

26 - 1 John 2:21-23 - No Lie Is of the Truth - 2018-11-11

Call to Worship: Psalm 33:1-4

Scripture Reading: Psalm 33:5-20

Sermon: "No Lie Is of the Truth" 1 John 2:21-23

Benediction: Psalm 33:21-22

## INTRODUCTION

God sent His only-begotten Son to be the Savior of the world. This is Jesus the Christ, who has come in the flesh. Whosoever repents of sin and believes in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, has forgiveness of sins and eternal life from God the Father.

We, the disciples of Jesus Christ know all these things as what we have heard from the Lord's apostles from the beginning, as written in the bible. We know these things to be the truth, by the anointing with the Holy Spirit which we have received in Christ.

That's what we looked into together last week, getting through 1 John 2 verse 20.

The apostle pointed this out to us, that we already know these things to be the truth, as part of helping us deal with the many antichrists that are present in this age, when Christ has come; and when He is coming again.

Building on this reminder, that by the anointing with the Holy Spirit we already know the gospel of Jesus Christ to be true, John goes on now to tell us that the many antichrists are liars, telling lies, trying to get us to doubt or disbelieve what we know to be true about our Lord Jesus Christ.

The nature of liars, at least skilled ones, is that they lie to you, and you don't easily recognize their lies for what they are, and so you take their lies for the truth.

Here we are instructed about how to detect the liar and his lies, so we don't fall for them, but instead abide in the truth of Jesus Christ.

## TEXT

1 John 2:21-28

## BODY

### I. The Liar (verse 222)

#### A. (26) His purpose is to lead you astray

##### 1. Greek *planao*

- a) properly, to cause you to roam or stray
- b) used to mean “to deceive” or “to seduce”

##### 2. the liar’s purpose is to deceive or seduce you into going astray

- a) you are on the path; he would get you to leave the path
- b) you are with the flock; he would like to get you away from the flock
- c) you are in fellowship with the Lord Jesus and His apostles; he would like to get you out of that fellowship
- d) you are a member of the body of Christ; he would like to get you detached from the head and the rest of the body

#### B. (27) His approach is to present himself as someone who can teach you

1. a disciples of Jesus Christ, we know we are to learn, to be taught to observe all things He has commanded; we learn from the Bereans that those who are noble-minded receive the Word of God eagerly; we are aware how much we don’t understand, and yearn to know the Lord more and more

##### 2. so the liar presents himself to you as a teacher, in some capacity

- a) a church pastor
- b) an author of articles or books
- c) a speaker at conferences
- d) a teacher whose recording play on the radio, the TV, the internet
- e) a bible study teacher
- f) a small group leader
- g) a mentor
- h) a more experienced or better-informed fellow believer

#### C. (21) His technique is to present lies and truth together as if all were truth

1. (21) the apostle reminds us that we know the truth, and that no lie can be part of the truth

- a) John would have us think, “If a teacher says several things that I know are true, I need to continue to watch out, to see if he mixes in anything I haven’t heard before; if so, I’ll need to check it out before believing it or accepting him as a faithful teacher.”
- b) the liar would like us not to think like that; he would like us to think something like, “If a person is teaching the truth about Jesus Christ, everything he says must be true. If he says something I haven’t heard before, it must be because he is a particularly good teacher, who knows lots of things I haven’t yet learned.”

