

1st John

Rhinestone Christianity

Things aren't always as they appear – Here are two more simple questions designed to reveal who's for real and who's just pretending to know God.

1 John 2:18-29

THE PASSAGE: *Beware, the Antichrist may have moved into a neighborhood near yours!* 1 John 2:18-29

Three Things To Watch Out For:

The Telltale Signs of a Modern Day Spiritual Deceiver

1 John 2:22-27 1 Tim 1:6-7 & 2 Cor 11:3-4 & 13-15
Galatians 1:8-9

TWO SIMPLE QUESTIONS:

1) The Perseverance question:

Did they _____ or _____?

1 John 2:19 Hebrews 10:35-39 Matthew 13:1-23

Good starts don't _____.

Don't judge too quickly: _____ don't always mean a _____.

So why do some of us _____?

1 John 2:19 1 Corinthians 10:13 & 1 Peter 1:6-7

Matthew 13:1-23 Hebrews 10:24-25

2) The Jesus question:

Is Jesus _____ or _____?

1 John 2:22-26 Hebrews 1:3 & Colossians 2:9

John 14:6-9 Galatians 2:21 & 1 Timothy 2:5-6

If Jesus isn't _____, He's not a _____ either.

He's a _____!

1. Have you ever been surprised to see someone take a major detour or even “bail out” on God when it seemed they were so solidly grounded in their commitment to Jesus? Have you ever found yourself in a similar situation?

2. How would you want someone to respond to you, if they saw you headed on a major spiritual detour?

3. Perseverance is the “stick-to-it” quality we all want to have when there’s a commitment or task to be accomplished. Jonathan, the son of King Saul, and close friend of David (who killed Goliath) gave us a great example of perseverance in his commitment to God. His distractions were significant as he came from a royal family of wealth, stature and high dysfunction. Jonathan also had exceptional personal strength and leadership ability which also could have been a distraction. As you read the following excerpts from his story, write down how his accomplishments and/or challenges could have been a rationale to “bail out” on God.

1 Samuel 14:6-14

1 Samuel 20:1-3

1 Samuel 20:24-33

1 Samuel 31:1-3

Which of these would be the biggest distraction to you and why?

4. This weekend we heard how important it is to follow the biblical Jesus that proclaims Him as God. Knowing Jesus is equally important to the new Christian and the longtime follower of Jesus. The challenge for the new Christian is to gain more familiarity. In contrast, the challenge for the longtime follower is to not allow familiarity to quench their appreciation of what Jesus has done and their pursuit of Him. What do the following verses tell you about who Jesus is or what He has done for us?

Matthew 24:27-30

John 3:17

Acts 17:30-31

Hebrews 4:15

1 John 3:4-5

5. How could the following verses in Isaiah 40 help us keep or build a perspective of perseverance in following Jesus?

Isaiah 40:3-5

Isaiah 40:21-23

Isaiah 40:28-31

5. As result of this week’s teaching and study, what was most helpful to you regarding spiritual perseverance?