

Ye Have Given No Heed to False Teachers

by Ignatius of Antioch

The sermon emphasizes the importance of distinguishing between the Holy Spirit and the lying spirit, and following Jesus Christ as the source of truth.

Scripture: Psalm 119:1, John 14:6, John 16:13, Ephesians 1:4, 1 Peter 2:9

Topics: "Discerning Spirits", "Following Christ"

Description

Ignatius of Antioch emphasizes the importance of discerning between the Holy Spirit and the spirit of deceit, highlighting that the Holy Spirit speaks the things of Christ while the deceitful spirit seeks to please itself. He encourages believers to be God-bearers, spirit-bearers, and temple-bearers, adorned with holiness and following the commandments of Jesus Christ, as they are chosen stones for the divine edifice of the Father. Ignatius rejoices over the Ephesians for their faithfulness and urges them to love according to God, walking in the unerring way of Jesus Christ that leads to the Father.

Transcript

Nevertheless, I have heard of some who have passed in among you, holding the wicked doctrine of the strange and evil spirit; to whom ye did not allow entrance to sow their tares, but stopped your ears that ye might not receive that error which was proclaimed by them, as being persuaded that that spirit which deceives the people does not speak the things of Christ, but his own, for he is a lying spirit. But the Holy Spirit does not speak His own things, but those of Christ, and that not from himself, but from the Lord; even as the Lord also announced to us the things that He received from the Father. For, says He, "the word which ye hear is not Mine, but the Father's, who sent Me." And says He of the Holy Spirit, "He shall not speak of Himself, but whatsoever things He shall hear from Me." And He says of Himself to the Father, "I have," says He, "glorified Thee upon the earth ; I have finished the work which, Thou gavest Me; I have manifested Thy name to men."

And of the Holy Ghost, "He shall glorify Me, for He receives of Mine." But the spirit of deceit preaches himself, and speaks his own things, for he seeks to please himself. He glorifies himself, for he is full of arrogance. He is lying, fraudulent, soothing, flattering, treacherous, rhapsodical, trifling, inharmonious, verbose, sordid, and timorous. From his power Jesus Christ will deliver you, who has founded you upon the rock, as being chosen stones, well fitted for the divine edifice of the Father, and who are raised up on high by Christ, who was crucified for you, making use of the Holy Spirit as a rope, and being borne up by faith, while exalted by love from earth to heaven, walking in company with those that are undefiled. For,

says [the Scripture], "Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the Lord." Now the way is unerring, namely, Jesus Christ. For, says He, "I am the way and the life." And this way leads to the Father. For "no man," says He, "cometh to the Father but by Me."

Blessed, then, are ye who are God-bearers, spirit-bearers, temple-bearers, bearers of holiness, adorned in all respects with the commandments of Jesus Christ, being "a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people," on whose account I rejoice exceedingly, and have had the privilege, by this Epistle, of conversing with "the saints which are at Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus." I rejoice, therefore, over you, that ye do not give heed to vanity, and love nothing according to the flesh, but according to God.

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/ignatius-of-antioch/ye-have-given-no-heed-to-false-teachers/>

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