2. (22) the lies the liar presents as truth will be presented in company with things that are true about our Lord Jesus, but will in some way deny something about Jesus being the Christ, the Son of God the Father
  3. (23) part of the subtlety of such lies is that to deny that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God is to deny God the Father, also
- D. (22) His basic lie is that Jesus is not the Christ, the Son of God
1. certainly there are some liars who say this verbatim
  2. but more typically this is much more subtle
  3. the Puritans used to demonstrate this by considering the implications of men's doctrine in relation to Christ in His three offices as Prophet, Priest, and King; e.g. John Trapp: Papists deny him as:
    - a) a Prophet, in piecing their human traditions to the Holy Scriptures
    - b) a Priest, in setting up the mass
    - c) a King, in setting up the pope
  4. Calvin wrote about those who would not exactly speak of Jesus as not being the Christ, but would, in their doctrine, deny Him the glory that belongs to him; as Pelagius, who attributed much of the glory that is due to Jesus as Christ for His power and grace, to us ourselves
- E. APPLICATION: Do not be unwilling to call a teller of lies a liar
1. (22) Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ?
  2. certainly we must be cautious about this; no, we mustn't be judgmental; yes, there are various degrees of severity, so that every tiny mistake a person might make does not make us label him a liar; we need to be informed and guided by the best Christian traditions; we should reject the party spirit, where we call down fire on all who are not in our denomination;
  3. but with all due, sensible moderation, let us be willing to call a spade a spade: someone who habitually tells lies is a liar; someone who sets up as a teacher, and then, in his doctrine, denies Jesus as the Christ, is a liar
- F. APPLICATION: Take care whom you seek for your teachers
1. it may seem self-serving to say this, but it is the truth, so I'll say it and trust you to take it as intended: seek out the doctrine of your own church pastors primarily
  2. use this as your primary criterion by which to judge teachers: Is what he or she says strictly true to Jesus Christ according to the scriptures?
- G. APPLICATION: Do not underestimate the deceitfulness of the liar!
1. John stated very plainly here what the essential lie is: Jesus is not the Christ, the Son of God
  2. the liar does not state it plainly, but puts it to you in such plausible religious terms, surrounded by things that are true, that you may not immediately or easily detect the lie

3. you accept, I'm sure, the idea that something that doesn't belong can be concealed among things that do belong, and you won't be able to detect it immediately or easily
    - a) e.g. my white t-shirts are size XL; my sons' white t-shirts are size L; I often take a shirt from my drawer and get so far as putting it on before realizing that something that doesn't belong was mixed in with what does belong, and I did not immediately or easily detect it
  4. e.g. The pope does not deny Christ per se; he professes an orthodox christology; but he deceives about Christ's work and His government of the church; think of how many have fallen for it
- H. APPLICATION: Particularly beware of the teacher who claims that God tells him or her things in other ways besides the text of the bible.
1. if we accept that as true, we make John's instruction here to be nonsensical and of no effect
  2. John writes that we know the truth; how do we know it? John and the other apostles, who have received it directly from Jesus Christ our Lord, have faithfully testified of it to us, which testimony is written down in the bible, to remain unchanged, without addition, until the Lord comes back
  3. John writes that we know who is a liar by comparing what every teacher says to what we already know from the scriptures
  4. but if we accept that a Christian teacher may receive from God words not from the bible, but in addition to it, John's instruction to us makes no sense; because if God tells people additional words not in the bible, then we do NOT know the truth until these certain teachers tell it to us; but John's instruction is that we DO KNOW the truth, and have no need for anyone to teach us other things

[If time is short, sermon can end here.]

II. The Truth (verse 21)

- A. (21) You know it
  - 1. this was last week's sermon
- B. (21) You know that no lie can possibly be part of it
  - 1. teachers put forth their doctrine; you hear it (or read it)
  - 2. many times the doctrine will be attractive to you
  - 3. that attraction is of one kind or another
    - a) attractive to your flesh, which is not anointed with the Holy Spirit, not born again, not made new
    - b) attractive to your spirit, which has the anointing with the Holy Spirit, which is born again, which is made new
  - 4. APPLICATION: make an examination of the doctrine that is attractive to you
    - a) is it entirely true? it is sure to be at least *partially* true; but is it *entirely* true?
    - b) is it being delivered by a teacher whose doctrine is consistently true?
  - 5. the doctrine's attraction to your regenerated spirit will be the truth of it, that it exalts Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God the Father
- C. (22-23) Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Father

III. The Promise (verse 24)

- A. (24b) If you abide in the truth in you
  - 1. Wycliffe: dwell in it in you
- B. (24c) Then you also will abide in the Son and in the Father
- C. (25) Then you have eternal life
- D. (28) When He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him
  - 1. this thought we can enjoy now, as part of our hope

CONCLUSION

The many antichrists are liars. Many are very subtle, convincing liars. The most convincing are the ones who say the most truth, and mix in the fewest lies.

