



# **The Book of First JOHN**

## **Chapter 2:18-29**

### **“The Antichrist Is Coming!”**

#### **I) 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!

~ CALVARY CHAPEL PEARL HARBOR STATEMENT OF FAITH:

1 Timothy 4:16 - Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.

- THE TRIUNE GOD - We affirm our belief in one God, infinite Spirit, creator, and sustainer of all things, who exists eternally in three persons, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. These three are one in essence but distinct in person and function. (Deut. 4:35; 6:4; Isa 44:5-8)

- GOD THE FATHER - We affirm that the Father is the first person of the Triune Godhead and the source of all that God is and does. From Him the Son is eternally generated and from Them the Spirit eternally proceeds. He is the designer of creation, the speaker of revelation, the author of redemption, and the sovereign of history. (Gen 1:26; 3:22; Is 48:16; Matt. 28:18–19; Mark 12:29; John 1:14; Acts 5:3–4; 2 Cor. 13:14; Tit 3:4–7; Heb. 1:1–3; Rev. 1:4–6)

- GOD THE SON - We affirm that the Lord Jesus Christ is the second person of the Trinity, eternally begotten from the Father. He is God. He was conceived by the Virgin Mary through a miracle of the Holy Spirit. He lives forever as perfect God and perfect man: two distinct natures inseparably united in one person. (Matt 1:22, 23; John 1:1, 2, 14; Phil 2:6, 7; Col 1:15-20; Rom 5:9; Titus 2:13; 1 John 5:20)

- GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT - We affirm that the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity, proceeding from the Father and the Son and equal in deity. He is the giver of all life, active in the creating and ordering of the universe; He is the agent of inspiration and the new birth; He restrains sin and Satan; and He baptizes simultaneous to salvation, indwells and sanctifies all believers. We affirm that the Holy Spirit distributes spiritual gifts to every believer for the edification of the body of Christ and that these gifts are distributed by God's sovereign design. (Mt. 28:19; Acts 5:3-4; 1 Cor. 12:11, 18; 2 Cor. 3:18; 1 Cor. 6:19; 12:13; Eph 1:13; Tit 3:5; 1 Pet 1:2; 1 Cor. 12:1-31)

- THE SCRIPTURE - We affirm that the Bible, both Old and New Testaments, though written by men, was supernaturally inspired by God so that all its words are the written true revelation of God; it is therefore inerrant in the originals and authoritative in all matters. It is to be understood by all believers through the illumination of the Holy Spirit, its meaning determined by the historical, grammatical, and literary use of the author's language, comparing Scripture with Scripture. We believe that God's Word has been preserved in many translations throughout the world (Ps 119:160; Jer. 15:16; Ps 19:7-11; Zech 7:12; Mt. 24:35; John 10:35, John 17:17; 2 Tim 3:16-17; 2 Pet 1:3-4, 2 Pet 1:20, 21)

- **CREATION** - We affirm that all things were created by God. Angels were created as ministering agents, though some, under the leadership of Satan, fell from their sinless state to become agents of evil. The universe was created in six literal days and is continuously sustained by God; thus it both reflects His glory and reveals His truth. Human beings were directly created, not evolved, in the very image of God. As reasoning moral agents, they are responsible under God for understanding and governing themselves and the world. (Gen. 1:1; Gen 1:1-31; Gen 2:1-3; 18-25; Ex 20:11; Ps 90:2; 148:1-5; Is 14:12-14; Ezek 28:12-17; Luke 10:18; Rev. 12:8-10; Gen 3:14,15; Gen 3:1-19; Rom 1:20; Eph 3:9; Ps 8:3; 19:1; Heb 1:3; 11:3; Heb 1:14; Rev 7:11-12; Job 1:6-7; Luke 10:18; Col 2:15; Heb 1:6,14)

- **MAN** - We affirm that man was created in the image of God having personality (ability to think, decide and feel). We affirm that Adam, the first man, willfully disobeyed God, bringing sin and death into the world. As a result, all persons are sinners from conception, which is evidenced in their willful acts of sin; and they are therefore subject to eternal punishment, under the just condemnation of a holy God. (Gen 1:26, 27; Rom 3:10-23; Eph 2:1, 2; 2 Cor. 5:17)

- **THE WORK OF CHRIST** - We affirm that Jesus Christ offered Himself as a sacrifice by the appointment of the Father. He fulfilled the demands of God by His obedient life, died on the cross in full substitution and payment for the sins of all, was buried, and on the third day He arose physically and bodily from the dead. He ascended into heaven where He now intercedes for all believers. (1 Pet. 3:18; Rom. 3:24; 1 Cor. 15:3-5; Rom. 8:34; 1 Jn 2:1, 2)

- **SALVATION** - We affirm that each person can be saved only through the work of Jesus Christ by faith alone in Him as Lord and Savior. The believer is declared righteous, born again by the Holy Spirit, forgiven of all sin, and assured of heaven. (John 1:12,13; Acts 16:31; Rom 3:21-25; Eph 1:7, 1 John 2:2; 2 Peter 3:9; Eph 2:1, 2; Rom 5:18; 6:23, 2 Cor. 9:15, Tit 3:3-8; Jn. 6:37-49; 10:27-30; Rom. 8:1, 38, 39; Eph. 2:8-10; Titus 3:5)

