

## A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED UPON JOHN'S FIRST EPISTLE

### TO WHOM SHOULD YOU LISTEN

1 John 4:5-6 "They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error."

Who should you believe? Where should you go for sound advice and wise counsel? Literally every day new books are published written by authors wanting to give you what they believe is sound advice and counsel. Included among these publications are those who purport to give you good spiritual counsel. In fact, many of these writers do not present to their readers the truth of God's word.

To whom then should you go for spiritual counsel. Who is it that presents to you good, sound, truthful explanations of God's word and will? Remember, John wrote in verse 1 of this chapter, ". . .do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God." He warned in this same verse there are many "false prophets (messengers)" in the world. He then gave you the "how" you can determine to whom you should listen, "By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God." (1 John 4:2-3)

There are many wise people in this world. There are many books and articles filled with much wisdom. There are excellent counselors, professional and otherwise. But, unless they undergird their wisdom, counsel and advice with the Good News of God's love for you in Christ Jesus, what they have to say is deficient. In the end it will not meet your every need. Their words will leave you lacking.

There are those who speak from the world and there are those who speak from God, John wrote. Those who speak from the world will always have words that are deficient because their foundation is trust in self, the world, the institutions of the world, money and the like. Those who speak from God will always point you to Him who alone is the creator of all things, the provider of all you need and the giver of His Son Jesus through whom you receive pardon for your sins, removal of

your guilt and assurance of a victorious life at the end of your earthly life. Only the person who speaks from God speaks words through which God gives you victory over this world.

Prayer: Lord, guide me to those who speak Your word of truth. Help listen, really listen, so that I learn of Your love in and through Your Son, Jesus. In His name. Amen.

We all believe in one true God, Father, Son and Holy Ghost,  
Ever present help in need, Praised by all the heav'nly host;  
All He made His love enfolds, All creation He upholds.

We all believe in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Mary's son,  
Who descended from His throne And for us salvation won;  
By whose cross and death are we Rescued from all misery.

We all confess the Holy Ghost, Who from both in truth proceeds,  
Who sustains and comforts us In all trials, fears, and needs.  
Blessed, holy Trinity, Praise forever be to Thee!  
(LSB 953)