#### 1Jn 07 - Disciples Abide - 1Jn 2:18-27 (28-29)

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John begins this section with a solemn warning

but he ends with very POSITIVE Exhortation & Encouragement for all those who are Disciples (followers) of Christ

### **Let's Pray**

#### 1Jn 2:18 - ESV (here's the warning)

18 Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore we know that it is the last hour.

**18 Children** those under instruction - as from a fatherly teacher to his children,

<u>it is the last hour</u> - this is NOT a reference to a specific time, but to a specific "<u>Period</u> of time"

This is John's ref to the closing stages of world history,

& Specifically - he is referring to the "Period of time" between the 1st & 2nd coming of Jesus Christ (the church age)

but it's <u>important to note</u> - really all of the NT writers, thought the Return of Christ could happen at any moment

& that's **just as** you & I **should think** today

We are in the **closing stages** of this world's history - & Jesus could return at any moment

But listen - if the NT writers thought this HOUR was close to ending , How much MORE SO, now ?

Imagine a clock for me

When Jesus Ascended & the NT church started the minute hand started from 12....
When Jesus is going to return is the end of this "HOUR" when the minute hand reaches back to 12

So tell me - do you think we're HALF way? 3/4 way? 55 Min?

I used to have a friend who kept a big clock on his wall that ALWAYS read - 11:59

Guys - honestly, prophetically - it's 11:59 & that minute hand could click over at any second

HOW should that effect our lives?

#### 2Pet 3:10-11 - ESV

10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

11 <u>Since</u> all these things are thus to be dissolved, <u>what sort</u> of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness,

If you REALLY thought - Jesus Christ was coming back at the end of this week . . . HOW would you spend your week?

. . . well then maybe . . . THAT is how you should spend your week!

& one of the sure Biblical marks of the LAST HOUR coming to a close is . . .

many Anti-Christ's will come, & ultimately THE AntiChrist will come

## (18) . . . and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come

Meaning - THE Anti-Christ is coming . . .

but there are already many teachers & leaders who are **ANTI-Christ** 

It's interesting that John is the **ONLY NT writer** to use this exact word translated "**antichrist**" (uses it 5 times)

The Apostle <u>Paul</u> calls him - <u>The man of lawlessness</u> <u>Daniel</u> - & <u>Revelation</u> - Call him - <u>The BEAST</u>

This is the man who comes to World Prominence sometime around the beginning of the Tribulation

He first brings a false Peace causing the world to fall in love with him

- & then he brings Literally HELL on Earth especially for anyone who has chosen to follow Jesus Christ
- & THE Anti-Christ is a very interesting topic

We always know we can get a few more people to listen when we talk about end times events - like this

& altho this Specific Man - The Anti-Christ - is coming

there is something that should be just as concerning to us today

# John says (18) . . . and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come

#### Guys - when one guy is;

the head of the **One World Gov't**, with One World Money,

- & he **sets himself** to be **worshipped** in the New Temple
- & he **makes you** have a **mark** to buy or sell anything . . .

THAT'S a pretty good sign, you've found - THE ANTICHRIST

But what about these MANY Anti-Christ's, that John's talking about?

He's talking about those that we NEED to see today who are ANTI-Christ (set against Christ)

& John - very plainly - says here
When we see MANY who are ANTI-Christ
We KNOW - that it is the LAST Hour

#### 1Tim 4:1-2 - ESV

1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons,

2 through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared,

Let me just ask you - have you seen ANY increasing signs of those who are ANTI-Christ (like this) in the world today??

How about a guy who writes a book called **THE DIVINCI CODE** 

Which is SO ANTI-CHRIST - that any respectable Christian Culture would've immediately BOYCOTTED the book

#### & written this guy off as a HERETIC

But this guy writes a totally FICTIONAL book - that is FICTION

& being FICTION - it is NOT based on ANY KNOWN FACT Because it is a FICTIONAL BOOK - based on PURE FICTION

Is so loved & embraced by this ANTI-Christ culture

- that now this ANTI-CHRIST gets to take one of his old books, that was ignored years ago
- & he gets to make it into another incredible Block Buster ANTI-CHRIST movie (Angels & Demons)
- & our ANTI-CHRIST Culture will FLOCK to see the New Dan ANTI-CHRIST Brown Movie
- & we will make him & the other ANTI-CHRIST'S that are making you want to see that movie -

we will make them all Celebrities & then we will WORSHIP them with our money

Tell me - How CLOSE - to the END of the Last Hour - is it?

