

1 John 2:18-27

Pastoral Updates:

- Serving at Selah luncheon... | Africa missions table...
- Memorial Day - honor fallen. (John 15:13 - love has no greater man...) - **freedom!** - **PRAY**

Please open to **1 John Chapter 2** (Need a Bible? ...chairs near you...)

- Last time: **Competing Loves** (v. 15), **Worldly Pursuits** (v. 16), **Eternal Realities** (v. 17)
- This time: A **real issue of deception**; the **church is not defenseless!** **Two safeguards** against:

Message Title: **Antichrists, Anointing, and Abiding**

- **Antichrist Deceptions** (verses 18-19)
- **Anointing of the Spirit** (verses 20-23)
- **Abiding in the Truth** (verses 24-27)

An age of rapid misinformation: fake news, deep fakes, scams and spams, **Who's telling the truth!?**

- Even religious noise... if someone uses the name Jesus is it the true Jesus? (Gnosticism!)
- In John's day, throughout the ages, and even now... have been **false teachers & counterfeits!**
- **John gives assurance to the church!** But first, **he announces the dangers...**

Antichrist Deceptions (verses 18-19)

PRAY

V. 18 - Little **children**

- **Endearing from the loving Apostle** to the blessed church...

V. 18 - It is **the last hour**

- **Last (Eschatos)** = "last in time, place or succession; the end or uttermost" + **Hour (hora)** = "any definite point of time, moment, day, season; daytime; at once" (**eschatology** = last things)
 - **No definite article** - stresses character of the time, not the imminent countdown of it...
 - **Simple Summary** = **1st & 2nd advents**, but **Theology more so than chronology!**

V. 18 - And as you have heard that the **Antichrist is coming**

- **Antichristos** = (anti) "**instead of, in lieu of, in place of, opposite, or against**" + (**Christos**) "**anointed one**" (**clearly opposed from outside, but subtly substituted from within...**)
 - **A different Gospel** (2 Cor 11)
- **An antichrist figure is coming** - the son of perdition, man of lawlessness, little horn in Daniel.
 - **A final world figure** (2 Thess 2, Rev.) **But he is not the main focus of John's text...**

V. 18 - Even now **many antichrists have come**

- This is the **main point of the text.** In the past: Antiochus Epiphanes... General Titus...
- Deceptions usually come wrapped in **charisma, confidence, and appeal...** (infiltrating...)
- They **typically don't announce themselves** as false teachers or blatant (heresy podcast! ha!)

V. 18 - **By which we know** that it is the last hour.

- An indicator **the last hour** is **here** or **at least has begun...**
- **Matthew 24:3-4, 11** - "Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, 'Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?' And Jesus answered and said to them: 'Take heed that no one deceives you... [v. 11] **many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.**'"
- Some ask, **how long?**; **been 2,000 years!** That's **one long hour!** **Central standard time?** ha!
- **2 Peter 3:8-9, NIV** - "But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: **With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.** 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..."
- Remember, John is dealing with **an epoch (season) of time**, **not a sequential hour!** (**Acts 1:7**)

V. 19 - They went out from us, **but they were not of us**; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us.

- **From us** is **fronted in the sentence emphasizing apostolic authority!** (**this is the issue!**)
- John is **not trying to make an argument** here about **once saved always saved/losing salvation.**
- He's dealing with some **falling away from The Apostles Doctrine.** AKA: **the "TRUE" church.**
- (Yarbrough) "**We were here first and doing fine; they were the ones who diverged and departed**"
- That tells us, the **visible church** always will have **within it some who are not genuine** Christians.
 - Illustrated in the **Parable of the Wheat and Tares (Matt 13)**
 - **John 6:66-69** - "...many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more. Then Jesus said to the twelve, 'Do you also want to go away?' But Simon Peter answered Him, '**Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.**'"
- **Only God knows the heart**... But friends, the **fellowship of the saints is vitally important.**
- John is **not dealing with struggling prodigals**, but **false converts/teachers (evidenced!)**

Anointing of the Spirit (verses 20-23)

V. 20 - **But you**

- **You = fronted, and emphatic!** In **strong contrast to the false teachers...** **The church!**
- **False teachers deny basic truths** of our Lord, but **true believers are safeguarded & equipped!**

