

17 - 1 John 2:18 - 2 Thessalonians 2:1-17 - 2018-08-19

Call to Worship: Psalm 59:17

Scripture Reading: John 17

Sermon: "That Antichrist, that Man of Sin, and Son of Perdition" 1 John 2:18; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-17

Benediction: Jude 24-25

1 John 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.

ESV: antichrist is coming

Gen, KJV: antichrist shall come

INTRODUCTION

From last time

-we are addressed as little children, as beloved of God the Father, yet also as those susceptible to being deceived, were we not helped by Him; and this letter is part of the help He has sent us, that we may not be deceived

-it is the last hour, the last time, which will end in the Lord Jesus coming back to change us and cause us to be with Him forever

-the last hour is also when Antichrist would come

-many antichrists already had come in the time when John wrote this letter

Today we want to get more pages of the bible open than just this one at 1 John chapter 2. You know our main help in understanding any passage of scripture is other passages of scripture, especially ones on the same subject.

-We have worked together before to understand a line in the words of Jesus by seeing how they were expounded by His apostles Paul and Peter in their letters to the churches. "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify my Father which is in heaven."

-Other times we have understood a line from our Lord Jesus by reading the Psalm He was quoting when He said it. "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth" from Psalm 37; "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" from Psalm 22.

-When we were studying Ephesians on the breastplate of righteousness we referred to Isaiah, where that saying comes from. Other times in the Ephesians study we would cross reference the similar letter to the Colossians, or 1 Peter.

So, to make the most of this study of this passage in 1 John 2 on antichrist, we're going to learn today where to go for another passage on the same subject, then begin to work from there understanding the help our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ have provided us by the Holy Spirit in dealing with life in this last hour, this last time.

TEXT

1 John 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.

BODY

- I. Make a Connection to Another Passage of Scripture on the Same Subject
 - A. You know we do this frequently; two passages of scripture on the same subject, but written by different authors, in terms that have some similarity, but also some differences, help us better understand each of the two, compared with trying to understand just the one
 - B. In this case, it is very common in bible interpretation to make this particular connection and comparison
 - C. The 17th-century confessions, of which our confession is the culmination, all teach us to make this connection
 1. they all use the phrase “that antichrist, that man of sin, and son of perdition”
 - a) “antichrist” is only in John’s letters
 - b) “man of sin, and son of perdition” is in this other passage
 - c) our confession places them together, as referring to one thing
 2. our confession references this other passage in the scripture proofs
 - D. The passage is 2 Thessalonians 2:1-17
 1. read that passage, 2 Thessalonians 2:1-17
 2. read our passage, 1 John 2:18-29
- II. Having Made That Connection, Hear What the Two Passages Together Tell Us Is to Happen in This Last Hour
 - A. (This is the general sweep of the doctrine; I hope to take elements of it in more detail over the next few weeks.)
 - B. The culmination of this last hour will be the coming, the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ
 1. that is our great hope and joy
 2. it is also our call to abide in Him, that His coming may not be shame to us, but be all joy
 - C. Little children, brothers, before the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, there is going to be a grievous, tragic, heart-breaking thing going on during this last hour
 1. it was starting already in the time of John
 2. it is in full swing now
 - D. During this last hour, as the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ goes out all over the world, so deceit about the gospel of Jesus Christ would be going out all over the world as well
 - E. By that deceit, as many were deceived, and some of the deceived even became deceivers themselves, there was going to be a great apostasy, a great departing, a

great falling away, a great rebellion; many who were with us would go out from us, no longer remaining with us

1. Greek *apostasia*
2. oldest translations: departing
3. BB, KJV: falling away
4. Moffat: rebellion

F. Rising to the top of that great apostacy would be one powerful person, whom Paul names “that man of sin and son of perdition,” and whom John names “antichrist.”

