

24 - 1 John 2:18-19 - Many Antichrists (Recap) - 2018-10-28

Call to Worship: Psalm 95:1-6

Scripture Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1-13a

Sermon: "Many Antichrists (Review)" 1 John 2:18-20

Benediction: Psalm 95:-7a

He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand.

INTRODUCTION

We are reviewing what we had previously studied together in 1 John chapter 2, in order to take up where we left off in 1 John 2:21.

Two weeks ago we reviewed that wonderful doctrine in verses 1 and 2:

-the bible is written so that we not sin

-but still we do sin, and when we do, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the Righteous, and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the whole world!

Last week we reviewed the doctrine of how we know that we are those who have Jesus Christ for our advocate; how we know that we are those for whose sins He is the propitiation by faith. The bible tells us we know that we know him, if we

-keep His commandments

-love our brother

-do not love the world

-keep His word

It is not that we are saved by keeping his commandments, but we are known to be saved by the evidence of keeping His commandments.

It is not that we know Him because we keep His commandments, but that we know that we know Him if we keep His commandments.

Knowing that truth helps us understand something else, too: a person who says, "I know him," but does not keep His commandments, who does love the world, who does not love his brother, is a liar; he does not actually know Christ even though he says that he does.

Today's sermon will be the last of these three review or recap messages. Next week, God willing, we will take up where we left off last month.

So, for today, we look to 1 John 2:18-20. There we see that

In this last hour, many antichrists have come, but God has granted that we, His beloved little children, have the anointing of Jesus Christ, by which we can resist the lies of the antichrists.

TEXT

1 John 2:18-20

BODY

In this last hour, many antichrists have come, but God has granted that we, His beloved little children, have the anointing of Jesus Christ, by which we can resist the lies of the antichrists.

- I. As Our Lord's Apostle John Begins to Warn Us Against Antichrists, Again We Are Addressed As Little Children
 - A. In the sense of being easily deceived
 1. see this is the thrust of the passage
 - a) verse 21 truth, lie
 - b) verse 22 liar
 - c) verse 26 those who deceive you or seduce you
 2. think how we know this about children
 - B. In the sense of being so beloved of the Father through Jesus Christ that we are the special objects of His loving care by His apostles
 - C. APPLICATION
 1. take delight in the love of God the Father for you in Jesus Christ; you are the child He delights in
 2. take what you are told here in 1 John just as you hope your little children will take your instructions to them

As Our Lord's Apostle John Begins to Warn Us Against Antichrists, Again We Are Addressed As Little Children

- II. We Little Children Are Told That The Presence of Antichrists Is Characteristic of The Last Hour
 - A. This is the last hour
 1. There have been other hours, which were not the last hour
 - a) from when God created Adam until He revealed Himself to Israel through Moses, and made a covenant with them
 - b) from the time God made that covenant with Israel through Moses until the time God sent forth His own Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and made the New Covenant in His blood, and ended the Old Covenant, destroying Jerusalem and the temple
 - c) possibly John has redemption history further divided into more hours than those, involving other times when He called sinners unto Himself and made covenant with them
 2. Now it is the last hour

- a) there shall be no more making of covenants; the New Covenant in Christ has been made
- b) there shall be no more revelation of His Word to be written down for us to have as our bible
- c) the seventy weeks of Daniel chapter 9 are completed
- 3. This is the hour which will end in the Lord Jesus coming back!
 - a) the end which came when God worked through Moses was unsatisfying
 - b) the end which came when the Lord Jesus came still left us longing
 - c) but in this hour we know the end will be when Jesus comes back and we are with Him forever

B. The last hour is when Antichrist would come

- 1. Antichrist did not come in the other hours; those were not the hour when Antichrist was to come
- 2. Those other hours were not the hours in which Christ had come, so they were not the hour in which antichrist would come
- 3. This is the hour in which the devil must oppose Christ by Antichrist
 - a) Christ is revealed in person in the world
 - b) Christ is proven to be the Son of God, and proven to be risen from the dead
 - c) Christ is preached and believed in all over the world
 - d) illus. imagine someone coming here and preaching that the God of the bible does not have power here this far from Jerusalem, therefore we must make statues of the gods of North America, and bow down to them and burn our children in the fire to them; such a person would get nowhere with this population
 - e) illus. but imagine someone coming here who names Jesus Christ, and calls his group a church, and meets on Sunday mornings in a building with a cross on it, and reads verses from the bible, but the things he says about Jesus, and the ways he conducts worship, has the effect of directing the worshiper's devotion away from Jesus Christ and toward other things; it has the effect of substituting religious works for faith; it teaches people to look to words that are not in the bible and think of them as the word of God; might such a religious leader and religious group gain a following in this culture?

