



1 John 2:18-29 - Staying the Course.

ADAM LONG

| Week of March 10th, 2019

SERMON OVERVIEW // So far, in his first letter to the church, John has warned the family about the conflict between the darkness and the Light (1:1-2:6), the conflict between love and hatred (2:7-17), and now he warns of a third: the conflict between abandoning and abiding - between deception and truth (2:18-29). We are not only called to walk in the Light, or to walk in love, we are called to walk in truth.

SERMON TEXT // 1 John 2:8-29 English Standard Version

John knows how easy it is for us to get off center and be led astray. Over time, one degree off center will make a huge difference - maybe not at first but it will take us places we never intended to go. John was looking to help the church avoid slowly drifting off center by calling out the false teachers who will seek out our destruction by disruption who he calls **antichrists**. John warns the church about three marks of someone who has bought into this life:

- [1] The mark of **departure**. (18-19)
- [2] The mark of **denial**. (20-23)
- [3] The mark of **deception**. (26-29)

DEPARTURE. John does not point to the **reasons** someone would leave the faith or the fellowship but points to the **manner** in which someone leaves. This is generally a complete disconnect from the church and the faith all together with the purpose of division. These people are outwardly connected to the faith but are inwardly distant - they never truly grasped the faith.

DENIAL. John says that anyone who denies that Jesus is who He says He is and has done what He says He has done is a liar. On top of that to deny the Son is to deny the Father since the two are one. (John 10:30) Confession marks the Spirit - but denial marks the work of the antichrist.

DECEPTION. They operate under the mindset of multiplication by division and deception. It is not all that surprising though knowing satan himself is not an originator - he is a counterfeiter. They are not satisfied to be led astray alone. We must remain watchful to stay the course.

John was looking to help the church avoid slowly drifting off center by calling out the false teachers who will seek out our destruction by disruption. But John has detailed for us a three-fold defense in staying the course towards our mark of **eternal life** in Jesus. That defense is seen in how we **abide**. How we abide in the **Spirit**, abide the **Scripture**, and abide in the **Son**.

As we remain in the leading of the Holy Spirit we will stay the course. As we remain in the study of His Scripture we will stay the course. And as we remain in the Son we will stay the course.



Discussion Questions – Staying the Course.

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Week of March 10th, 2019

Question 1

What was something you wrote down or a truth that resonated with you from listening to the sermon, looking at the overview, or even in reading this particular text in 1st John 2?

Question 3

John lays out three marks of someone who is not living by the Spirit but is being controlled by the spirits of the antichrist: departure, denial, and deception. It is important to be on the look out for these marks but *what are some dangers of too much speculation about the person John refers to as the Antichrist – or “the man of lawlessness” as Paul calls him in 2 Thessalonians 2? How can we keep a biblical perspective on looking out for this person?* Briefly share some thoughts with the group.

Question 2

Knowing our enemy is important to staying the course. Knowing the voice of our Father is critical. When we know truth it is easier for us to decipher and disregard lies from the enemy. *Where do you go when you are looking to hear more of the Fathers voice? Some people listen to particular songs, read certain books, spend time in specific bible passages... all of these are great places.* Share some of the thoughts, words, people, or places you personally go to spend time listening to the Fathers voice.

Question 4

John points to a three-fold dense the believer has towards being led astray which centers around the command to **abide**. He calls us to abide in the Spirit, in the Scripture, and in the Son. If we were to attach a Spiritual Discipline to each we could pair **prayer** with the Spirit, **reading the Word** with Scripture, and **serving others** with the Son. *Which of these would you say needs the most attention in your life over the next seven days?* Briefly share why you feel this way and how you plan to approach this goal. Find someone who can check in with you this week for accountability and encouragement.