



"Dear Children, Test And See!"

1 John 4:1-6, Acts 17:1-15

Sunday | April 8th, 2018 | Pastor Patrick Bowler

CONSULT THE SCRIPTURES

1 John 3:24-4:6
Acts 17:1-15

(See also Acts 2, Jn. 15:26-27, 16:13-15, 33)

CONSULT THE SCHOLARS

[Martyn Lloyd-Jones] "As Christian people we must never be guilty of stopping either at Calvary or at the Resurrection. I put it like that because I often fear that we do that. We give place to the cross, and to the Resurrection, but we do not always come to the Day of Pentecost, and that shows that we have not known the relevance of this. This is the ultimate step, the last step in the great series and one which is essential and vital to our salvation."¹

DISCUSS

1. (Light-hearted opener) Share a practical joke that you either played on someone or had played on you.²

2. What is conviction? What role does conviction play in our lives? Talk about the importance of testing our convictions.

3. Give evidence that the Apostle Peter was a man of conviction. What about Paul? What about Jesus Himself? What about you?

4. Read Acts 17:1-15 and discuss. What was the difference between Thessalonica and Berea's response to Paul's preaching? Why are the Bereans considered "more noble" (Acts 17:11)? What might we conclude for our own lives today?

5. Read 1 John 3:24 along with the Lloyd-Jones quote (above). How important is the Day of Pentecost in the scope of redemptive history? (See also the passages from Jn. 15, 16 identified above) What is one of the primary roles of the Holy Spirit? Why is this important?

6. Read 1 John 4:1-6 and discuss. Why is it important to "test the spirits?" What is the danger if we were to not? What is at risk?

7. What immediate applications can be made in light of this text?

Notes:

¹Martyn Lloyd-Jones, *Life In Christ: Studies in 1 John* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2002), p. 385.

²The connection was with April Fools' Day and the issue of "fake news."