C. When John wrote, many antichrists already had come (verse 18)

- 1. please note that there were antichrists even when The Antichrist had not yet come; understand, then, that even where The Antichrist is not seen as a threat or force, yet there may be many antichrists at work
- 2. please do not take lightly the point that there are, in this age, *many* antichrists

- a) as you survey the religious scene around you, do not suppose there to be just the one Antichrist; the Pope in Rome, and the Roman Catholic false church of which he is the head, is a force in the world, no doubt; he and his system are greatly reduced in power from what they were 500 years ago; but they are still a powerful force for deception in the world; Antichrist has a Roman Catholic false church here in this small city, and Antichrist has Roman Catholic false churches in the next city over, and the next one over from that; we ourselves know nice people who are ensnared in that deception; but the Roman Catholic false church, with the Man of Lawlessness at its head, is not the only manifestation of Antichrist; John teaches us that *many* antichrists have come
 - b) similarly, as you look around you, do not suppose there to be just a *few* antichrists; no, there are *many* antichrists
- D. That many antichrists have come is how we know it is the last hour (verse 18)
- 1. We have been told that the last hour is when Antichrist shall come
 - 2. We see that many antichrists have come
 - 3. That means antichrist must be coming in this hour
 - 4. So we know this is the last hour
- E. The nature of antichrists is that they have some connection to Christ's church, but have essentially departed from it (verse 19)
- 1. it is true that they went out from us, which would make it seem like they were of us, the same as us
 - 2. but the fact that they went out from us should not be interpreted to mean they are or even were of us, that we are the same
 - 3. instead, it should be understood to mean that they never were of us, that we are not the same
 - 4. because if they were of us, if we were the same, they would not have gone out from us, but would have stayed with us
 - 5. so, if they name Jesus Christ; if they read bible verses; if they call themselves a church; none of that means that they are Christians; instead, if they have departed from those of us who are devoted to the apostles' doctrine, who have fellowship with Christ and with His apostles, they are not Christian, but known to be antichrist, because they have gone out from us
 - 6. it takes great care to use that doctrine rightly;
 - a) we easily could use that carelessly, and fail to understand that those who have departed from us are antichrists
 - b) we easily could use that carelessly, and come to the conclusion that only people in this church are true Christians, or only people in Reformed Baptist churches are true Christians
 - c) so let us take great care in forming such ideas

As our lord's apostle John begins to warn us against antichrists, again we are addressed as little children

We little children are told that the presence of antichrists is characteristic of the last hour

III. We Little Children Have an Anointing By Which to Deal with Antichrists

A. You have an anointing from the Holy One

1. foreshadowed and prophesied in the OT
 - a) Aaron the high priest
 - b) David and king
2. fulfilled in the NT in Jesus Christ
3. the anointing in the OT was a pouring out of oil upon the head; the anointing the NT is a pouring out of the Holy Spirit upon the soul
4. it is from the Holy One, Jesus the Anointed; it is the anointing that Christ has received from God by the Holy Spirit, with which we also are anointed
5. you who are in Christ have this anointing
 - a) you have what is Christ's for He bestows it upon you
 - b) what is His, He gladly shares with you

B. This anointing which you have received from Christ abides in you (verse 27a)

1. in the OT, the anointing with oil represented an anointing with the Holy Spirit which might be taken away, as it was taken away from King Saul
2. but in the NT, the anointing with the Holy Spirit is not taken away; the Holy Spirit having come and regenerated the soul, does not depart ever, but remains, acting as a deposit guaranteeing the fulfillment of all promises in the day when the Lord Jesus comes back

C. This anointing which abides in you teaches you (verse 27c)

1. I will speak to this point only briefly, introducing it, then take it up next time, God willing [NOTE: I said that to you before, on September 23, but I was not able to take that up next time. So I say it again, and again I add, "God willing."]
2. The many antichrists would like to convince you there are profound spiritual truths you do not yet know, and requirements for ceremonies you need to perform; they tell you this to seduce you, to deceive you
3. But you do not need their lessons; you do not need to hear what they have to say; because the anointing you have received, that is, the Holy Spirit, already teaches you all things
 - a) Bengel: Seducers were to be repelled with this answer, just as a prudent man answers an importunate venter: I want nothing.
 - b) this is your defense against the many antichrists

CONCLUSION

As our lord's apostle John begins to warn us against antichrists, again we are addressed as little children

We little children are told that the presence of antichrists is characteristic of the last hour

We little children have an anointing by which to deal with antichrists

In this last hour, many antichrists have come, but God has granted that we, His beloved little children, have the anointing of Jesus Christ, by which we can resist the lies of the antichrists.

Prelude: Trinity 6 "Psalm 22"

Camille: flute - see attached in F

Noah: trumpet - from hymnal in G

Anna: piano - see attached in F

Trinity 19 "Psalm 95"

Camille: piano - transpose

Noah: trumpet

Anna: clarinet

Trinity 548 "More Love to Thee, O Christ"

Camille: piano

Noah: direct

Anna: sing

Grace 166 "There Is a Redeemer"

Camille: sing

Noah: trumpet

Anna: piano - transpose

Grace 43 "Face to Face with Christ My Savior"

Camille: piano - see attached in Ab

Noah: trumpet - see attached in Bb

Anna: clarinet - see attached in Bb