- **SANCTIFICATION** - We affirm that the Holy Spirit indwells all who are born again conforming them to the likeness of Jesus Christ. This is a process completed only in Heaven. Every believer is responsible to live in obedience to the Word of God in separation from sin. (1 Cor. 1:2; 6:11; John 17:17; 2 Cor. 3:18; 7:1; Eph. 4:24; 5:25-27; 1 Thess. 5:23; Phil 2:12; 13; Heb. 10:10, 14; 12:10; Rom 6-8; Gal 5:16-24; Eph 4:21-24; 1 John 3:1-3; Eph 5:26-27; Jude 24-35; Father: John 15:2; John 17:17; 1 Thess. 5:23; Christ: Gal 2:20; Eph 5:26-27; Col. 1:22; Heb 13:12; Heb 2:11; Heb 10:10; Holy Spirit: 2 Cor. 3:18; Rom 8:13; Eph 1:17; Rom 5:5; Gal 5:22-23)

- **THE CHURCH** - We affirm that the universal church is the body of Christ composed of all born again believers. We affirm that a local church is an assembly of baptized believers, under the discipline of the Word of God and the lordship of Christ, organized to carry out the commission to evangelize, to teach, and to administer the ordinances of believer's baptism and the Lord's Table. It functions through the ministry of gifts given by the Holy Spirit to each believer. (Matt 28:18-20; Luke 22:14-20; 1 Cor. 1:2; 11:23-26)

- **MARRIAGE** – We affirm that marriage is exclusively the legal union of one genetic male and one genetic female and that this union is evidenced by marriage ceremony. We also affirm that legitimate biblical sexual relations are exercised solely within marriage. Hence, sexual activities such as, but not limited to, adultery, fornication, pre-marital sex, incest, polygamy, homosexuality, transgenderism, bisexuality, cross dressing, pedophilia and bestiality are inconsistent with the teachings of the Bible and the Church. Further, lascivious behavior, the creation, viewing and/or distribution of pornography and efforts to alter one's physical gender or gender related appearance are incompatible with a true biblical witness. (Genesis 2:24; 1 Corinthians 5:11; 6:9; 6:18-20; 7:1-3; 7:8-9; Romans 1:18-32).

- **HUMAN LIFE** - We affirm that all human life is sacred and created by God in His image. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death. We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life. (Psalm 139:1-24; Romans 13:9; Proverbs 24:11-12)

- **FUTURE THINGS** - We affirm that the return of Christ for all believers is imminent. It will be followed by seven years of great tribulation, and then the coming of Christ to establish His earthly kingdom for a thousand years. The unsaved will then be raised and judged according to their works and separated forever from God in hell. The saved, having been raised, will live forever in heaven in fellowship with God. (Rev 20:1-7; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; Tit 2:13, 14; Rev 19:11-21; 20:1-15; Mt. 25:46; Jn. 5:28, 29; 11:25, 26; Rev. 20:5, 6, 12, 13)

- **WITNESS AND SERVICE** - We affirm the responsibility of each believer, motivated by the love of Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, to witness for Christ, that the Great Commandment and the Great Commission of our Lord Jesus Christ to give the Gospel to every creature throughout the world are still incumbent on every believer. We believe in the will, power and providence of God to meet our every need in His service likewise to live sacrificially for the proclamation of the Gospel into the entire world. (Matt 6:33; Matt 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; 2 Cor. 9:6-8; Phil 4:19)

- **FINAL AUTHORITY OF MATTERS AND CONDUCT** – The statement of faith does not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, is the sole and final source of all that we believe. For purposes of Calvary Chapel Pearl Harbor's faith doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, our pastors are the Calvary Chapel Pearl Harbor's final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application.

> **Remember the devil will always attack doctrine:**

**D – DEITY OF JESUS CHRIST**

**O – OBEDIENCE TO THE WORD OF GOD**

**C – JESUS IS THE ONE & ONLY CHRIST**

**T – THE TRINITY**

**R – REDEMPTION THROUGH THE BLOOD OF CHRIST**

**I – INFALLIBILITY OF THE BIBLE**  
**N – SALVATION THROUGH THE “NEW BIRTH”**  
**E – ETERNAL LIFE THROUGH CHRIST**

(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) CHRISTIANS MUST 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 for the ultimate deception/deceiver is coming; he is known as the ANTICHRIST:**

- **ANTICHRIST Reality-** 2 Thessalonians Ch. 2 – *“lawless one”*- power, signs, and lying wonders.

- **ANTICHRIST Rule-** Revelation Ch. 13 – Mark of the B.E.A.S.T. “666”

- **ANTICHRIST Ruin-** Revelation Ch. 19:20; 20:10-15- *“Lake of Fire”*

(v28-29) **JESUS IS COMING!**

~ **May we PRACTICE RIGHTEOUSNESS!** – Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is coming for His bride, are you ready? If not let us get ready, get saved today!

- **These passages refer to the “RAPTURE” of the church:** 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.