

## GROWING IN KNOWLEDGE (Part 2) | 1 John 2:12-29 | Pastor Mark Bofill | 12/04/2022

I. Awareness of Our Spiritual State (12-14) | II. Abhorring the World (15-17) | III. Awareness of Antichrist(s) (18-23) | IV. Abiding in Truth (24-29)

**INTRO:** As we continue in John's 1<sup>st</sup> epistle, I want to remind you that the overall theme of the book is about **KNOWING GOD** and having **Joyful Fellowship** with Him as we **Walk in the Light**, being **Perfected by His Love**. When the **LOVE OF JESUS CHRIST** resides within us, there is a very special union that we all experience (*expound*). This Love relationship within the church should be uniquely different than what we experience in the world. And so, John continues his exhortation (*Describe P.1*)

**Beginning with his favorite term of endearment**, John now proceeds to inform his readers about a problem that was very real in his day... **"Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour."** (1 John 2:18) – Who is the antichrist? – What will help us identify him? A: (The Scriptures)

- **{Gr – antichristos}**, opponent, the adversary of the Messiah! A most pestilent being, to appear just before the Messiah's advent - The name Antichrist is important to understand. The prefix **anti** can mean *"the opposite of"* or *"instead of."* The Antichrist is the **"opposite Jesus"**; he is the *"instead of"* Jesus. – There is much speculation about the identity of the Antichrist.
- **Since the bible was written**, every generation assumed that their current outstanding evil leader was him. Some of the more popular targets are: Hitler, Stalin or even Saddam Hussein. More modern types are Vladimir Putin, Prince William, and Pope Francis I.
- The Bible doesn't really make any clear predictions regarding from where the Antichrist will originate. Based on (**Dan 7:24-25; Rev 17:7**), many Bible scholars think he will emerge from a federation of ten countries or even **a revived Roman empire**. Others believe he must be Jewish in order to make the claim that he is the Messiah. **Since the Bible is ambiguous about the Antichrist's origins and ethnicity, all of this supposition is simply guesswork.**
- Paul teaches that Antichrist will be **AN INDIVIDUAL MAN**, of the very worst character, instigated by the devil to try to palm himself off as God: **READ (tt. 2 Thess 2:1-4,9-10)**
- Scripture teaches that the Antichrist will manifest himself to unify the globe under one authority during the Tribulation period. – **Like his father the devil**, this world leader will pretend to be an angel of light before acting according to his actual, wicked nature.

**One day, WHICH I BELIEVE IS SOON... the Antichrist will be revealed.**

GROWING IN KNOWLEDGE especially Involves...

**III. Awareness of Antichrist(s) (18-19,22-23):** John's reminder of the coming of the Antichrist was secondary to his main point here... **"even now many antichrists have come..."** – John was more concerned about **"antichrists" who have already come!** (*An indication that we too must consider!*)

**A. Their ARRIVAL (18)** – I find it interesting that John doesn't use the terms: **"End Times"** or **"Last Days"** but chose rather to declare the **"Last Hour!"** We know it's the Last Hour because the spirit of Antichrist is already working. – Because John believed this, he lived his life in **continual expectation of Jesus' coming**. Knowing that the Lord's return might occur at any moment, we should likewise have this expectation! – **"As we observe nature of our times and what the Bible says about the end times, we should regard ourselves as being in the last few minutes."** – D.Guzik

- **What is an Antichrist Spirit?** – In (1 John 4:3) John lists the most evident indicator, *...and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world. (1 John 4:3)* – (Many other indicators exist...let's look at their actions)

**B. Their ACTIONS (19, 22-23a)** – They refuse apostolic authority! READ TEXT – (Expound on Apostasy, Denial of the Godhead)

1. **Lack of Continuance (19)** – *They were never “of us.”* John is speaking of **APOSTATES**, *those who fall away*, those who hang around church for a time, but never really adhere to the **apostle’s doctrine (Acts 2:42)**. As a result, *they wander from place to place* tossed about with every wind of doctrine. **Never coming to the full knowledge of the Holy One.** – Only God knows the heart for certain, but the appearance is that they *trusted in the church*, or trusted in themselves, but they *weren’t really trusting in Jesus Christ.* – (1 Tim 4:1-2, 2 Tim 3:1-4) *Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron... (No feeling, no conscience, no conviction...no Spirit! = antichrist spirits)*

*Their Actions also reveal that they are...*

2. **Liars and Deniers (22-23a)** – In John's time many **Gnostics** falsely stated that **Jesus** and **Christ** were two different persons. That Christ **merely appeared to have flesh**, but in reality, did not. Or that the Christ descended upon Jesus at His baptism and departed at the time of His suffering. – Remember in (1:1) John reported that He was a direct witness to the manifestation of Jesus Christ! *(So, these claims were False Assumptions, therefore John’s point...)*

- If anyone denies Jesus as the Christ, the Messiah, the Anointed one of God, then **THEY are LIARS!** **Liars**, because they claim that **God is NOT who He claims to be!** *(Denying His Nature)*
- Peter tells us that ANYONE who makes such false claims is in the same classification as **False Prophets.** (2 Pet 2:2) says, *but there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. (2 Cor 11:13-15) For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ.* <sup>14</sup> *And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.* <sup>15</sup> *Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.*

