



1 JOHN 2:18-27

In our world today, truth is subjective. There are many who claim to have the truth, and use their influence on social media to declare it. Then those in opposition are quick to cancel that truth with their own. Sources we once thought to be truthful, even in the church, are often seen to be pushing their own version of the truth. Throughout the pandemic, our government has pointed to science, or human intellect, as the source of all truth. So where do we go to find truth that has no lie in it?

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. 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 it might become plain that they all are not of us. ²⁰ But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and you all have knowledge. ²¹ I write to you, not because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and because no lie is of the truth. ²² Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son. ²³ No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also. ²⁴ Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father. ²⁵ And this is the promise that he made to us—eternal life.

²⁶ I write these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you. ²⁷ But the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie—just as it has taught you, abide in him.

John writes to warn us not to be deceived about the truth. The truth is that because of Jesus Christ, the Holy One, we have the Holy Spirit living in our hearts. To be anointed (mentioned three times in this passage) is to be set apart for God's purposes. The moment you believe in Jesus and surrender your heart to him, you receive the Holy Spirit, which completely transforms your identity from sinner to saint, lost to found, from aimless to purposeful.

Deception comes from those who deny that Jesus is the Holy One of God, who died and was raised to life. They distort the truth, whether intentionally or not, simply because they are not following God. But as those who confess Jesus, we have hope that is not based on the ever changing deceptions of our world. It is a hope living in us, through the Holy Spirit. It is a hope that teaches us everything we need to know so that we can live purposeful lives for God. It is a hope that is true and promises eternal life with God. So rather than be swayed by the latest news report from those who don't know Him, we can be confident in this truth and can draw near to God.

Study Questions (30 min)

- Share a time when as a child, you discovered that you had been deceived - what you thought was true was not.
- Take a moment to read the passage. What did you learn about His anointing and what it provides?
- In verses 24 -27, how can we prevent ourselves from being deceived?
- How will you abide (draw near, remain) with God this week?
- Based off our discussion, how can we encourage each other to live this out?

D&A (20 min)

- How is your time with God going?
- What are you praying about currently?
- What is something you are struggling through (sin or hurt)?