And HOW do we know WHO the ANTI-CHRIST'S ARE ??

#### <u>1Jn 2:19 - ESV</u>

19 They (those who are "anti" Christ) went out from us (broke away), but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us

- John says THEY (who are ANTI-CHRIST) have broken away (went out) from those who are ABIDING IN (following) Christ
- & IF they had been those who ABIDE in Christ they would have CONTINUED to ABIDE in Christ

But God gives us such a CLEAR indication of HOW to tell who an ANTI-CHRIST is

Look at the last sentence - But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us

It's interesting to note - the word translated "WENT OUT" is the same word used of Judas Iscariot (in Jn 13)

when he "Went Out" from the disciples to betray Jesus

& some Scholars actually see Judas Iscariot as a "Type" (picture)

of those who are "physically in " the church but ultimately - turn their backs on Jesus, & betray Him

This same concept is seen in the parable of the "*Wheat & the Tares*" in <u>Mat Ch 13</u>

- where the Master tells his servants the enemy has sown Tares (weeds) in with the Wheat (good plants)
- & then the Master tells them let both grow together for a time & at Harvest they would easily & completely be separated

The Wheat into the **HARVEST** - The Tares into the **FIRE** 

But here's the deal in that Parable (Mat 13) . . .

The <u>SERVANTS</u> could tell the <u>Tares</u> (weeds) from the <u>Wheat</u> they KNEW the difference

& John is telling us here - that WE can know the difference

He's already told us that those who are ANTI-CHRIST "Go Out From US" - Implying DOCTINALLY

NOT meaning they leave this church, or this "Non"-denomination

But they GO OUT from - following Jesus
They DENY Him - & we'll see specifically HOW in a minute

But first - John wants to begin his encouragement to those who DO Follow Jesus - Who ABIDE in the Truth

#### 1Jn 2:20 - ESV

20 But you (in contrast to those who have "gone out") have been anointed by the Holy One (the anointing of the Holy Spirit), and you all have knowledge

But YOU - who are ABIDING in Christ YOU have been Anointed by the Holy Spirit . . .

& you **ALL** have knowledge

Remember - the false teachers that were "working" the churches John is writing to - all claimed to have SPECIAL KNOWLEDGE

& they wanted to ENLIGHTEN those who were JUST following Jesus

Oh, I know, Like Joseph Smith!

Who was raised to simply follow Jesus but he met an angel on a day hike when he was 15

& he started an entire religion that says that you need THEIR special Knowledge

Hmmm - that's sounds pretty much like the False teachers who were Deceiving the church in 95 AD - that John was writing to

#### Listen guys

Jim Jones didn't have Special Knowledge

David Koresh didn't have Special Knowledge

Joseph Smith didn't have Special Knowledge

& Oprah Winfrey doesn't have Special Knowledge

#### Look again at V.20

20 But you (Disciples) have been anointed by the Holy One, and you all have knowledge

We don't need Dan Brown or Oprah Winfrey
SPEWING Anti-Christ messages - to give us SPECIAL Knowledge

These people have made up complete fictional bags of lies & then we say . . .

Hmmm maybe that's better than the Miraculously, Supernaturally Proven 2,000 year old Word of God . . . *PLEASE !!* 

If Jesus is truly your <u>LORD</u> today you have been <u>ANNOINTED</u> by the Holy One & you <u>ALL</u> have the knowledge you need . . .

WHERE ?? - - - In the Living Word, & in the Anointing of the Holy Spirit

#### Let's **TURN OVER** to **Jn Ch 14**

#### <u>Jn 14:15-17 - ESV</u>

15 "If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you <u>another Helper</u>, to be with you forever,

17 even the <u>Spirit of truth</u>, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

#### <u>Jn 14:26 - ESV</u>

26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

#### Jn 15:26 - ESV

26 "But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me.

