

## Wednesday Night Yard Teaching Guide: 1 John 2:18–27

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*[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.*

### Main Idea

The way of the antichrist is hopeless and without God in the world, but the way of the apostles, the way of Christ, is the way to fellowship with God.

### Outline

- I. The Two Ways (v. 18)
  - A. It is the last hour – Jesus has accomplished redemption and will return soon to complete it
  - B. There is a contrast between the way of the antichrist and the way of Christ
- II. The Way of the Antichrist (vv. 19–23)
  - A. Antichrists deny that Jesus is the Christ
  - B. Therefore, they deny Christ’s redemption. They believe the world is still under the power of the Evil One.
  - C. The way of the antichrist has “no hope” and is “without God in the world” (Ephesians 2:12)
- III. The Way of Christ (vv. 24–27)
  - A. The way of Christ is characterized by fellowship with God in the truth that Jesus is the Christ.
    1. The Holy Spirit indwells those who know Christ.

2. We have access to God through Christ in the Holy Spirit.
- B. The way of Christ is characterized by assurance of fellowship with God forever.
  1. God in Christ, who “promised us a promise,” is the ground of our assurance.

#### IV. Application

- A. *Believe* that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.
- B. *Pray* – take advantage of your access to the Father through Christ.
- C. If you have fled to Christ for refuge, *enjoy* the assurance that he has promised you eternal life.

### Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever made a decision that had drastic consequences for your life? What do you think your life would have been like had you not made that decision?
2. Last week, we said that “the way of the antichrist” is the way of those who deny that Jesus is the Christ. What is this way like? (*See 1 John 2:19–23; Ephesians 2:12.*)
3. Last week, we said that “the way of Christ” is the way of those who receive Christ’s redemption. What is this way like? (*See 1 John 2:24–27; Ephesians 2:18, 3:12; Hebrews 6:17–20.*)
4. What does it mean to trust Jesus, rather than your own faith, for your salvation? What might this look like in practice?
5. Read Hebrews 6:17–20. How does the faithfulness of God matter to you? Do you think much about his promises? What difference do his promises make for our lives? What is the best way to know what he does and doesn’t promise us? (*See Psalm 119; 2 Corinthians 1:20; Jude 24–25.*)
6. Do you believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God? What makes it hard to believe? (*See John 20:24–29.*)
7. Do you pray often? What difference does it make to you to know that Jesus purchased your access to God with his own life?
8. When you pray, what do you pray for? How do you pray? Do you ask God for things? Do you confess your pain or trouble? What keeps you from telling God all that is in your heart and mind?
9. If you are in Christ, do you know the assurance that comes from him? Do you enjoy that assurance? Should our assurance of salvation lead us to sin against God, or lead us to obey God more? Why? (*See Romans 6:1–4.*)