

19 - 1 John 2:18-19 - 2018-09-02

Call to Worship: Psalm 86:8-10

Scripture Reading: Psalm 19

Sermon: "You Have Heard That Antichrist Is Coming" 1 John 2:18; 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4

Benediction: Psalm 86:11-12

INTRODUCTION

Three weeks ago

-We are little children as beloved of God in His beloved Son, Jesus Christ; beloved also of John, the disciples whom Jesus loved

-We are little children also as those subject to being deceived, being tricked, and so in need of guidance from the Lord, that we not believe lies

-We are in the last hour, the last time; at the end of this hour, this period of time, our Lord Jesus Christ will come back!

-But the last hour is also when Antichrist would come; and is the hour when many antichrists already had come

Two weeks ago

-There is a connection between this passage of scripture in 1 John 2 that talks about Antichrist and the passage of scripture in 2 Thessalonians 2 that talks about "the man of sin and son of perdition."

-Reading the two passages together, we gain a view of how things were to go in this last hour

- I. 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
 - A. it was starting already in the time of John
 - B. it is in full swing now
 - C. 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
 - D. By that deceit, as many were deceived, and some of the deceived even became deceivers themselves, there was going to be a great apostacy, 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
- II. 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."
- III. 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)
 - A. opposing the Lord Jesus Christ
 - B. setting himself up in the place of the Lord Jesus Christ
- IV. That is what this last hour is to be like

V. The culmination of this last hour will be the coming, the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ

Last week:

- Before the apostasy, they were with us, who believed in Christ according to the apostles' witness, with us whose true fellowship is with the Father and His Son Jesus Christ
- But in the apostasy, they went out from us
- The apostasy's early form, as John wrote about it, when it was beginning in his time
 - the churches, as visible assemblies, were the faithful
 - the many antichrists departed from the churches, preaching and believing grossly unorthodox doctrine regarding our Lord Jesus Christ
- The apostasy's later form, as Paul prophesied about it in its maturity
 - the churches, as visible assemblies, would be apostate, ready to take the Antichrist, the man of sin, the son of perdition, as if he were God
 - the faithful would be a distressed minority within those assemblies, or would have to be outside those assemblies in obscurity
- The apostasy would not be a case of some of those truly of us changing to not be of us anymore
- Because those who truly are in Christ are always kept by Christ, never fully or finally departing from the faith
- Instead, the apostasy would be a case of some who were with us never truly being of us, and so apostasizing, departing, which shows that they were never really of us

Today we look at what was to happen when the apostasy was fully developed, when the churches had apostasized to such an extent that they were ready to treat one man as if he were God.

You have heard that Antichrist shall come, that Antichrist is coming; now understand how he was to be revealed when he came

TEXT

1 John 2:18

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4

BODY

I. Antichrist Was to Come Before the Lord Jesus Comes

A. In 1 John 2

1. 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.
2. 1 John 2:28 And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before **Him at His coming**.

B. In 2 Thess 2

1. 2 Thessalonians 2:8-9 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
2. Before the Lord Jesus comes, the lawless one was to have come
3. When the Lord Jesus comes, He will destroy antichrist with the brightness of His coming!

II. Antichrist Was to Be Revealed Before the Lord Jesus Comes

- A. 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3 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,
- B. G601 *apokalupto*
 1. literally to take off the cover, to uncover
 2. to disclose or to reveal
- C. Note Paul repeats this
 1. 2 Th 2:3 the man of sin is revealed
 2. 2 Th 2:6 that he may be revealed
 3. 2 Th 2:8 the lawless one will be revealed
- D. Paul's point was that the Christians of his time should not expect the Lord Jesus to come until the man of sin was revealed
- E. Of course that point would still hold for any Christians living before the man of sin was revealed

III. What Can Be Known About Antichrist's Coming and Revealing

- A. He must answer to the names he is called
 1. antichrist
 - a) opposed to Christ, against Christ
 - b) especially by substituting himself for Christ
 2. man of sin (or lawlessness) or lawless one KJV that Wicked
 - a) unwilling to follow law, specifically God's law
 - b) so, making himself a lawmaker in opposition to God
 3. son of perdition or destruction
 - a) John 17:12 While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.
 - b) he must be a Judas

