
CBC WEEKLY RESOURCES



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JULY 13, 2025

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
3645 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC 28741

I. SERMON RECAP

Pastor Gary began his sermon with an anecdote about receiving warnings from police officers during a road trip, which led him to contemplate the effectiveness of warnings in general, especially in the spiritual realm. He drew parallels between these warnings and the numerous cautions given to humanity about the end times. Emphasizing that many fail to heed these divine warnings, he questioned why warnings about significant spiritual events, such as those described in the book of Revelation, often go unheeded. Pastor Gary reminded the congregation of the importance of understanding these scriptural warnings to better prepare for the future.

The core of the sermon focused on the nature and deception of the Antichrist, as highlighted in biblical teachings. Pastor Gary referenced 1 John and other scriptures, articulating that while some believe the Antichrist to be a single future figure, others see him as a representation of ongoing evil throughout history. He highlighted the subtle nature of the Antichrist, who presents himself as an attractive alternative to Christ. Pastor Gary encouraged the congregation to practice discernment, illustrating how the true Christ is distinguished by sacrifice, symbolized by a "gash" marking his authenticity, unlike the counterfeit Antichrist.

Closing his message, Pastor Gary urged the congregation to delve deeply into scripture, particularly the book of Revelation, to gain a more profound understanding of Christ's presence and the end times. He emphasized the importance of being spiritually aware and ready, pointing out that true followers should invest in sharing the gospel and be prepared for trials, regardless of when they might occur. Pastor Gary's call was both a reminder and an encouragement for the church to remain steadfast and discerning in faith, committed to living out and sharing the truth despite the challenges or deceptions they may face.

Chapters

Chapter 1: The Reality of Warnings and the End Times

An introduction to the concept of warnings and their effectiveness, relating it to biblical warnings about the end times.

Chapter 2: Understanding the Antichrist

A deeper look into the nature and goals of the Antichrist figure.

Chapter 3: The True Church and the Revelation

An examination of the true church and the purpose of the Book of Revelation.

Chapter 4: Recognizing the True Lamb and Our Response

Guidance on distinguishing the true Christ from the Antichrist and our responsibility as believers.

II. STUDY GUIDE

Key Points

- The Antichrist is not just against Christ but presents an alternative to Christ
- Discernment is crucial in recognizing spiritual deception
- The true church (naos) is smaller than the visible church
- Believers should focus on serving God and reaching others, regardless of end-times timing
- The book of Revelation reveals the full nature of Christ and is deeply connected to Old Testament symbolism
- True followers of Christ should be willing to sacrifice for the gospel

Mentioned Scripture

1 John 2:18 Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know it is the last hour.

Matthew 24:4-8 Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Messiah,' and will deceive many. You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth pains.

Matthew 12:30 "Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.

Matthew 4:8-9 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."

2 John 1:7 I say this because many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist.

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.

1 John 2:22 Who is the liar? It is whoever denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a person is the antichrist--denying the Father and the Son.

1 John 4:3 but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.

Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Scriptural References

Alluded To

Revelation 11 (measuring the temple)

1 Corinthians 6:19 (body as temple) Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own;

Romans 8:9 ("No one can say Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit") You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ.

Thematically Relevant

End times and deception:

Mark 13:5-6 Jesus said to them: "Watch out that no one deceives you. Many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am he,' and will deceive many.

Antichrist:

Daniel 7:25 He will speak against the Most High and oppress his holy people and try to change the set times and the laws. The holy people will be delivered into his hands for a time, times and half a time.

2 Thessalonians 2:9-10 The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with how Satan works. He will use all sorts of displays of power through signs and wonders that serve the lie, and all the ways that wickedness deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.

Discernment:

1 John 4:1 Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

Hebrews 5:14 But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

False prophets:

Matthew 7:15 "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves.

Spiritual warfare:

Ephesians 6:11-12 Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the

authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Martyrdom:

Revelation 6:9-11 When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained. They called out in a loud voice, "How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?" Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer, until the full number of their fellow servants, their brothers and sisters, were killed just as they had been.

Sharing the Gospel:

Matthew 28:19-20 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Mark 16:15 He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.

Being sealed by the Holy Spirit:

Ephesians 1:13-14 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit,

The true church:

Matthew 16:18 And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

Plagues of Egypt:

Exodus 7-12

God's patience:

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

III. DEVOTIONAL MATERIAL

Day 1: Discerning Truth in Deceptive Times

Question: How can we develop better discernment to recognize the subtle deceptions of an Antichrist figure in today's world?

Reading: 1 John 4:1-6

Devotional: In a world full of conflicting voices and ideologies, discernment is crucial for believers. John warns us to "test the spirits" because many false prophets have gone out into the world. This echoes the sermon's emphasis on recognizing the Antichrist and those who oppose Christ. Today, reflect on how you can sharpen your spiritual discernment.

Are you grounded enough in God's Word to recognize truth from deception? Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you in wisdom and understanding, helping you to see beyond surface-level appearances and discern the true nature of the teachings and leaders you encounter.