G. That antichrist, that man of sin and son of perdition, would appear before the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ (nothing saying how long before)

1. opposing the Lord Jesus Christ
2. setting himself up in the place of the Lord Jesus Christ

H. That is what this last hour is to be like

III. How Are We Helped By This?

A. Knowing that the painful loss is to be expected helps

1. e.g. Alvin with a loose tooth

B. Knowing that you might see a false image before you see the real thing helps

1. mirage
2. foothills of the mountains

C. Knowing that false religion will be made to look real helps

D. Seeing all of this as issuing in the return of our blessed Lord Jesus helps

CONCLUSION

Andrew, Aaron, and I got lost briefly in El Paso; we were to exit the highway on so-and-so street; we exited, but then our directions led us to the border fence; we had to turn around, and we finally found that the shape of the Rio Grande causes the interstate to make a bend, which causes it to cross that street twice; we were supposed to take the second exit, but we took the first; had we been warned about a similar exit, we could have avoided being lost.

This last hour has many antichrists, and one antichrist, that man of sin, that son of perdition. For everything that is true about Jesus Christ, His gospel, His church, he sets up something false, to deceive. Hear the word of God and understand, and so be comforted when you see these things, be warned against apostacy, and rejoice that the coming and appearing of antichrist proves yet another way that our Lord Jesus Christ Himself shall appear; He shall come at the end of this last hour, to take us to be with Him forever.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-17 Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, (2) not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. (3) Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, (4) who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. (5) Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? (6) And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. (7) For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. (8) And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. (9) The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, (10) and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. (11) And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, (12) that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness. (13) But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth, (14) to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. (15) Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle. (16) Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace, (17) comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work.

This is about His coming

2 Thess 2:1 Now, brethren, concerning **the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ** and our gathering together to Him

1 John 2:28 And now, little children, abide in him; that, **when he shall appear**, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at **his coming**.

This is about something the Christians already know

1 John 2:18 **you have heard** that the Antichrist is coming

2 Thess 2:5 when I was still with you **I told you** these things

This is about an apostacy of those who are deceived

1 John 2:19 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.

2 Thess 2:3 Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first

What the term “anti-christ” means is just what the man of sin is described as doing to oppose or to take the place of

2 Thess 2:4 opposes, as God sits in the temple of God

1 John 2:18	2 Thessalonians 2
18 antichrist [the man who has no sin, and takes away sin; the man who is not subject to perdition, and saved sinners from it]	3 man of sin...son of perdition [Judas, the betrayer of Christ] 4 opposes [G480 <i>anti-keimai</i>] and exalts himself above all that is called God or what is worshiped
18 ye have heard that antichrist shall come	5 when I was still with you I told you these things
18 antichrist shall come G2064 <i>erchomai</i>	3 there come G2064 <i>erchomai</i> a falling away first
19 they went out from us (did not continue with us . . . they were not all of us)	3 the falling away
20 ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things	13 sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth
21 I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth.	13 God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth,
22 Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ?	12 God will send them a strong delusion, that they should believe the lie
24 Let that therefore abide in you, which ye have heard from the beginning	15 stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught
28 when He shall appear . . . His coming	8 the Lord...the brightness of His coming

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- I. Antichrist Is the Same Man as Described in 2 Thessalonians 2
 - A. see this in the similarities
 - 1.
 - B. Lightfoot (quoted by R.C. Sproul)
 1. “revealed”
 2. “mystery”
 3. we cannot doubt that the man of sin in St. Paul is identical with the Antichrist of St. John, the preposition in the latter term expressing the idea of antagonistic claims
 - C. 16th-18th century protestants
 1. Iain Murray, as quoted by Riddlebarger: unanimous belief that the Papal system is both the ‘man of sin’ and the Babylonian whore of which Scripture forewarns (2 Thess 2; Rev 19). In the conviction of sixteenth century Protestants, Rome was the great Anti-Christ, and so firmly did this belief become established that it was not until the nineteenth century that it was seriously questioned by evangelicals.
 - D. Baptists in the South
 1. Dagg
 - a) The New Testament contains various predictions which have been exactly fulfilled concerning the destruction of Jerusalem; the calamities of the Jews; their dispersion and their preservation; also concerning the persecutions of Christianity; its spread through the world, and the Papal Apostasy (2 Thess. ii. 3-12; 1 John ii. 18; 1 Tim. iv. 1-3).
 - b) The Roman Catholic Church, the great Antichrist, or man of sin, drunk with the blood of the saints, has transmitted to us the Scriptures of the New Testament, and now gives, in the same two-fold manner, its testimony to this part of the Sacred Volume.
 - c) On seeing the destruction of Antichrist, and the smoke of his torment ascending up for ever and ever, the inhabitants of heaven are represented as saying: “Alleluia; for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.” Revelation 19:6
- II. The Man Described in 2 Thessalonians 2 Is the Pope of Rome
- III. Therefore the Pope of Rome Is Antichrist

<https://www.truecovenant.com/manton/2thes2.htm>

man of sin = Antiochus

man of perdition = Judas

-similar in Ellicott and others

Men think no cruelty nor dishonesty unlawful which serveth to promote the interests of their sect, and lose all charity to those that are not of their way.

