

Message #9**I John 2:18-23**

There are many dangers and threats to the true Christian Church; but undoubtedly the worst threat is false teaching. Those who promote false doctrine appear to be so together, so educated and philosophical. Make no mistake about this—they are dangerous and they are demonic.

ONE WHO HAS A TRUE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE GOD OF THE BIBLE WILL HAVE A PROPER DOCTRINAL PERSPECTIVE OF JESUS CHRIST AND WILL NOT BE AN ANTICHRIST WHO DENIES TRUE DOCTRINE ABOUT JESUS CHRIST.

INDEPENDENT IDEA #1 – In the last days of the Church Age, many antichrists will arise who will promote false doctrine. **2:18**

This speaks of a young child who needs instruction. Now John says, “it is the last hour.” The noun “hour” does not have an article here which means John is referring not to the last hour of the Church Age, but he is referring to that time period which may be characterized as the last hour.

The term “antichrist” is a compilation of two Greek words: “Anti,” meaning against or instead of, and “Christ,” meaning the Anointed One or Messiah. Antichrists are those who are actually against Christ and present doctrine about Christ that is instead of the truth.

INDEPENDENT IDEA #2 – God will cause those false to be exposed and eliminated from the fellowship. **2:19**

Fact #1 - Antichrists eventually get away from those standing for truth. **2:19a**

The preposition “out from” is one that indicates these people are in the middle of the church and they move out from within it.

Fact #2 - Antichrists are really not of us. **2:19b**

Dr. John MacArthur said the church will suffer most not from outside attacks but from attacks within.

Fact #3 - Antichrists expose themselves when they do not remain in a proper relationship with those who are right with God and with truth. **2:19c**

True salvation is, in part, determined by endurance. Those who remain steadfast and faithful to true, sound doctrine are in fact saved.

Fact #4 - Antichrists are exposed by God that they are not really part of us. **2:19d**

The verb “manifest” is passive, meaning God will see to it that antichrists are brought to light.

God will surface the antichrist and chase Him away from those truly committed to His Word. Listen, a church that is strong in the Word will always surface antichrists—God will surface them. God is in the business of adding to the Church and He is in the business of subtracting from the Church.

You can know this: God will make manifest those who are false in a church that is true. In fact, the Apostle Paul said that there “must be” factions and heresies in the church because this is what manifests who is really right with God and who isn’t (I Cor. 11:19).

INDEPENDENT IDEA #3 – God has given special anointing to His true people. **2:20**

The anointing refers to the Holy Spirit who is given to the believer and to true instruction that comes from the written Word.

INDEPENDENT IDEA #4 – John did not write because believers are spiritually ignorant about Jesus Christ. **2:21**

Any denial of apostolic truth is a lie system. There is a radical difference in the mind of God between truth and error. There is no room for compromise between truth and falsehood. Any tampering with Jesus Christ is a lie system.

INDEPENDENT IDEA #5 – God wants liars identified. **2:22**

Listen, the one who denies that Jesus Christ is the Savior and that Jesus Christ is God, the second member of the Trinity, is an antichrist and a liar.

The name “Jesus” is the name which means Savior. The name Christ is the name that refers to the fact that one is the Divine One selected from eternity past to reign. Both terms together establish Jesus Christ as the only Savior and as the God/man who will reign as Divine King.

INDEPENDENT IDEA #6 – John wants believers identified. **2:23**

Whoever denies truth about Jesus Christ does not have a relationship with God the Father. Whoever believes truth about Jesus Christ does have a relationship with God the Father.

One who says I believe Jesus is the Savior but I don’t believe He is God, is an antichrist that does not have a real relationship with the Father. We really ought to put up a sign which says if you are entering this church and you are not willing to submit to true doctrine about Jesus Christ, you are not welcome, you will be exposed and you will be eradicated from this church.