Day 2: The Unveiling of Christ

Question: In what ways does the image of the 'lamb as if freshly slain' challenge our understanding of Christ's ongoing sacrifice and its relevance today?

Reading: Revelation 1:9-18

Devotional: John's vision of the glorified Christ on Patmos reveals Jesus in His full majesty and power. This image contrasts sharply with the humble Galilean teacher many knew Him as. As you read this passage, consider how your own view of Christ might need expanding.

Have you fully grasped His divine nature and authority? Meditate on the description of Jesus in this passage and allow it to deepen your reverence and awe. Pray for a fresh revelation of Christ in your life, one that transforms your worship and obedience.

Day 3: Living as the True Temple

Question: What does it mean practically to be part of the 'naos' (inner sanctuary) rather than just the outer courts of faith?

Reading: 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Devotional: Pastor Gary mentioned the concept of the "naos" - the inner sanctuary where God's presence dwells. Paul reminds us that our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit. This truth carries profound implications for how we live. Today, consider how you are stewarding your body, mind, and spirit as God's dwelling place.

Are there areas of your life that need cleansing or realignment with God's purposes? Commit to honoring God with your whole being, recognizing that you have been bought at a price and belong fully to Him.

Day 4: Prepared for Persecution

Question: How can we balance the desire for personal safety with the call to potentially sacrifice our lives for the gospel in light of end times prophecy?

Reading: Matthew 24:9-14

Devotional: Jesus warned His followers that they would face persecution and that many would fall away. The sermon touched on the reality of suffering believers around the world. As you read this passage, examine your own faith.

Is it strong enough to withstand opposition or hardship? Pray for persecuted Christians globally and ask God to strengthen your resolve to stand firm in the faith, no matter the cost. Consider how you can support and encourage fellow believers who may be facing trials for their faith.

Day 5: Living with Eternal Perspective

Question: How might our approach to evangelism and missions change if we truly internalized the eternal consequences described in end times prophecies?

Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Devotional: The book of Revelation provides a glimpse into eternal realities, reminding us that our present circumstances are temporary. Paul encourages us to fix our eyes on what is unseen and eternal.

In light of this, how might you reorient your priorities and perspectives? Reflect on areas of your life where you may be overly focused on temporary concerns. Ask God to help you live with an eternal mindset, investing in what truly matters for His kingdom. Consider how this perspective might change your approach to relationships, resources, and daily decisions.

IV. SMALL GROUP RESOURCES

Small Group Guide: Understanding the Antichrist and End Times

Opening Prayer:

Key Takeaways:

1. The Antichrist is not just against Christ but presents an alternative to Christ.
2. Discernment is crucial in identifying false teachings and leaders.
3. The true church (naos) is smaller than we might think and consists of devoted believers.
4. Our focus should be on serving Christ and reaching others, regardless of end times timing.
5. The book of Revelation unveils the full nature of Christ and His plan.

Discussion Questions:

1. How does Pastor Gary's description of the Antichrist as an "alternative to Christ" change your understanding of this figure? What implications does this have for discernment in our faith?
2. The sermon mentions that about 39% of US adults believe we're living in the end times. How do you feel about this statistic? Does it align with your observations?
3. What are your thoughts on Pastor Gary's statement that "there is no fence" when it comes to being for or against Christ? How might this challenge some people's views?
4. How can we cultivate discernment to recognize truth from deception, especially in religious contexts?
5. Pastor Gary emphasizes the importance of understanding the Old Testament to fully grasp Revelation. How familiar are you with Old Testament prophecies and symbols? How might this affect your reading of Revelation?
6. Discuss the concept of the "naos" (true believers) versus the outer courts. How does this perspective challenge or affirm your view of the church?
7. What are your reactions to the idea that we should be willing to serve Christ in difficult times, rather than focusing solely on escaping tribulation?

Practical Applications:

1. Commit to a personal study of the book of Revelation, perhaps using Pastor Gary's Wednesday night sermon series as a guide.
2. Practice discernment this week by evaluating messages you hear (in media, conversations, or teachings) against biblical truth.
3. Reflect on your own faith journey. Are you in the "naos" or the outer courts? What steps can you take to deepen your relationship with Christ?
4. Consider ways you can share the gospel with others, keeping in mind the urgency expressed in the sermon.
5. Pray for wisdom and discernment, both for yourself and for the global church, in navigating challenging times and teachings.
6. Examine your life for areas where you need to "die to self" and embrace Christ's calling more fully.
7. Research and discuss ways to support persecuted Christians around the world who are living out their faith in difficult circumstances.

Closing Prayer

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

CBC Women, join Gene Hall, Gina Armistead, and other women from CBC for the Women's Hike this Saturday, July 19th

There is a Worship Night this Sunday, July 20th, at 6:00 PM.

CBC is helping students in need as they prepare to go back to school. Join the Backpack Project to help kids in need. It will run until July 27th, so get involved now!

Any girls, 10-17, be sure to get signed up for Craft Camp August 4-8th!

To register for any of these, or to get more information, email Info@cbchighlands.com or call the church office.