Let it be that we, the disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ, detect and reject the lies of the liars, and so keep His truth in us, that we may remain in Him and in the Father unto eternal life.

To draw you away from your church.

1 Timothy 4:1-3 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to **deceiving [G4108 planos]** spirits and doctrines of demons, (2) speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, (3) forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.

2 John 1:7-9 For many **deceivers [G4108 planos]** are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a **deceiver [G4108 planos]** and an antichrist. (8) Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward. (9) Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.

verse 8

KJV that we lose not those things which we have wrought

NKJV that we do not lose those things we worked for

ESV that you may not lose what we have worked for

as Galatians 3:4

lie G5579 *pseudos*

liar G5583 *pseustes*

ESV the liar

RWP The liar (with the article)

verse 26

seduce G4105 *planao*

RWP:

Concerning those that are trying to lead you astray

- a) Calvin: Pelagius raised no dispute respecting Christ's essence; yet he transferred to us almost all the honor that belongs to him. It is, indeed, to reduce Christ to nothing, when his grace and power are set aside . . . Christ is denied whenever those things which peculiarly belong to him are taken away from him
- b) the old pastors used to demonstrate this by considering the implications of men's doctrine in relation to Christ in His three offices as Prophet, Pries, and King; e.g. John Trapp: Papists deny him as:
  - (1) a Prophet, in piecing their human traditions to the Holy Scriptures
  - (2) a Priest, in setting up the mass
  - (3) a King, in setting up the pope
- c) Gill: This...is true of all such that deny him in any of his offices, or in things relating to them, as his Gospel, and any of the peculiar doctrines of it, delivered by him, and so deny his prophetic office; or any of his ordinances, institutions, and appointments, as lawgiver in his house, and King of saints, and so deny him in his kingly office; or reject him as the alone Saviour, joining their own works with him, in the business of salvation, and oppose his sacrifice and satisfaction, and despise his imputed righteousness, and so deny him in his priestly office.

**no lie is of the truth**

the antichrists, who are liars, would have you accept them as truth-tellers  
 the antichrists would have you accept lies as truth  
 but you already know that no lie is of the truth  
 -perhaps you need to be reminded or alerted  
 -law of non-contradiction

## **Therefore**

ESV does not have “therefore;” *oun* is not in W.H.

### **verse 22 Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ?**

Gill:

This...is true of all such that deny him in any of his offices, or in things relating to them, as his Gospel, and any of the peculiar doctrines of it, delivered by him, and so deny his prophetic office; or any of his ordinances, institutions, and appointments, as lawgiver in his house, and King of saints, and so deny him in his kingly office; or reject him as the alone Saviour, joining their own works with him, in the business of salvation, and oppose his sacrifice and satisfaction, and despise his imputed righteousness, and so deny him in his priestly office.

Cotton:

A man may deny Jesus to be the Christ, either grossly and assertively, or else cunningly and fraudulently.

### **let that abide in you which you have heard from the beginning**

“let” is not a separate word in Greek; “abide” is transitive: “abide this in you”

### **verse 27 you do not need that anyone teach you**

JRY:

John here warns us against those who would say:

-Let me teach you more about Jesus than what John and the other apostles have told you from the beginning.

-Let me teach you differently about Jesus than what John and the other apostles have told you from the beginning.

You do not need someone to teach you more or differently about Jesus Christ beign the only-begotten Son o f God than what John and the other apostles have told you from the beginning. By the Holy Spirit you know it to be the truth.

JRY:

Those who would seduce or deceive you will be in the guise of those who would teach you. (26-27)

Geneva:

You are not ignorant of those things, and therefore I teach them not as things that were never heard of, but call them to your mind as things which you do know.

Calvin:

Strange must have been the purpose of John, as I have already said, if he intended to represent teaching as useless. He did not ascribe to them so much wisdom, as to deny that they were the scholars of Christ. He only meant that they were by no means so ignorant as to need things as it were unknown to be taught them, and that he did not set before them anything which the Spirit of God might not of himself suggest to them. Absurdly, then, do fanatical men lay hold on this passage, in order to exclude from the Church the use of the outward ministry. He says that the faithful, taught by the Spirit, already understood what he delivered to them, so that they had no need to learn things unknown to them. He said this, that he might add more authority to his doctrine, while every one repeated in his heart an assent to it, engraven as it were by the finger of God. But as every one had knowledge according to the measure of his faith, and as faith in some was small, in others stronger, and in none perfect, it hence follows, that no one knew so much, that there was no room for progress.

