

A Quiet Time

1 John 2:24-27

Intro

- I. What are the elements of a personal relationship?
1. God chose me
 2. Called me
 3. Gifted me for service
 4. Assigned me a place in life
 5. Proventially guides me
 6. Ordains the length of my life
 7. My prayers
 8. And my enlightenment in Bible study
-
- II. This was one of the 3 great issues of the Protestant Reformation
1. Authority...Sola Scriptura
 2. Salvation...Sola Fide
 3. The Christian life...“the priesthood of the believer”
 - Meaning...the Bible was not just for a priesthood through whom the rest approach God
 - It means all can read the Bible...Pray...serve God...witness...know God
 - All can have a personal relationship with a Bible in hand
-
- III. 1 Cor. 2:15-the “spiritual man” can discern the revealed things
i.e. the man spiritually alive to God through Christ
-
- IV. The Reformation believed this
- But wars took place between Catholic and Protestant nations
 - A treaty declared that the region was to follow the faith of its prince thus it gave rise to denominations
 - But what followed was doctrinaire, intellectual, argumentative, sterile, polemical, dry preaching that sought to vindicate its belief.
 - Until in Germany “pietism” arose
And in England “puritanism” arose
And later Wesleyanism or Methodism
All of these stressed life as well as doctrine

- But then the pendulum went too far, as is often the case
 - It became subjective, overly individual, overly emotional
 - Quakers, Shakers, cults, Pentecostalism...all in some sense turned illumination into revelation.
 - The Bible became a “receiving unit” for outside impulses
- As usual, the truth lies in between only doctrine and hyper-emotion
 - We must have doctrine, structure, boundaries, theology and order
 - But we also must have a “meeting with God” within the text or “illumination”

-
- V. It is to this balance that 1 John 2:24-27 speaks
Gnosticism was the first Christian heresy
It was the conforming of Christianity to current philosophic ideas
It taught...
1. Christian truth was corrupted and elementary
 2. Higher “Gnostic” revelations corrected it
 3. “True” Christianity?
 - Christ was an angel or “aeon”
 - Who came upon Jesus at baptism
 - And left him at the crucifixion...as spirits can’t die
 - There was no fleshly sin or morality, hence we are “free”
 4. It condescended on apostolic authority
 5. And a finished revelation
-

- VI. John in response says...
- v 24 Stick to what you heard
 - v 25 To the “Promise” of life in Christ
 - v 26 Don’t be misled by Gnosticism
 - v 27 *You* can discern truth and error...
- ...through the anointing of the Holy Spirit
- who “teaches all things” His present illumination of the revealed.
 - “all” implies a finished revelation
 - “as it has been taught you” This speaks of the truth of our conversion

“Abide” *Don’t change and continue to let Him illumine you.*