Revelation xvii.9

1560 Scots Confession

our Head and only Mediator Christ Jesus:[9] whom we confess and avow to be the Messiah promised, the only Head of his kirk, our just Lawgiver, our only High Priest, Advocate, and Mediator.[10] In which honours and offices, if man or angel presume to intrude themselves, we utterly detest and abhor them, as blasphemous to our Sovereign and Supreme Governor, Christ Jesus.

1566 Second Helvetic Confession

He has strictly forbidden his apostles and their successors to have any primacy and dominion in the Church. Who does not see, therefore, that whoever contradicts and opposes this plain truth is rather to be counted among the number of those of whom Christ's apostles prophesied: Peter in II Peter, ch. 2, and Paul in Acts 20:2; II Cor. 11:2; **II Thess., ch.2**, and also in other places?

1615 Irish Articles

The Bishop of Rome is so far from being the supreme head of the universal Church of Christ, that his works and doctrine do plainly discover him to be that **man of sin**, foretold in the holy Scriptures, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and abolish with the brightness of his coming.

Westminster Confession 25.6

There is no other head of the Church but the Lord Jesus Christ (13). 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 exalts himself, in the Church, against Christ and all that is called God (14).

13 - Colossians 1:18

14 - Matthew 23:8

Savoy Declaration

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, whom the Lord shall destroy with the brightness of his coming

1689.26.4

The Lord Jesus Christ is the Head of the church, in whom, by the appointment of the Father, all power for the calling, institution, order or government of the church, is invested in a supreme and sovereign manner; neither 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; whom the Lord shall destroy with the brightness of his coming.
2 Thessalonians 2:2-9

Dickson, David (1583-1663) *Truth's Victory Over Error* (pp 221-222):

as professor at University of Edinburgh, delivered as lectures beginning 1650; first published 1684

Is the Pope that Antichrist, that Man of Sin, and Son of Perdition, that exalteth himself in the Church of God against Christ, and all that is called God?

Yes, 2 Thess 2:3, 4, 8, 9 Rev. 13:6 Matthew 23:8, 9, 10

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; (4) Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

2 Thessalonians 2:8-9 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: (9) Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

Revelation 13:6 And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.

Matthew 23:8-10 But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren. (9) And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven. (10) Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, even Christ.

Though this be denied by the Church of Rome, yet the true Description of Antichrist agrees to him

1st, because he is not one single Man, but an Order and Race of Men, succeeding to one another, in that same State and Office; which you will see by comparing 1 John 4:3, 1

Thess 2:7-8 [sic; actually 2 Thess 2:7-8] together

2nd, His coming is after the Manner of Satan, 2 Thess 2:9

3rd, As to his Name, he calls himself a Christian, but in very Truth an Adversary to Christ: and by consequence, one that denies Jesus to be the Christ, Rev. 17:14, Rev 19:19, 2 Thess 2:8, 1 John 2:23

4th, He sitteth in the Temple of God as God, 2 Thess 2:4

5th, he ruleth in the great City, and exercises Dominion over the Kings of the Earth

6th, He deceiveth them that dwell on the Earth, with lying Wonders and Miracles, 2 Thess 2:9, Rev 13:14-15

7th, he causeth all Sorts of Persons to receive his Mark on their Right Hand, or on their Forehead, Rev 13:16-17

8th, To him agrees what Paul says, And now ye know what withholdeth (namely the Roman Emperor) that he might be revealed in his Time, 2 Thess 3:6-7

Mitchell, *Minutes*

p. 463 Cawdry's sermon May 6, 1646 The church of Rome is represented in Rev xvii.4 as a harlot that hath a cup of fornication in her hand

JRY:

Coming of Antichrist and antichrists is characteristic of the last hour/time

We do not dread the end, but long for it

When the Jewish religious was still operating in all it's force, the devil could say, "Jesus of Nazareth is not the Christ." That is over, and the devil is doing something different now, concocting errors about Jesus Christ.

the pope does not deny Christ; nor does he promote an unorthodox christology; he deceives about Christ's work and his government of the church

multiple people you know, who are dear to you, have fallen for Roman Catholicism

ye have heard that antichrist shall come

Gill:

or "is coming"; and begins to show himself in the false teachers and deceivers, who were his forerunners; and this they had heard and understood, either from the words of Christ in Joh_5:43; or from the account the Apostle Paul gave to the Thessalonians concerning him, 2Th_2:3; or rather it may be from what, the apostle had said to the elders of the church at Ephesus, where the Apostle John now was, when he met them at Miletus, Act_20:29,

whereby we know that it is the last time

Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758):

We must therefore understand the apostle thus: "It is now long since the apostles foretold the coming of antichrist, of which they told you in the first age of the Christian church, which reached from Christ's ascension to the destruction of Jerusalem; and now, since Jerusalem's destruction, has commenced the last state of things, the last age of the world, which is to continue from the destruction of Jerusalem, and the perfect abolishing of the Old Testament dispensation to the end of the world, which the apostles had been wont to call the latter days, and last times; during which last age they foretold that antichrist should appear, 2Th_2:3, etc.; 1Ti_4:1, etc., and 2Ti_3:1, etc.; and now the spirit of antichrist doth very visibly appear; and there are many apostates and corrupters,

that we may look upon as the forerunners of antichrist, and are therefore an evidence that we are now come to that last age in which it has been foretold that antichrist should arise; which should make you behave yourselves more circumspectly, for the apostles often told you that those last times wherein antichrist should appear would be perilous times."

they went out from us

Gill:

the sense is, that there were some persons in the Apostle John's time, who had made a profession of religion, were members of the church, and some of them perhaps preachers, and yet they departed from the faith, and dropped their profession of it, and withdrew themselves from the church, or churches to which they belonged, and set up separate assemblies of their own:

Barnes:

That is, they had once been professors of the religion of the Saviour, though their apostasy showed that they never had any true piety. John refers to the fact that they had once been in the church, perhaps to remind those to whom he wrote that they knew them well, and could readily appreciate their character. It was a humiliating statement that those who showed themselves to be so utterly opposed to religion had once been members of the Christian church; but this is a statement which we are often compelled to make.

they were not of us

Gill:

they were of the church, and of the same mind with it, at least in profession, antecedent to their going out; for had they not been in communion with the church, they could not be properly said to go out of it; and if they had not been of the same mind and faith in profession, they could not be said to depart from it; but they were not truly regenerated by the grace of God, and so apparently were not of the number, of God's elect: notwithstanding their profession and communion with the church, they were of the world, and not of God; they were not true believers; they had not that anointing which abides, and from which persons are truly denominated Christians, or anointed ones:

Barnes:

That is, they did not really belong to us, or were not true Christians. See the notes at Mat_7:23. This passage proves that these persons, whatever their pretensions and professions may have been, were never sincere Christians. The same remark may be made of all who apostatize from the faith, and become teachers of error. They never were truly converted; never belonged really to the spiritual church of Christ.

verse 6 And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time.

Manton:

That Antichrist was not then revealed because there was an impediment hindering his revelation: 'and now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time,' that is, what keeps him back for the present, until the time that God had prefixed. The apostle doth not expressly mention what this to katecon, or impeachment was, either because he thought it enough to appeal to their memory and knowledge - now ye know what withholdeth; there was no need of repeating that which was formerly mentioned, they sufficiently knew; or partly because he would not give the heathen an occasion of raising a persecution against the Christians, if they should come to understand that one professing himself a Christian should erect a throne for himself at Rome, and that the empire should be taken away to make way for him. The Romans were very jealous, *oti basileian onomazomen* - because they talked of these innocent notions, the kingdom of Christ and the kingdom of heaven; they were apt to accuse them *l̄s̄* majestatis, as if they would with open force and violence attack or assault the empire; therefore the apostle had spoken that which he thought not fit to write in an epistle; or, lastly, he leaveth it in this obscurity because all prophecies were but darkly uttered, that their accomplishment be not hindered, since it is the will of God that such events shall fall out in the world, and out of indulgence to his people he is pleased to foretell this. It is not meet that the prediction should either be too clear or too dark; if too clear, the event would not follow, nor God's government of the world be carried in such a way as might suit with the liberty of mankind; if too dark, the comfort and caution of God's people would not be sufficiently provided for.

