

Sermon Notes 3/8/2026

For Christ or Anti-Christ

**How can we guard against false teaching?
¿Cómo podemos protegernos contra la enseñanza falsa?**

1. We need to know the _____.
Necesitamos conocer los _____.

- 1 John 2:18 (1 Juan 2:18)
- 2 Timothy 3:1-5 (2 Timoteo 3:1-5)
- 1 Timothy 4:1-2 (1 Timoteo 4:1-2)

2. We need to know the _____.
Necesitamos saber la _____.

- 1 John 2:21 (1 Juan 2:21)
- John 8:31-32 (Juan 8:31-32)

3. We need to know our _____.
Necesitamos conocer nuestro _____.

- 1 John 2:24 (1 Juan 2:24)
- 1 Corinthians 1:4-6 (1 Corintios 1:4-6)

4. We need to know our _____.
Necesitamos conocer a nuestros _____.

- 1 John 2:27 (1 Juan 2:27)
- 2 Peter 3:17-18 (2 Pedro 3:17-18)



“The Sermon and Deeds of the Antichrist”

by Luca Signorelli, 1502

Life Group Discussion Questions

Week 5: March 8-15

Scripture: 1 John 2:18-27

In 1 John 2:18-27, we read about the “antichrist.” Most people do not realize this, but the word “antichrist” is not in the book of Revelation. The only books of the Bible that mention the “antichrist” are First and Second John. The word “antichrist” simply means against Christ. When John wrote about the antichrist, he was giving his first-century readers a serious warning about false teachers who were leading Christians away from Christ. And this is a warning that we need to hear today. We need to be prepared to defend the truth when false teachers try to deceive us. And we need to be prepared to remain faithful to Jesus even when friends and family members fall away from Christ.

John Stott sees verses 12-17 as two digressions from John’s main purpose of helping his readers to know the difference between the false teaching of the heretics and the true teaching of the Apostles. He writes,

After his two brief digressions, John reverts to his principal thesis, namely discrimination between the true and the false by means of tests. To the moral and social tests which he has already expounded (3-11), he now adds his doctrinal test. He first draws a clear distinction between the heretics and the genuine Christians (18-21); then defines the nature and effect of the heresy (22-23); and finally describes the two safeguards against heresy which his readers already have (24-27). (Stott, 107)

Read 1 John 2:18-27

1. What time did John say it was in verse 18?

Morris Womack observes,

Several references are made to the “last times” in various places in the New Testament. Peter declared, referring to the astounding presence of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, that “this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: ‘In the last days [emphasis mine] God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people’” (Acts 2:16-17). Paul uses the same kind of language in 1 Timothy 4:1, “The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith.” All of these references are to the fact that Jesus brought a new age, as opposed to the age marked by the Law of Moses. (Womack, 68)

2. Who was coming and who had come at the time John wrote this? (2:18)
3. What did John say about those who had left them? (2:19)
4. What did John say that his readers had from the Holy One? (2:20)

John is making a play on words between “antichrist” and “anointing.”

Gary Burge explains,

John works to equip his faithful followers regarding the deceitful teachings of these secessionists. There is a play on words here in Greek. If the secessionists represent the antichrist (*antichristos*), now we learn that John’s Christians bear an anointing (*chrisma*) that can aid and protect them. *Antichristos* and *chrisma* originate from the same Greek verb, *chrío*, “to anoint.” (Burge, 128)

5. What did John say that his readers knew? (2:21)
6. How is the antichrist described in verse 22?

Womack comments,

The Gnostics believed that they had a secret revelation or knowledge from God. It was a special knowledge for their own group which made them some sort of a special class of individuals—a “notch above” normal Christians. John answers his own question by saying the liar is the man who denies that Jesus is the Christ. This is a description of the docetic Gnostic. There is no room for fellowship between God and heretics. By their own acceptance of “the lie,” they have severed their fellowship with God. (Womack, 71)

7. What does verse 23 say about those who deny the Son?

Burge notes,

Our vision of God is anchored in what has happened objectively, not in our perception of who he may be. Incarnation makes revelation possible because God has signaled once again his love for this world and his desire to show himself to it. The Fourth Gospel urges again and again that Jesus is the human display of the Father (John 1:18; 14:1-14). This is an important point that still needs to be underscored, for we live in a world that denies the objectivity of truth and the possibility of revelation. (Burge, 130)

8. What did John tell his readers to do that would help them remain in the Son and in the Father? (2:24)

Womack writes,

In such a time of spiritual frustration, it is important for these first century Christians to have an anchor. John urges them to remain in the things which they have heard from the beginning: the pure gospel of Jesus Christ. Again, as in previous places, the beginning refers to the beginning of the Christian age, or at least their initial confrontation with the gospel... John is urging his readers to cling to the original Christian message. (Womack, 73)

9. What is the promise of God that John has been writing about? (2:25)

10. According to verse 26, why did John write these things?

11. Why did John tell his readers that they didn't need anyone to teach them? (2:27)

12. In what sense are we living in the "last hour"?

13. What "antichrists" are in our world today?

14. What does the "anointing" refer to and how does it teach us?

15. What does John mean when he says that we have no need for anyone to teach us? Does this mean that the church doesn't need teachers?

16. What can churches do to protect members from being deceived?

17. What will you do this week to grow in your knowledge of the truth?

18. How will you help other believers remain in the Son and in the Father?

Sources cited:

Burge, Gary. *The Letters of John*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1996.
Stott, John. *The Letters of John*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2009.
Womack, Morris. *1, 2, & 3 John*. Joplin, MO: College Press, 1998.