the audiences with mouths wide open, receiving what is heard as if it is truth. **Be careful** about following the masses and those who teach the crowds. Those who faithfully teach God’s Word are not going to win a popularity contest, because people do not want to hear about sin or the demands that Christ makes on them, or how to change their lives.

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**Be careful** about people who are cunning and try to convince you by their experiences or by the miraculous things they claim have happened to them. Some people are swallowed up and duped when they hear others share their experiences. Experience alone is worth nothing! All kinds of cults and false teachers can give you their “experience” stories, but the crucial questions to ask are not, “What is your experience?” but, What do you teach? Can it be backed up with the Word of God? Do you live out what you teach?”

These are the questions to ask.  **Be careful**, ladies about believing everything you hear. There’s a lot of stuff out there, even in the Christian bookstores, that has nothing to do with Christianity. Don’t be gullible, and don’t believe everything you read and hear.

***You must protect yourself, and you must do that by being prepared, by knowing God and by knowing His Word.*** You and I should be like the Berean believers, of whom Paul says in Acts 17:11, “These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.”