#### Jn 16:13(A) - ESV

13 When the <u>Spirit of truth</u> comes, he will <u>guide you into all the truth</u> . . .

#### <u>Jn 16:14 - ESV</u>

14 He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

I just read you FIVE scriptures about the ROLE & the POWER of the Holy Spirit

Who will USE God's LIVING WORD to Guide you into ALL truth

We have GOT to understand the **ROLE of the Holy Spirit** in our lives

We have GOT to Fall in Love with the **Living Word of God** 

& THEN - we will NOT get Sucked in to the ANTI-Christ messages of this World today

Back in 1Jn Ch 2 - John is writing to the True Disciples - & he says; You KNOW the TRUTH & You KNOW - that NO LIE - is of the Truth

#### 1Jn 2:21 - ESV

21 I write to you, <u>not</u> because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and because no lie is of the truth.

Ask God - for the Anointing of the Holy Spirit
Then KNOW the Truth of HIS Word

So that you WILL be able to DETECT the **Lies** 

But just to make it clear

John wants to tell us WHO the LIAR is

He's still hammering on the ANTI-Christ's . . .

#### 1Jn 2:22(A) - ESV

22 Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? . . .

Now - this is a KEY Verse - because it TELLS us WHO is the LIAR . . . still referring to those who are ANTI-Christ

& he says - the LIAR is the one who Denies that Jesus is the Christ

The word "<u>Christ</u>" is the GK word for the Hebrew <u>MESSIAH</u>
They both mean LIT - "the anointed one from God"

It is the Clear Reference - to the **DEITY** of Jesus!

& this is the REAL TEST - for all ANTI-CHRIST'S WHO DO YOU SAY JESUS IS?

## & it is critical that YOU & I KNOW - The Bible says

Jesus is the CHRIST - He is **GOD**Jesus came in the FLESH - He was a **MAN** 

This is the same test Jesus gave his disciples in Mat 16

He asked them "Who do you say I am?" - & Peter answered "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

#### & then - in Mat 16:17 Jesus says to Peter:

17 . . . "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.

Guys - since the writing of the NT a Right & Correct view of WHO Jesus Christ is

is the #1 ultimate question to determine if a person is teaching the TRUTH - or teaching a LIE

#### & look at the end of 1Jn 2:22(B)

This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son.

Hey - wait a minute (the Anti-Christ would say . . . )

#### I'm not denying the Father God I'm just saying Jesus WASN'T - God come in the Flesh

Really - cause the Bible begs to differ with you . . .

#### 1Jn 2:23 - ESV

23 <u>No one</u> who denies the Son <u>has</u> the Father. Whoever confesses the Son <u>has</u> the Father also.

This little word HAS - is a very important word it means "To Possess" as your own

& there are many - who claim to "Have" or "Possess" God but they don't want to get too narrow minded about who Jesus Christ is

But here, God's Word says - If you deny WHO Jesus Christ is you CANNOT "Have" the Father

& if you DO confess that Jesus is - Who He says He is then you automatically "HAVE" the Father also

#### Jesus Himself said in Mat 10:32-33

32 So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, 33 but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.

God's Word is so clear - & so absolute

When it comes to Jesus Christ - - & Who He is

The Bible is absolutely Narrow Minded & Stubbornly Demanding

We either believe the TRUTH about Jesus - or we are separated from God - by DENYING Him

& what about that "Good Intentioned" person

Who talks about God - & how we can have a better life . . .

Just because they don't say Jesus is God come in the Flesh, Aren't they still Good Godly people ??

#### Well let's see . . . turn over to 1Jn 4:3

3 and every spirit that <u>does not confess Jesus</u> is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already.

The person who denies WHO Jesus Christ says He is Is NOT from God - & IS the spirit of Anti-Christ

Don't you LOVE - simple & clear tests

Hey - Do you believe Jesus Christ is GOD come in the FLESH - Like the Bible says He is

Well, no, actually, our 18 year old founder - who worked in a print shop, re-wrote that part of the Bible (Jehovah Witnesses)

EHHHHH!! - - NOT from God, Spirit of AntiChrist!! that seems pretty simple - Doesn't it??