V. 20 - Have an **anointing from the Holy One**

- **Anointing (chrisma)** = "oil smeared on; used for the inaugural ceremony for **priests, prophets, and kings**; symbolizing the Holy Spirit's activities" (**Heb. = Mashach**) (**consecration of office!**)
- **The Holy One (ho hagios)** = Clearly **a reference to Christ!** or, **the Spirit coming from Christ!**
 - John **doesn't list the word "Spirit" specifically**, though **half a dozen times in this letter...**
- But friends, look at and listen to the **deliberate wordplay** John builds into the Greek:
 - **Christos** ("the Anointed One")
 - **Antichristos** ("Antichrist")
 - **Chrisma** ("Anointing")
 - The **antichrist opposes the Anointed One**; the **believer shares in His anointing!**
- Most (**myself included**) understand **this anointing** as **the Holy Spirit indwelling His people!**
- **John 14:17, ESV** - "...the Spirit of truth, 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.**"

- **Jesus promised it to all believers**, and *John says* you **all have this anointing!** Paul too...
- *2 Cor. 1:21-22, NIV* - "Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. **He anointed us**, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, *guaranteeing what is to come.*" - **Pentecost Sunday**, people! (**50 days after firstfruits**)
- To be clear, **this anointing** is: *from Jesus*, by *means of the Holy Spirit*, **for all believers!**
- **OT** - *for a specific purpose*, **NT** = *the church*. (**wrong usage and better language!**)
- **Not a special elite experience** but the **common possession** of the whole **royal priesthood!**
- **However, we must live in participation with this anointing!**
- *Gal 5:24-25, NIV* - "Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, **let us keep in step with the Spirit.**" (**be filled!**)

Back to our text, **this anointing** given to the God's people **comes with discernment...**

V. 20 - **And you know all things.**

- This is **not claiming utter omniscience** of *all facts in the universe, always, everytime...*
- **The two possible readings** could be translated as "**you know all things,**" or "**you all know.**"
- *In either case*, it's a message that **they have everything they need** to **resist false teachings.**
- **John is reassuring them.** They **know the truth** because they **belong to the One who is true!**
 - **You're not missing out on special "hidden super knowledge"** about JEsus...

Vv. 20-21 - *I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, **but because you know it**, and that no lie is of the truth.*

- *John 16:13* - "When He, the Spirit of truth, has come, **He will guide you into all truth...**"
- A **safeguard against deception** is the **anointing or indwelling of the Holy One** in your life.
 - If you have a **check, or conviction or lack peace**, listen to that. **Don't dismiss it.**
- The **Spirit illuminates and convicts** us of *biblical truths...* (*unlike the blinded unsaved world*)
 - *John 14:25-26, ESV* - "...these things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. 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.**"
- A **mother knows her own child's cry** in a crowded room = (*no masters degree needed...*)
 - *John 10:4* - "**they know his voice.**"

Now, for the **core issue...**

V. 22 - **Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ?**

- The core issue: **Gnosticism. Docetism** ("appear"); **Cerinthianism** ("seperate" (Christ/Jesus))
 - **Denying humanity or deity (incarnation! Mere emanation from God = Arius Slap!)**
 - **Still a deception to this day: Islam, J-Dibs, Mormons**, etc... (**unitarianism as well**)
 - John's core issue is **not morality, politics or references**, it's **Christological!**
- The **Bible on repeat** announces *these heresies will increase in the last days...* (**warning!**)
- *2 Peter 2:1-2, CSB* - "There were indeed false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will bring in destructive heresies, **even denying the Master who bought them**, and will bring swift destruction on themselves. Many will follow their depraved ways, and the way of truth will be maligned because of them..." (**be alert, friends!**)

V. 22 - **He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son.**

- *John making friends here*, whoa! If you **reject the true nature of Christ** you are an **antichrist**

- **1 John 4:2-3** - "By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, 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..." (who is Jesus?)

And, it's no small matter....

V. 23 - Whoever **denies the Son does not have the Father either;**

- **Whoever** literally means **all**... This is **a universal truth that applies to all** of us...
- To **deny the deity, Lordship, incarnation, and Messiahship of Christ**, is to **deny the Father** (idea here = **God Himself!**) - you **cannot reject the truth about Jesus and truly know God.**
 - **John 14:6** - "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. **No one comes to the Father except through me...**"
 - There is **only one way** to God and heaven, and it is **through Christ!**
 - **Matthew 10:32-33** - "Whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven." (very clear!)

Love me a Chiasm! An inverse parallel...

V. 23 - He who **acknowledges the Son has the Father also.**

- **Acknowledge/Confess (homo)** (same) + **logeō** (to say) = "to speak the same word or say the same thing."
- To **confess the Messiah** is to **be right with God!** To **know Christ is to know God!**
- **John 12:44-45** - "Jesus cried out and said, 'He who believes in Me, believes not in Me but in Him who sent Me. And **he who sees Me sees Him who sent Me...**'"
- **Pause here for a mid-service altar call? Does anyone need to get right? (G.O.S.P.E.L.)**

There's another safeguard...

