

FIRST JOHN CHAPTER FOUR

Outline by David B. Watson

THE COMMANDS (1)

- A. The Requirements:
 - a. “Beloved, believe not every spirit”
 - b. “But try the spirits whether they are of God”
- B. The Reason: “Because many false prophets are gone out into the world”

THE CONFESSION (2-3)

- A. The Confession: (2-3)
 - a. “Hereby know ye the Spirit of God”
 - b. “Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God”
 - c. “And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God”
- B. The Anti-Christ (3) “This is that *spirit* of antichrist”
 - a. “Whereof ye have heard that it should come”
 - b. “Even now already is it in the world”

THE COMPARISON (4-6) “Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error”

- A. The Children of God: (4) “Ye are of God, little children” and “We are of God” (6)
 - a. Ye “have overcome them”
 - b. “Because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world”
 - c. “He that knoweth God heareth us”
- B. The Children of the World: (5-6) “They are of the world”
 - a. “Therefore speak they of the world”
 - b. “The world heareth them”
 - c. “He that is not of God heareth not us”

THE CHARITY (7-21)

- A. The Mandate of Love: (7-8, 11, 19-21)
 - a. Love Demanded: (7, 11, 19-21)
 - i. “Beloved, let us love one another” (7)
 - 1. “For love is of God”
 - 2. “Every one that loveth is born of God and knoweth God”
 - ii. “Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another” (11)
 - iii. “We love him, because he first loved us” (19)
 - 1. “If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar” (20)
 - 2. “For he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen” (20)
 - iv. “And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also” (21)

- b. Love Defined: (8)
 - i. "He that loveth not knoweth not God"
 - ii. "For God is love"
- B. The Manifestation of Love: (9-10, 12-18) "In this was manifested the love of God toward us" (9)
 - a. The Proof of God's Love: (9, 14, 16)
 - i. "Because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him" (9)
 - ii. "And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son *to be* the Saviour of the world" (14)
 - iii. "And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us" (16)
 - b. The Propitiation of God's Love: (10) "Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins"
 - c. The Presence of God's Love: (13, 16)
 - i. "Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit" (13)
 - ii. "God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him" (16)
 - d. The Profession of God's Love: (15) "Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God"
 - e. The Perfecting of God's Love: (12, 17-18)
 - i. "No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us" (12)
 - ii. "Herein is our love made perfect" (17)
 - 1. "That we may have boldness in the day of judgment"
 - 2. "Because as he is, so are we in this world"
 - iii. "There is no fear in love" (18)
 - 1. "Perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment"
 - 2. "He that feareth is not made perfect in love"