But what was this impediment? The ancients generally determined it to be the Roman empire; for so Tertullian - the empire of Rome, which was to be divided into ten kingdoms; and reason showeth it, because the man of sin could not rise to his greatness as long as the Roman empire stood. Why? Because he that was to exalt himself above all that is called God, and above all that is august, could not bring his designs to pass as long as the Roman empire retained its majesty; but when once that was eclipsed and removed, then he was to be revealed in his time: all things have their time, and so the man of sin. Well, then, it was the Roman empire that stayed the manifestation of Antichrist, he being to build his tyranny on the ruins and wreck thereof; and therefore the primitive Christians prayed *pro mora finis*, that it would please God to defer the fall of this empire, fearing worse things upon the dissolution thereof.

Now this impediment showeth both the time and place of Antichrist; and time and place, next to the nature and state of things, are the best circumstances to discover him. (1.) The place: Antichrist's seat and throne was to be there, where the seat of the Roman empire was; and St John telleth us it was situated on the city that had seven hills: Rev. xvii. 9, 'The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth;' and that is Rome, which is famously taken notice of to be seated on seven hills or mountains. Now Antichrist had not room as long as the seat was filled with the Roman emperor, for this seat could not be filled with two imperial powers at once,

especially with such a tyrannical power as that of Antichrist is, exalting itself not only above kings and kingdoms, but pan sebasma, the august state of the emperors themselves; there was no exalting this chair, till there was a removal of the throne; while the Roman emperor possessed Rome, the seat was full, and till it was void it could not be the seat of Antichrist.

(2.) The next circumstance is the time when the impediment is taken away, when the Roman empire is so weakened and removed from Rome that this power may grow up; and that was when the Roman empire was divided into ten kingdoms, as Tertullian saith, and is agreeable enough with the prophecy of St John, Rev. xvii. 12, 'And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have not received their kingdoms as yet, but receive power as kings one hour with the beast;' that is, near that time when the Roman empire was broken and divided, which began near 600 years after Christ's birth.

who denies that Jesus is the Christ

Trapp:

Papists deny him as a King, in setting up the pope; as a Priest, in setting up the mass; as a Prophet, in piecing their human traditions to the Holy Scriptures.

Calvin:

I readily agree with the ancients, who thought that Cerinthus and Carpocrates are here referred to. But the denial of Christ extends much wider; for it is not enough in words to confess that Jesus is the Christ, except he is acknowledged to be such as the Father offers him to us in the gospel. The two I have named gave the title of Christ to the Son of God, but imagined him to be man only. Others followed them, such as Arius, who, adorning him with the name of God, robbed him of his eternal divinity. Marcion dreamt that he was a mere phantom. Sabellius imagined that he differed nothing from the Father. All these denied the Son of God; for not one of them really acknowledged the true Christ; but, adulterating, as far as they could, the truth respecting him, they devised for themselves an idol instead of Christ. Then broke out Pelagius, who, indeed, raised no dispute respecting Christ's essence, but allowed him to be true man and God; 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.

So the Papists, at this day, setting up freewill in opposition to the grace of the Holy Spirit, ascribing a part of their righteousness and salvation to the merits of works, feigning for themselves innumerable advocates, by whom they render God propitious to them, have a sort of fictitious Christ, I know not what; but the lively and genuine image of God, which shines forth in Christ, they deform by their wicked inventions; they lessen his power, subvert and pervert his office.

We now see that Christ, is denied, whenever those things which peculiarly belong to him, are taken away from him. And as Christ is the end of the law and of the gospel, and has in himself all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge, so he is the mark at which all heretics level and direct their arrows. Therefore the Apostle does not, without reason, make those the chief impostors, who fight against Christ, in whom the full truth is exhibited to us.