Abiding in the Truth (verses 24-27)

V. 24 - Therefore let that **abide in you which you heard from the beginning.**

- **Therefore** is actually **"as for you"** = **fronted and emphatic!** **Strongly contrasting the false!**
- And **it's plural** = the **whole body of believers! (the church!)**
- **That which comes from the beginning** = **The Gospel! The Apostles' doctrine.**
- **Beloved brethren**, You don't need to be **entertained**; you don't need **clever gimmicks** or **emotional outbursts**... You need **the good old message of that rugged cross.**
 - **Protestant reformers** realized this! (**began reading scriptures...**)
 - **Trusted saying:** **"If it's true it's not new... and if it's new, it's not true..."**
- And **not just** knowing **"about"** that **faithful trusted message**, but letting it **abide** in you!
 - **Live! Dwell! Anchor! Take root! Remain!** (**Jn 15** = bear much fruit!)
 - **Psalm 1** = **tree planted by the river! Fruit, strength, prosper!** (**not a tumble weed!**)
 - **Present tense** = ongoing dependence upon... **Shema!** (**heart, house, on the roads...**)
- We **don't water it down**, we **don't change it**, we **don't make light of it**; we **live it and fight for it!**
 - **Jude 1:3** - "Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to **contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.**"

- Christian maturity is **not moving beyond the Gospel!** It's **digging deeper into it!**
- **Col 2:6-7** - "As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, **rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.**"

But wait, there's more...

V. 24 - *If what you heard... abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father.*

- To know the Gospel of our Lord Christ **is to know God!** The fullness of God! **Relationship!**

V. 25 - *And this is the promise that He has promised us—**eternal life.***

- **The result of living** in that **old trusted Gospel message revealed by the Apostles** is...
- **To know God** and receive what **He has promised us... Eternal life!** C'mon, man!!!!
- **Eternal life** - both in **quality and chronology! It's already and not yet... (new creation!)**
- That **HE** (Jesus) has **promised to us!** His **Gospel alone provides this!** No other way...

In case you're wondering why John is telling us all this, he reminds us agin...

V. 26 - *These things I have written to you **concerning those who try to deceive you.***

- **Deceive** = **(Planao)** = wandering off into the **planets!** (not what God wants for His church...)
- **2 Timothy 3:1, 7, 4:3-4** - "But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be [list of many sins] ...always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth... for the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables..."
- **John loves the church** and wants to **protect them from that.**
- **I love you** and want to **protect you as well,** so I am **preaching that trusted Word.**
- ...cults, false gospels, new age, universalism, **deconstructionism (from orthodoxy!)**

John closes by restating the encouragement once again and pairs them together...

V. 27 - *But the anointing which you have **received from Him abides in you***

- The **Spirit abides within!** Beginning at conversion! Now **illumination and revelation** comes!
- Again, **remind you to be careful.** "**Anointing**" language here is **for all.**
- Watch out for those that **claim a special anointing of revelation** from God (**fly home in jet**)
- The **anointing of the Spirit** you **received at conversion abides in you** and will **NEVER cause you to do something that contradicts the Word of God** or **inconsistent with the life of Jesus!**

John goes on to say...

V. 27 - *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*

- You **already have the Spirit & the Word!** You **don't need** some "**secret knowledge**" beyond...
- This is **not to say** that God hasn't **gifted the church with teachers...** **No lone rangers!**
- **Eph 4:11-14** - "And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we

should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting..."

- John is dealing with **truth vs lies**. *John 17:17 - "...your word is truth"*
- John is *reminding the church*, "You've already been given the Spirit and the Word of truth, **you don't need some new teacher with special knowledge**" (*serpent in Garden! Father of lies*)
- It's a **Word of encouragement!**

V. 27 - *And just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.*

- **Abiding in Christ! His Spirit and His Word! Being taught by them. Living in them!**

Closing:

This message is relevant for us today in a very noisy world...

2 Tim 3:13-15 - "...evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."

Be careful, friends, remain **anchored in the Word** and **trust the conviction of the anointing**...

- *Teachers come and go, trends rise and fall, theological fads come in waves*, but the **core message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ never changes and endures forever!**

A garden doesn't become healthy by accident, but through cultivation and care...

PRAY - *Confess the Son... trust the Spirit... abide in the truth...*