

Welcome to Hope Sabbath School—an in-depth interactive study of the Word of God. We are continuing a series of studies on The Cosmic Conflict. Today's topic: LIGHT SHINES IN THE DARKNESS.

1. Truth versus deception

- a) Compare John 14:6 and John 8:44. What clear distinction do you see between the character of Jesus and the character of Satan?
- b) What do you notice about Satan's misuse of Scripture when tempting Jesus? Matthew 4:5-6 (see also Psalm 91:9-12, especially v.9)
- c) How does the Word of God set us free from Satan's deceptions? John 17:17, John 8:32
- d) What are some ways Satan has sought to restrict access to the Scriptures so people would be more susceptible to his deceptions?
- e) Why does Satan tempt us to rely on human reasoning rather than relying on the Word of God? Proverbs 16:25, 2 Corinthians 4:3-4, Isaiah 53:6a

2. Wolves in sheep's clothing

- a) Acts 20:27-30 What warning did the apostle Paul give to church leaders in Ephesus and also to us?
- b) How did Jesus describe these wolves that would seek to harass and harm His followers? Matthew 7:15
- c) Since these ravenous wolves pretend to be genuine followers of Jesus (His sheep), how can we identify them and be aware of their evil intentions? Matthew 7:16-20

- d) How did the apostle Paul describe the work of these wolves and false teachers? 2 Thessalonians 2:7-12?
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3. Light in the darkness

- a) When facing the darkness of persecution and false doctrines, what light will guide us on our journey? Psalm 119:105,116,130,133,160, John 1:1-4, 8:12
- b) Why are the Scriptures so valuable for those who desire to walk on the narrow way that leads to life? 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Acts 20:32
- c) What Reformer inspires you as someone who called people back to the Bible and away from false doctrines that had kept people in darkness?
- d) Why is the ministry of the Holy Spirit vitally important as we seek to walk in the light of God's Word? John 14:15-18, John 16:13
- e) Share a time when, guided by the Holy Spirit, God's Word set you free from one of Satan's deceptions.
- f) What promises from God's Word give you courage and hope on your journey?