Henry:

The great and pernicious lies that the father of lies, or of liars, spreads in the world, were of old, and usually are, falsehoods and errors relating to the person of Christ. There is no truth so sacred and fully attested but some or other will contradict or deny it. That Jesus of Nazareth was the Son of God had been attested by heaven, and earth, and hell.

Wesley:

That Jesus is the Christ; that he is the Son of God; that he came in the flesh, is one undivided truth. and he that denies any part of this, in effect denies the whole.

Gill:

This may have regard not only to the Jews, that deny Jesus to be the Messiah, but **chiefly to such who went by the name of Christians; who denied either his proper deity, or real humanity**, as Ebion and Cerinthus, which was denying him to be the God-man, the Mediator, and Messiah; and 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.

Clarke:

Here we see some of the false doctrines which were then propagated in the world. There were certain persons who, while they acknowledged Jesus to be a Divine teacher, denied him to be the Christ, i.e. the Messiah.

He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son, - He is antichrist who denies the supernatural and miraculous birth of Jesus Christ, who denies Jesus to be the Son of God, and who denies God to be the Father of the Lord Jesus; thus he denies the Father and the Son. The Jews in general, and the Gnostics in particular, denied the miraculous conception of Jesus; with both he was accounted no more than a common man, the son of Joseph and Mary. But the Gnostics held that a Divine person, Aeon, or angelical being, dwelt in him; but all things else relative to his miraculous generation and Divinity they rejected. These were antichrists, who denied Jesus to be the Christ.

Barnes:

It would seem that the apostle referred to a class who admitted that Jesus lived, but who denied that he was the true Messiah. On what grounds they did this is unknown; but to maintain this was, of course, the same as to maintain that he was an impostor. The ground taken may have been that he had not the characteristics ascribed to the Messiah in the prophets; or that he did not furnish evidence that he was sent from God; or that he was an enthusiast. Or perhaps some special form of error may be referred to, like that which is said to have been held by Corinthus, who in his doctrine separated Jesus from Christ, maintaining them to be two distinct persons. - "Doddridge."

Bengel:

The truth respecting Jesus, that He is the Christ, that He is the Son of God and is come in the flesh, must be held in its integrity. He who denies one part respecting Jesus, does not

hold both Him, in His completeness, and the Father at the same time. The spirit of antichrist, and antichrist has done and does this

Hawker:

heresies shall come, the chief feature of whose character would be to deny the Godhead of Christ.

SR on 2 Thess 2

Paul: I told you John: you have heard

I want to prove to you that the pope is Antichrist...from their own official catechism The Roman Catholic Church is not the church of Jesus Christ. It is the church of Antichrist.

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; (4) Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

Spurgeon:

If this "man of sin" be not the Pope of Rome, we cannot tell who is the antichrist. Certainly, if this description were put in the Hue-and-Cry, and we were police officers, we should at once arrest the Pope as the man whose character agreed with the warrant in our hands. What does he call himself? "Vicar of Christ on earth." What does he do but set himself up to be adored and worshipped as though he were divine, making himself out to be the fountain and channel of all grace. Beloved, this "man of sin" has been revealed. Now we may look for the coming of the Son of man; but the day and the hour when he shall come no man knoweth; no, and not even the angels of God.

I believe that, to a large extent, this has already happened, and that the "man of sin" has been revealed. This "son of perdition" has had a long, dark, and terrible reign over myriads of men, and still he sitteth on the seven hills of Rome, and ruleth over multitudes of his fellow-sinners. But Paul held that it was consistent to expect the Lord to come quickly, and yet to know that certain events must occur before he did come. That is just the condition, I think, to which a man's mind will come if he diligently and impartially reads the Scriptures, especially the prophetic parts of them. The Lord will come in such an hour as we think not, yet there are clear indications of certain things which are to happen before he does come.

It has been said that the Pope of Rome is infallible, that his interpretation of Scripture, whatever it may be, is as valid as the Scripture itself, and that whatever he chooseth to

decree must be obeyed by the faithful. Such are some of the pretensions even at this day of the “man of sin.”

Barnes:

But can it be referred to the papacy? Can it denote the Pope of Rome, meaning not a single pope, but the succession? If all the circumstances of the entire passage can be shown to be fairly applicable to him, or if it can be shown that all that is fairly implied in the language used here has received a fulfillment in him, then it is proper to regard it as having been designed to be so applied, and then this may be numbered among the prophecies that are in part fulfilled.

