

Introductory Considerations

1. This subject calls for godly sobriety & self-discipline!

- A. **Obsess-chatology:** *Overzealous, Impractical, Tangential.*
- B. **Less-chatology:** *Suspicious, Reactionary, Agnostic, Ambivalent, Tendency to Oversimplify.*
- C. **Impress-chatology:** *Arrogant, Condescending, Scornful, Merely Intellectual.*

2. These lessons are primarily constructive, not remedial! No major pastoral concerns!

3. This is part of our series on Thinking Biblically! 1Tim 4:1f; 1Jn 2:18 (2Thes 2:6-8)

4. These lessons are not intended to impact your millennial view!

5. My goal is not to create Kuehner-ites, but Biblically faithful RP's!

- **Confession of Faith (25.5):** There is no other head of the Church, but the Lord Jesus Christ; nor can the Pope of Rome, in any sense, be head thereof; but is that Antichrist, that man of sin, and son of perdition, that exalteth himself, in the Church, against Christ and all that is called God. (Col. 1:18; Eph. 1:22; Matt. 23:8-10; 2 Thess. 2:3-4, 8-9; Rev. 13:6) **No "we reject"!**
- **RPCNA Testimony (25.18):** Many antichrists will be present in the world throughout history. Prior to Christ's coming the final "man of lawlessness" will be revealed. He will be destroyed by Christ. (1 John 2:18; 1 John 4:3; 2 Thess. 2:8) **Clarification, Not Rejection! (Official RPCNA Position)**

6. The Bible was written to make sense! Fringe Issue? -- 2Thes 2:5; 1Tim 4:1; 1Jn 2:18.

1Jn 2:18 Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour.

1. **CHRIST** = *"The Lord's Anointed -- Prophet, Priest, & King -- Head of the Church"*
2. **ANTI** = *"instead of, in place of, over against"* **Gen 4:25; 22:13; 1K 5:1; 2K 14:21; Mt 2:22; 24:5.**
3. **LAST HOUR** = *New Covenant Period* **Heb 1:1-2** **SINGULAR, FUTURE ANTICHRIST!**
4. **EVEN NOW** = *First Century* **MANY PRESENT ANTICHRISTS!**
 - **Q.** Since this prophecy was written, has any major figure in NT history openly claimed (in Christ's name!) to be prophet, priest, king & head of the church in place of Christ?
 - **A.** Yes. The Bishop of Rome.
 - **RCC 882:** The Pope, Bishop of Rome and Peter's successor, is the perpetual and visible source and foundation of the unity both of the bishops and of the whole company of the faithful. For the Roman Pontiff, by reason of his office as Vicar of Christ, and as pastor of the entire Church has full, supreme, and universal power over the whole Church, a power which he can always exercise unhindered.

- **Vatican I:** We teach and define that it is a dogma divinely revealed: that the Roman Pontiff, when he speaks ex cathedra, that is, when in discharge of the office of pastor and doctor of all Christians, by virtue of his supreme Apostolic authority, he defines a doctrine regarding faith or morals to be held by the universal Church, by the divine assistance promised to him in blessed Peter, is possessed of that infallibility with which the divine Redeemer willed that his Church should be endowed for defining doctrine regarding faith or morals; and that therefore such definitions of the Roman Pontiff are irreformable of themselves, and not from the consent of the Church. But if any one—which may God avert—presume to contradict this our definition: let him be anathema.
- **RCC 2035:** "The supreme degree of participation in the authority of Christ is ensured by the charism of infallibility. This infallibility extends as far as does the deposit of divine Revelation; it also extends to all those elements of doctrine, including morals, without which the saving truths of the faith cannot be preserved, explained, or observed."

19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us.

1. **THEY** = Heretical Teachers & Their Followers!
2. **WENT OUT** = Began within the church, but departed!
3. **NOT OF US** = Not true Christians
4. **MADE MANIFEST** = Outward indication of inward spiritual condition.
5. **NONE OF THEM** = Those who adhere to a false religion and/or who intentionally remain outside the true church "manifest" that they are not true Christians.

20-21 But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things. I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and that no lie is of the truth. **[24-27]**

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- **RCC 890:** "The mission of the Magisterium is linked to the definitive nature of the covenant established by God with his people in Christ. It is this Magisterium's task to preserve God's people from deviations and defections and to guarantee them the

objective possibility of professing the true faith without error. Thus, the pastoral duty of the Magisterium is aimed at seeing to it that the People of God abides in the truth that liberates. To fulfill this service, Christ endowed the Church's shepherds with the charism of infallibility in matters of faith and morals."

- **RCC 2039**: Personal conscience and reason should not be set in opposition to the moral law or the Magisterium of the Church.

22a Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? **Christ = Messianic Prophecies? (No!)**

1. **CHRIST** = Anointed Prophet, Priest, & King of the Church!
2. **LIAR** = Deception, Subtlety (*In His Name! --- Denying that Jesus ALONE is Christ.*)

22b He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son.

1. **ANTICHRIST** = Replacement Christ
2. **DENIES** = Seeks to Replace (*denial of exclusivity!*)
3. **FATHER & SON** = Replacing Both! **Pope = Father, Vicar of Christ = Antichrist** (*Mt. 23:8-10*)

1Jn 4:1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. **2** By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, **3** and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world. **4** You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. **5** They are of the world. Therefore they speak as of the world, and the world hears them. **6** We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error. **The Spirit of Antichrist...**

1. **It claims to be God's infallible mouthpiece on earth. (1)**
2. **It does not "confess" the true doctrine of Christ. (2-3) 2Jn 7-11**
 - (1) **JESUS** *Jehovah Saves* (2) **CHRIST** Prophet, Priest, King (3) **FLESH** *Incarnate Humanity.*
3. **It is the Kdm of Satan & of the World cleverly disguised as a church. (4-6) 2Jn 7-11**