

1 JOHN 2:18-29 (NASB)

¹⁸Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour. ¹⁹They went out from us, but they were not *really* of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but *they went out*, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us. ²⁰But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you all know. ²¹I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it, and because no lie is of the truth. ²²Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son. ²³Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also. ²⁴As for you, let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father.

²⁵This is the promise which He Himself made to us: eternal life.

²⁶These things I have written to you concerning those who are trying to deceive you. ²⁷As for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him.

²⁸Now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming. ²⁹If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone also who practices righteousness is born of Him.

REVIEW

The recipients of John's letter had been misled through dangerously new teachings that Jesus wasn't who he claimed to be and that this world was divided spiritually. They claimed that only those with a special knowledge could experience the truly divine. This would not sit well with the Apostle, and he writes to bring clarity to the believers and rebuke those who oppose the true Gospel.

STUDY IT

- John is not directly disclosing what the dangerous teachers ("antichrists") are teaching. How does he separate them from his apostolic voice? (v.18-19)
- What do true believers have that helps them recognize (discern) what is theologically correct? (v.20)
- In 2:22, John clarifies one of the false teachings: denial that Jesus is the Christ. What might this *denial* look like?
- Why is this statement that "Jesus is the Christ" carry significant meaning in the life of a true believer? (v.22)
- Review 1 John 2:17, then read 2:25. Why is this promise central to the teachings about Jesus?
- How are believers "anointed" by God? (v.27)
- What is the benefit of *abiding in Christ*? (v.27-28)
- What would cause a believer to shrink away from Christ when he comes again? (v.28)

APPLY IT

- How does the Holy Spirit help you recognize dangerous and untrue teachings about God?
- What does the promise of eternal life mean to you *today*?
- How do you *know* Jesus is righteous?
- How do you *know* you are born of God?

WORD LIST

antichrist(s) – Literally means "against the anointed."

John uses this term to describe anyone who might stand against the person or teachings of Jesus. Namely, he refers to those who deny the divine or human attributes of Jesus.

anointed – divine favor or spiritual presence