There is also another use to be made of this doctrine, — that when men really understand what is needful for them, we are yet to warn and rouse them, that they may be more confirmed. For what John says, that they were taught all things by the Spirit, ought not to be taken generally, but to be confined to what is contained in this passage. He had, in short, no other thing in view than to strengthen their faith, while he recalled them to the examination of the Spirit, who is the only fit corrector and approver of doctrine, who seals it on our hearts, so that we may certainly know that God speaks. For while faith ought to look to God, he alone can be a witness to himself, so as to convince our hearts that what our ears receive has come from him.

Poole:

not as if they had absolutely no need at all of human teaching, for the apostle supposes not himself to be now doing a vain or needless thing; but that they had less need, having the internal principles of light and life in them, they were in a great measure capable of steering their own course. They had in themselves a living, ingrafted word, enabling them to teach and commune with themselves, as Deu\_30:11,12 Ro 10:7-9. Hereupon their own reins could instruct them, Psa\_16:7. Or, they could instruct themselves, eautouv, as that may be read, Col\_3:16, the word of Christ dwelling richly in them. Therefore they did not so need to be taught, as those that know not the first principles of the oracles of God.

Gill:

they needed not, nor were they to regard any mere human revelation and doctrine, for the whole Gospel was come by Jesus Christ, and no other is to be expected or received by men, nor any doctrine but what is according to the revelation of Christ; wherefore saints under the Gospel dispensation are taught of God by his Spirit, according to the word of truth, and by the ministry of it, and have no need of learning every man from his neighbour, or from his brother, any separate revelation; so that this passage does not militate against the external ministry of the Gospel, or human teachings according to that perfect rule and declaration of the whole mind and will of God by Christ under the Gospel dispensation:

Clarke:

The Gnostics, who pretended to the highest illumination, could bring no proof that they were divinely taught, nor had they any thing in their teaching worthy the acceptance of the meanest Christian; therefore they had no need of that, nor of any other teaching but that which the same anointing teacheth, the same Spirit from whom they had already received the light of the glory of God, in the face of Jesus Christ. Whatever that taught, they needed; and whatever those taught whose teaching was according to this Spirit, they needed. St. John does not say that those who had once received the teaching of the Divine Spirit had no farther need of the ministry of the Gospel; no, but he says they had no need of such teaching as their false teachers proposed to them; nor of any other teaching that was different from that anointing, i.e. the teaching of the Spirit of God.

Barnes:

That is, what are the things essential to true religion. See the notes at 1Jo\_2:20.

Ellicott:

the healing, soothing, influence of the Divine Spirit breathes about the children of God, unfolds the meaning of what they have heard, brings all things to their remembrance, and guides them into all truth. They needed not the pretended discoveries of false teachers; all they wanted was the unction of God to bring home what they had heard from the beginning.

**verse 28 and not be ashamed before Him at His coming**

Carroll:

The author would most solemnly impress these passages on the reader's heart. They constitute the touchstone which exposes all lying spirits, false prophets, false preachers, false teachers in Christian schools, false professors of religion. From these passages it is evident that no man should be fellowshipped as a preacher, or even retained as a church member, who denies the essential deity of Jesus Christ, his incarnation, his vicarious death as a propitiation for sin; nor one whose profession of these doctrines does not bear fruit unto love and holiness.

Prelude: Grace 102 "Looking Always Unto Jesus"

Camille: piano

Noah: trumpet

Anna: clarinet

Trinity 147 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Camille: piano

Noah: direct

Anna: clarinet

Grace 73 "I Am Confident of This"

Camille: sing

Noah: trumpet

Anna: piano - transpose

Trinity 415 "Psalm 51"

Camille: piano

Noah: trumpet

Anna: sing

Trinity 81 "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

Camille: piano

Noah: trumpet

Anna: clarinet