**C. The ANTIDOTE (20-21,23b)** – What then is the Remedy, the Answer, the Cure...what then is the Anti-Poison, the Solution to these who walk in falsehood? – Simple **TRUTH and ANOINTING!**

1. **Anointing** brings Awareness (20-21) – Here, John was referring to **a common anointing** that all Christians have. This is an anointing that enables discernment for those who desire it in the Lord. – But *You have “it”* and you *“Know all things,”* because there is **NO LIE** of the truth! – (2 Cor 1:21) tells us that **God gave us this Anointing**, *Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God...*

- In (v.20), John uses a different word for **“KNOW.”** Previously, John used the word {Gr.– **ginosko**} i.e., "experienced knowledge"; but now he uses the term {Gr.– **eido**} which means **"intuitive knowledge."** – There are some things that we know of intuitively **ONLY by the anointing of the Holy Spirit.** *(Not a hunch or a feeling!)*

John also tells us that...

**2. Acknowledgment** brings Assurance (23b) — We've already learned that **when we embrace the truth about the relationship between the Father and the Son**, we are brought into the right fellowship! (As John provides the antidote here...*Have you acknowledged this truth? Are you sealed?*) — (2 Cor 1:22) *God has also provided us with assurance* <sup>22</sup>...*who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee!*

**CLOSING THOUGHT:** It's quite evident that antichrist spirits are even more widespread today, in this "last minute." This "spirit" of antichrists will one day find its ultimate fulfillment in the Antichrist, who will lead humanity in an end-times rebellion against God. (*Are you able to discern truth from the Lie?*)

## ***Growing in Knowledge includes an Awareness of Antichrists!***

Fourth and Finally, GROWING IN KNOWLEDGE Involves...

**IV. Abiding in Truth (24-29):** The word **ABIDE** has been used by John in (2:6 Christ, 10 Light, 14 Word of God, and also in 17 Will of God). Now, in (V.24) the **TRUTH of God** — *Therefore let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father.* — Believers are to adhere to "the truth of God." (2 John 6b) says to "*Walk in it*" always! — It parallels what John said about "*Walking and Keeping Jesus' Commandments*" (2:3).

- John communicates this so that believers are not lead astray! (26)
- **Abiding** assures **ANCHORING!** (v.17) *...he who does the will of God abides forever!*

**A. The PROMISE for Eternal Life (25)** — *And this is the promise that He has promised us— eternal life.* — What exactly is **Eternal Life**? John is **NOT speaking of Immortality**, because everyone possess an eternal soul. What John is referring to is **the kind of life that God, the Eternal One, has in Himself!** — (1 John 5: 11-12) says, *And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is IN His Son. He who has the Son has life: he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.* (c.f. Eph 1: 3-5)

**B. The PURPOSE for Writing (26)** — *These things I have written to you concerning those who try to deceive you.* — John's Reason, so we will not be "deceived" by antichrists, apostates, or false prophets!

*"The devil is not anti-religion, but anti-Christ. He has devised so many religions, and so many versions of Christianity to blind people of the truth of God's gospel.* - Unknown Author

- **Don't be lead astray!** Protect yourselves by abiding in the original, core Christian message (*that which you heard from the beginning*). Walk in the simplicity and power of that message!

**C. The PARAKLETE for Truth (27)** — John reiterates that **the anointing we get** from God which **leads us into truth**, just as he said in (2:20), *But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as "the same anointing teaches you" concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.* — Jesus is the Truth, and the **Holy Spirit (Paraklete)** is the one who reveals truth. (John 14:16-17; 16:13). By this anointing, we can know all things that are true, and we can discern the lie, so that we can continue in "**the right way!**"

**D. The POISE at His Coming (28)** – *And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.* – Because we are abiding in Jesus now, there is **no fear of humiliation or terror** when Jesus returns. We may be **confident** and **assured** because *we are walking in the Light as he is in the light (1:7).*

- To stand before Jesus at His coming, with confidence and no shame, is John's goal for his "little children"! But it is not the goal of all...
- **(John 3:20-21)** *"For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. 21 But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."* (Expound on being exposed)

**E. The PROVEN PRACTICE (29)** – *If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him.* – Jesus is not only Righteous, but Righteousness. **He is the Standard of Righteousness!** Believers are to continue to walk in righteousness! This reveals that we are Born of Him! (expound)

**CLOSING THOUGHT:** The story is told about a conversation between two little boys... *One of the boys noticed that the other's grandmother spent a lot of time reading her Bible. "Why does she read the Bible so much?" the boy asked his friend. The other boy replied, "She is cramming for her final exam!"*

- The more we "**know**", and the more we "**keep**" the words of our Lord, **the greater our confidence** that we shall stand before our Lord on that great Day of Judgment with all boldness!

**Let's Pray...**

**COMMUNION: READ (1 Cor 11:23-31)** – The sacrificial death of Jesus Christ for our atonement provides the confidence that we need from day to day. His resurrection provides power to overcome any circumstance. All He asks of us is to REMEMBER HIM, until His second coming (which is soon!)