- (1) among the trusted leaders of the church
- (2) corrupt concerning money all along
- (3) betraying the Lord Jesus for money
- B. He must still be alive and in power when Christ comes
 - 1. if it is one man, when he is revealed, when he comes, it must be that Christ would come within his lifetime
 - a) that is not the character of Jesus Christ's coming that He taught us; we are not to know when it will be
 - 2. therefore it must be a series of men
 - a) "the president of the United States"
 - b) "the king of France"
 - c) "the Secretary General of the United Nations"
- C. He must stand out from among the many antichrists
 - 1. we would say (as one of the members and I were saying), "Since there are many antichrists, it may be impossible to say who the one Antichrist is."
 - 2. but it must be possible, because Antichrist was to be "revealed" as such
 - 3. How might he stand out?
 - a) if 100 or 1,000 more prominent than any other antichrist
 - (1) any poor antichrist might gain a following of 10 people
 - (2) a good antichrist might gain 100 people
 - (a) David Koresh had about that many
 - (3) a very seductive antichrist might gain, what?
 - (a) Jim Jones 1,000 people
 - (b) the biggest I could think of would be Joseph Smith - 15 million Mormons in 30,000 congregations
 - (4) Antichrist himself, maybe ten times that? above a billion people?
 - b) if, when he tried to set himself up to be above all others, churches all over the world accepted him
 - c) if, once revealed, he appeared able to stay indefinitely, so as to stay until the Lord Jesus comes

IV. You Have Heard that Antichrist Is Coming or Shall Come

- A. Whether stated as John (that antichrist shall come) or as Paul (2 Th 2:8 the lawless one will be revealed), or in some paraphrase of that, you have heard that Antichrist is going to come
- B. But please understand that the testimony in the bible about the antichrist coming in the future was future to the apostles and the Christians living at the time; it is not necessarily future to us; perhaps the Antichrist already has come, already has been revealed
- C. We are very cautious about looking at history, or the present situation, and declaring it the fulfillment of bible prophecy---rightly so!

- D. But the bible says that the antichrist, the man of sin, the lawless one, the son of perdition, shall be revealed.
 - 1. he must be revealed according to the descriptions given in the bible, primarily here
 - 2. if someone has been revealed who matches this description, although we would be cautious about doing so, we would not be wrong in concluding that he is the Antichrist
- E. That is just what the Reformers of the 1500s and the Puritans of the 1600s did; they judged that Antichrist had been revealed in the Pope of the Roman Catholic religion
 - 1. 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.
- F. You have heard that Antichrist is coming; we believe that he has come, in the person of the Pope beginning somewhere in the early centuries of the church, perhaps in the 600s.
- G. God willing, that will be our study next time

CONCLUSION

2 Thessalonians 2:13-14 (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.

2 Thessalonians 2:15 Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle.

1 John 2:24 Therefore 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.

1 John 2:25 And this is the promise that He has promised us--eternal life.
-take this promise, but as attached to the previous admonition

Prelude: Grace 201 "Your Mercy and Your Truth (Psalm 36)" - let Bb instruments try transposing

Camille: flute - see attached in Eb SATB

Noah: trumpet - see attached in F

Anna: clarinet - see attached in F

Sarah: piano 1 - play from Grace hymnal in Eb

Grace 70 "How Great Thou Art"

Camille: sing

Noah: trumpet - see attached in C

Anna: piano

Sarah: piano 2 or sing

Trinity 263 "Psalm 19"

Camille: piano 1 - see attached in D

Noah: trumpet - see hymnal in E

Anna: clarinet - see hymnal in E

Sarah: piano 2 - see attached in D

Grace 187 "Were You There?"

Camille: flute

Noah: direct

Anna: piano 1

Sarah: piano 2 or sing

Trinity 721 "Nor Silver Nor Gold"

Camille: piano

Noah: sing

Anna: sing

Sarah: sing