

So That You May Know

An Expository Study of the Epistle of **1 John**

Chapter 10- The Test of Truth **1John 2: 18-27**

82. Part 7

WAOY Tuesday 09/11/07; WOSM Tuesday 01/24/23

Welcome again, my beloved in Jesus Christ. We're continuing our verse by verse "journey" through the Epistle of **1 John**, and today I want to continue to look at what John taught about "The Test of Truth". So, let's turn in our Bibles and let's read **1John 2: 18-27** again together:

18 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.

19 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.

20 But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you all know.

21 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.

22 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.

23 Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also.

24 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.

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

26 These things I have written to you concerning those who are trying to deceive you.

27 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.

Now on the last broadcast, we were going over the three points that John is making in these ten verses.

1. Realizing the Danger
2. The Ability and Power that is given to us so that we may realize the Danger
3. The Way to Fight Against the Danger

And on the last broadcast, we were looking at the first point- Realizing the Danger and I want to continue that first point today. So, in order to understand just what danger John is talking about- let's read again verses 18 & 19 together:

18 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.

19 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.

John says here that the fact that there are *many* antichrists – not just a few- but *many* antichrists who oppose the Word of God and are hostile to Divine Truth; and who are determined to undermine Biblical Christianity by teaching things contrary to Sound Doctrine- John says that the fact that there are many antichrists- that this proves that we are living in the last hour.

Now some clarification is in order here. The meaning of the term- “The Last Days” or the Last Hour” is misunderstood by many today. This term is used to discuss that period of time that began with the Resurrection of Jesus Christ and will end with the return of our Lord to this earth. It is that time that is designated as A.D. on the calendar. A.D. is Latin for “Anno Domini”- which means- “in the year of our Lord”. Another way of looking at the term “the last days” is to equate this period with the Christian Era or the Church Age.

So, we are now entering into our third millennia in the period of time known as “the Last Days” and John tells us that before the end of the first century or before his death around the year 96 AD.- that there

were at that time- what John calls “many” antichrists who lived and breathed and who were operating on the earth.

Now the reason that I bring this to your attention is that so many today when they hear the word, “Antichrist” think only of that “**man of lawlessness**” that Paul referred to in **2Thessalonians 2**- who is to rise up in the near future- but that is *not* the person who John was referring to here.

When John used the term “antichrist” he was speaking about those “**certain persons**” that Jude talked about. So, lets’ read **Jude 4** and see what both John and Jude were talking about:

For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

Jude says here that there are “**certain persons**”- not *everybody*- but “**certain persons**” who creep or sneak into the Church- usually when the leaders of the Church are asleep at the wheel – and these certain men do not come into the Church to learn and be taught and love the brethren and serve Jesus Christ- no, these certain men are special. Jude says here in this verse that these men are “**long beforehand marked out for this condemnation**”. Now what does that mean?

The word, “**marked out**” comes from the Greek word, *prográphæ* (*progra/fw*), which normally means: *to appoint*. But as used in this case, *prographoe* means: *to post up publicly in writing*. Those who were summoned before courts of justice were said to be “posted or marked up ahead of time”, because they were cited by posting up their names in some public place. Even in our day, the cases to be heard by a judge are written down or marked *beforehand* and are posted up in a public place in the courthouse.

So what Jude is declaring is that judgment was published or declared in writing ahead of time. And those whose names were posted up in writing in some public place- were proscribed as persons doomed to die with a reward offered to whoever would kill them. So **Jude 4** is referring to those people who not only must give an account to God for their crimes of purposely deceiving people- and are liable to God's Judgment- but it also means those who are destined to the punishment they deserve.

So, John amplifies what Jude says here by using a term to describe these heretics that only John used- “antichrist”. And the term that John uses here is a transliteration of the Greek word, “antichristos” which literally means: *those who oppose Christ; or those who are against Christ; or those who stand in the place of Christ.*

Now look back at Jude 4 again and see what these people fight against. Jude says that these “**certain persons**”- these “**many antichrists**”

... turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

So, John is echoing the words of Jude here and warning the Church that these ungodly antichrists are attacking Christianity from three fronts:

1. The Grace of God
2. The Character and Nature of God the Father
3. The Person of Jesus Christ

So, John writes these inspired Words to wake up the slumbering Church to the fact that Biblical Truth about Grace; and God the Father; and Jesus was being twisted by these people for the purpose of destroying the Christian Faith.

So, this is point 1 that John is making here- that Divine Truth was under assault and that the only remedy for this error is a good dose of Truth.

So here is the bottom line. Christianity was not established in the earth by building Church buildings. Buildings are necessary- to be sure- but buildings come and go. Christianity was established in the earth through the Divinely inspired Words of the Apostles who defined what Christianity is. And without the 21 letters or Epistles of the New Testament- no one would have a clue how to be saved- or what the purpose and function of the Church is supposed to be. The letters by these particular men defined all of that for us by articulating all the various Doctrines that together make up what is called Christianity.

Without the Words of the Epistles, without the final Revelation from God to Man- as written down by the Apostles- we don't have Christianity. Without Sound, concrete Objective Truth- we would be

left to make up our own religion as we go along- which is precisely what the “**certain persons**” and **antichrists**’ of John and Jude’s day were teaching.

So when anybody- well meaning or not; sincere or not; begins to monkey around with those Doctrines- those inspired Words- those Objective Truths that God gave to the Apostles through the vehicle of inspiration- then - then John and Peter and Paul and James taught that these people and their false teachings need to be exposed for what they are and rendered useless by a proliferation of the Truth.

Many times, the reason that John or Paul or Peter or James needed to address a particular issue in these 21 New Testament Epistles is because false teaching was already going on. These “**many antichrists**”; these “**certain persons**” had already done what Jude and John said they were going to do, and their false teaching was wrecking havoc in the Church. Look at verse 19 of **1John 2** with me:

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.

The “**certain persons**” that Jude described and the “**many antichrists**” that John mentions here were alive and well and already operating in the Church and so these Apostles wrote down God breathed Words precisely to counteract or nullify the lies and deception of the enemy and set the record straight.

Thank God that the Apostles were faithful to their calling and didn’t look at this attack against Biblical Christianity as not being worthy of their effort like so many do today. John and Paul and Peter and James and the other men whom God entrusted to establish Christianity in the earth saw any attempt at altering the Gospel or any attempt at teaching wrongly about the Character and Nature of God or any attempt at teaching wrongly about the Person of Jesus Christ as an attack by satan himself against the Church of the First Born and these men rose up in righteous indignation and pulled no punches in confronting these people and of exposing their lies.

When these people are exposed with Truth; when the blanket that they hide under is thrown off; when true Light is placed upon their darkness- these people will tuck tail and run for the hills. Antichrists

and cannot stand to be held accountable to the Word of God. They are just fine as long as the sheep simply follow them- but when the spotlight of Truth is shone upon them- and when what they teach is held accountable to the Word of God- they faint dead away.

This is exactly what happened when John began to confront the Gnostic mystics and the Greek philosophers with Divine Revelation. These people knew the jig was up and they quickly felt led to leave.

And so here in verse 19, John says that the very fact that these people were *not* willing to repent but held on to their false doctrine when presented with the Truth and because they abandoned Christianity proved beyond any doubt that they were never truly saved anyway, and they did not belong to Jesus.

Well, I have to stop right here, but please join me on the next broadcast as we continue our journey through the Epistle of **1John**. May God help us all.

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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.