To no succession of men who have ever lived could the appellation, “the man of sin, be applied with so much propriety as to this succession.

RWP - A.T. Robertson (November 6, 1863 – September 24, 1934):

He seems to be the Antichrist of 1Jo_2:18. The terrible phrase, the son of perdition, is applied to Judas in Joh_17:12 (like Judas doomed to perdition), but here to the lawless one (*ho anomos*, 2Th_2:8), who is not Satan, but some one definite person who is doing the work of Satan.

Pink:

It is true that our Lord announced, “Many shall come in My name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many,” which He explained as “there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders” (Mat 24:5, 24), but that is nothing to the point of our present inquiry—we consider that history shows those predictions were fulfilled in the first century A.D.

Dagg (1794-1884 : *Manual of Theology*, 1857.

1844-56 professor, then president of Mercer University in Georgia
1879 SBC resolved “that a catechism be drawn up containing the substance of the Christian religion for the instruction of children and servants and that brother John L. Dagg be desired to draw it up.”

The bishop of Rome and his adherents, claim to be the Catholic or universal church. They are united by external organization, for the organization itself points out the head, the subordinate officers, and the members of the body. These hold their several positions, whatever may be their moral or spiritual qualifications. The organization is a strong one, as the history of its acts demonstrates; and this history, stained with blood, equally demonstrates that the body is not energized by the spirit of peace and love. This external organization needed an external head, and **the bishop of the imperial city became the acknowledged vicar of Jesus Christ. Sitting in the temple of God, and showing himself that he is God, he claims a headship which belongs exclusively to the Lord Jesus Christ.** This assumption of

power is founded on the doctrine of the visible church Catholic. Destroy the foundation, and nothing remains for the superstructure to stand on. We have, therefore, good reason to regard the doctrine with suspicion, and to examine carefully its claims on our faith.

It will be instructive to notice how naturally the **papal usurpation** arose out of this doctrine. On the supposition that Christ instituted a universal church of external organization, the declarations and promises which have respect to his spiritual church, would naturally be applied to this external body. It would appear incredible that he should leave this body to degeneracy and corruption, after having promised to be with it always to the end of the world, and that the gates of hell should never prevail against it; and after having constituted and declared it the pillar and ground of the truth. If external organization connects the universal church with the church of apostolic times, it will be difficult, if not impossible, to set aside the pretensions of the Romanists. We may argue that they have lost the doctrine and the spirit of the apostles; but if the church is a body of external organization, the continuity of the organization must determine the true church. If its failure to preserve the truth and spirit of the primitive times has unchurched it; then these last attributes are the distinguishing characteristics of the true church, rather than external organization. Here, then, is the grand controversy between Christ and **Antichrist**. Jesus Christ has not two universal churches. He is not the head of two bodies, the husband of two wives. His true church is a spiritually organized body, and spiritually joined to him its only head. The body claiming to be the church on the ground of external organization is a substitute, and its head is a substitute for Christ. They first take the place of the true church and its true head, and afterwards oppose and persecute. They who see and deplore the mischief which the **papal usurpation** has wrought, should learn the secret of its power. The substitution of ecclesiastical organization for spiritual religion has wrought all the evil. Let the pernicious effects teach us to guard against the cause which produced them.

Prelude: Trinity 9 “Psalm 150”

Camille: piano 1 - transpose

Noah: trumpet

Anna: clarinet

Trinity 205 “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”

Camille: piano - transpose

Noah: trumpet

Anna: clarinet

Sarah: sing

Trinity 596 “Jesus Lives, and So Shall I”

Camille: sing

Noah: sing

Anna: piano 1

Sarah: piano 2

Grace 132 “The Power of the Cross”

Camille: flute

Noah: trumpet - see attached in D

Anna: clarinet - see attached in D

Sarah: piano 1

Trinity 212 “A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing”

Camille: piano - transpose

Noah: trumpet - play from hymnal

Anna: sing

Sarah: sing

next week:

Grace 124 "O Church, Arise"

Camille: flute - see attached in D with parts

Noah: trumpet - see attached in E

Anna: clarinet - see attached in E

Sarah: piano - play from Hymns of Grace in D

Trinity 263