

"Of Christ and Antichrist(s)" (1 John 2:18-29)

A Children, 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. They 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.

B But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you **all know**. I 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. Who 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. Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also.

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

B' These things I have **written** to you concerning those who are trying to deceive you. As 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.

A' Now, 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. If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone also who practices righteousness is born of Him.

Analysis of the Text: The text appears to form an A, B, C, B', A five part symmetrical structure. When a literary structure has an odd number of sections, the emphasis usually falls in the center and the rest of the text pivots around the center section. Section C reminds us of John's introductory statement (1:1-4) and the 'message' John then relates (1:5-10). Sections A speaks of the coming and appearing of antichrist(s). Section A' answers and speaks of the coming and appearing of Christ. Both B and B' mention the anointing of the Holy Spirit and what John has written.

The Words "know all" (AV, verse 20), are "you all know" (NASB). An "all things" (verse 17) does not refer to omniscience. Only God is omniscient. John's speaks to his readers as those "who because of practice, have their senses trained to discern good and evil" (Heb. 5:14). The Holy Spirit has been applying God's truth to their hearts and they have been practicing this truth, that their "love may abound in real knowledge and all discernment" (Phil. 1:9). John's readers know all that is necessary to discern the work of the enemy and to discern those who are the children of God and the children of the devil, the seed of the woman and the seed of the serpent (Gen. 3:15). They know all they need to know, in this context.

Main Point of the Text:

1. What is the text about?

Answer: Allowing the message of Christ, the illumination of the Spirit, and thus the Father, the Son, and eternal life to abide [dwell] in you.

2. How do you allow the message of Christ, the illumination of the Spirit, and thus the Father, the Son and eternal life to abide [dwell] in you?

Answer: By discerning present antichrists, deceivers, and deniers of Christ who leave the church, and by practicing the righteousness that engenders confidence before Christ in your birth.

3. Main Point of the Text: Put together the answers under 1 and 2.

Allow the message of Christ, the illumination of the Spirit, and thus the Father, the Son, and eternal life to abide in you by discerning present antichrists, deceivers, and deniers of Christ who leave the church, and by practicing the righteousness that engenders confidence before Christ in your new birth.

Main Lesson of the Text:

Given the coming and appearing of Christ and antichrists, and the guidance of Scripture and the Holy Spirit, if you show discernment and let the message of Christ abide in you, then you abide in the Father and the Son and you are born again.