Then WHY are so many "Would-be" Disciples being SO DECEIVED, & So EASILY MISLED by these Anti-Christ teachers ???

Because these "Would-be" Disciples are not ABIDING in CHRIST

They're NOT clinging to the Gospel Message they heard in the beginning

#### 1Jn 2:24 - ESV

24 Let what you heard from the beginning abide (remain constantly) in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father.

#### <u>Listen - someone - in the beginning - told you;</u>

That Jesus Christ was **God** come in the **Flesh** 

That He lived a **Perfect Life** 

& that He died on a Cross to Pay for your sins

& that if you would put your faith in Him

That you would be **forgiven** of your sins, & have **Eternal Life** 

& now TODAY - wherever you are in your WALK There is NO NEW KNOWLEDGE - NO NEW Gospel

The Word of God says to you today;

24 Let what you heard from the beginning <u>abide</u> (remain constantly) in you. If what you heard from the beginning <u>abides</u> in you, then you too will <u>abide</u> in the Son and in the Father.

Let the Faith you had in Jesus Christ in the beginning CONTINUE to Abide (remain) in you

Because IF that faith ABIDES in you then YOU will Abide (remain) in the Son, & in the Father

But here's the deal !!

#### This word ABIDE - is NOT Passive !! - It's ACTIVE

- <u>It's NOT</u> don't worry, if you slipped up your hand in 1982 then everything's Good with you & God . . .
- Instead this Verse is ACTIVE as in you MUST (by your own actions) actively REMAIN in the faith you had from the beginning
- & if you do you will **Abide** (continually remain in) the Son, & in the Father
- John is talking about settling into a Continuous spiritual relationship & experience with Jesus
- & he Puts the PROMISE out there in the Next Verse as if to say REMEMBER THE PRIZE . . .

#### 1Jn 2:25 - ESV

25 And this is the promise that he made to us - eternal life.

REMEMBER your Faith in Christ in the Beginning & REMEMBER the PRIZE!!

& Stand Firm - ABIDE - REMAIN - Don't get sucked away by the ANTI-CHRIST teaching of the Last Days

John is WARNING us about those who are trying to deceive us

& he's pleading with us - to ABIDE, CLING TO, HOLD ON TO, the Faith we had in Jesus in the Beginning

#### 1Jn 2:26 - ESV

26 I write these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you.

Believer Beware - there ARE those - who are trying to deceive you

We've got to ask the RIGHT QUESTION "Who do you say Jesus Christ is?"

& we've got to understand the Bible says - anyone teaching anything NEW . . .

besides Jesus Christ as God come in the Flesh to die for your sins . . .

Any other NEW Doctrine - That denies the original Gospel Message Is a LIE - & is coming from an ANTI-CHRIST

#### 1Jn 2:27 - ESV

27 But (again, as for you) the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. (implied is teach you anything NEW) But as his anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie—just as it has taught you, abide in him.

Guys - PLEASE - ABIDE IN HIM

Make Jesus Christ your LORD
Be IMMERSED in HIM
& then - ABIDE IN HIM

Don't let - smooth talking - MOVIE makin - TV Celebrities (or their book clubs) - DECEIVE YOU into falling away from Christ

Make Him your LORD - & Settle into Him (abide)

I Promise you - You will NOT be put to shame when the minute hand strikes 12 - & this LAST HOUR is Finished

#### 1Jn 2:28 - ESV

28 And now, little children (born ones), abide (continually) in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming.

SIX times the word ABIDE (remain) has been used in this passage

& every time it is calling us to an intimate & permanent relationship with God - thru Jesus Christ - & by the Holy Spirit

& if - we will continue to Abide (remain) in Christ WHEN He appears we will have confidence & not shrink from Him in shame

Disciples ABIDE - Dig in - Make Jesus your Life for the long haul

#### **Let's Pray**