

The Book of First JOHN

Chapter 2:18-29

“The Antichrist Is Coming!”

D) ANTICHRISTS ARE HERE!(v18-23)

(v18a) The word “LAST” (Gk. – *eschatos*) signifies the age before the Second Coming of Christ; the word last is used some 52 times in the New Testament; the “last hour” reveals a spirit antichrist up to the Second Coming of Jesus who is the Christ.

(v18b) John affirms the fact “THE ANTICHRIST IS COMING!” He also declares that “MANY ANTICHRISTS HAVE COME,” are present, which means these antichrists are with us today! Vines, the Greek scholar defines its meaning, Gk. - “*antichristos*” can mean either “against Christ” or “instead of Christ,” or perhaps, combining the two, “one who, assuming the guise of Christ, opposes Christ” (Westcott). The word is found only in John's epistles, (a) of the many “antichrists” who are forerunners of the “Antichrist” himself, 1 John 2:18, 22; 2 John 7.”

(v19) **Observation: John declares that “THEY (antichrists) WENT OUT FROM US”** - C.I. Scofield writes, “they went out DOCTRINALLY. Doubtless then, as now, the deniers of the Son (22-23) called themselves Christians.”

> **Dr. David Hocking describes HERESY or HERETICS with 9 powerful points:**

(FYI - *Heresy* is false doctrine, or teaching which denies one of the foundational beliefs of the church such as the Lordship or deity of Jesus.)

- #1 - Heretics are those who deny the Lord and turn the grace of God into licentiousness (no standards of morality) – II Peter 2:1-3, 18-22 and Jude 4.
- #2 - Heretics are those who preach a gospel of human performance and works – Galatians 1:6-9; 2:4, 14-16, 21; 6:12-15.
- #3 - Heretics are those who teach strange doctrines based on mere speculation and controversial questions – I Timothy 1:3-7; 4:7; 6:3-5; II Timothy 2:14-18, 23; Titus 1:10, 11, 13-16; 3:9-11.
- #4 - Heretics are those who cause dissensions and hindrances contrary to the teaching of the Word of God – Romans 16:17.
- #5 - Heretics are those who follow the doctrines of demons – I Timothy 4:1-5; Colossians 2:18-23.
- #6 - Heretics are those who have a form of godliness, but deny its power – II Timothy 3:1-9.
- #7 - Heretics are those who deny the Second Coming of Jesus Christ – II Peter 3:3-4.
- #8 - Heretics are those who deny the true identity of our Lord Yeshua – I John 2:22-23, 26; 4:1-6; II John 7-11; Jude 17-25.
- #9 - Heretics are those who continue in sin without repentance – I Corinthians 5:1, 9-13; I Timothy 5:19-20.

> **Every Christian must believe and declare SOUND BIBLICAL DOCTRINE! (TRUTH)**

Our STATEMENT OF FAITH:

- **We Believe** the Bible to be the inspired, only infallible, authoritative, inerrant, all sufficient Word of God (2 Timothy 3:15-17; 2 Peter 1:21).
- **We Believe** there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Genesis 1:1; Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:19; John 10:30).
- **We Believe** in the deity of Christ (John 10:33); His virgin birth (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:34-35); His sinless life (Hebrews 4:15; 7:26); His miracles (John 2:11); His vicarious and atoning death (1 Corinthians 15:3; Ephesians 1:7; Hebrews 2:9); His resurrection (John 11:25; 1 Corinthians 15:4); His ascension to the right hand of the Father (Mark 16:19); His personal return to earth in power and glory (Acts 1:11; Revelation 19:11-16).
- **We Believe** in the absolute necessity of regeneration by the Holy Spirit for salvation because of the exceeding sinfulness of human nature, and that all are justified on the single ground of faith in the shed blood of Christ, and that only by God's grace, through faith alone, are we saved (John 3:16-19; 5:24; Romans 3:23; 5:8-9; Ephesians 2:8-10; Titus 3:5).
- **We Believe** in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved unto the resurrection of the life, and they that are not into the resurrection of damnation (John 5:28-29).

- **We Believe** in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13; Galatians 3:26-28).
- **We Believe** in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by Whose dwelling the Christian is enabled to live a Godly life (Romans 8:13-14; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19-20; Ephesians 4:30; 5:18).
- **We Believe** in marriage between one man and one woman (Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:5; Ephesians 5:31).

(v20-21) **“anointing”**- Every born again believer receives the “anointing” of the Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation (**John 14:16-17, 26; 15:26-27 16:7-15**).

(v22) Recognize the antichrist teaching: *“Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son.” Jesus said in Matthew 24:4-5, 24 - “Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many.” . . . “For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.”*

- What does the Bible say regarding *Jesus as the Christ?* – **Matthew 16:13-18**

(v23) **“denial”**- 1 John 2:23- *“Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who acknowledges the Son has the Father also”*. Jesus said in John 10:30 - *“I and my Father are One”* In John 5:23 - *“That all men should honor the Son, even as they honor the Father. He that honors not the Son honors not the Father which has sent Him.”*

II) ABIDE IN CHRIST! (v24-29)

(v24-25) **“abide”** - John 15:5-7 - *“I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. The abiding Christian receives the promise of **ETERNAL LIFE!***

(v26-27) **Deceivers will try to deceive you!** – Watch out the ultimate deception and deceiver is coming, he is known as the ANTICHRIST:

- His **Reality**- **2 Thessalonians ch. 2** – *“lawless one”*- power, signs, and lying wonders.
- His **Rule**- Revelation ch. 13 – Mark of the B.E.A.S.T. “666”
- His **Ruin**- Revelation ch. 19:20; 20:10-15- *“Lake of Fire”*

(v28-29) **JESUS IS COMING! PRACTICE RIGHTEOUSNESS!** – Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is coming for His bride, are you ready? If not let’s get ready, get saved today! This passage refers to the **“RAPTURE”** of the church which is found in John 14:1-3; Matthew 24:36-51; Matthew 25:1-13; 1 Corinthians 15:51-58; Philippians 3:20-21; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Revelation 3:7-13.