

## I John 2:18-27 - Warnings Against Deception

EMC Wednesday Night Bible Study - 7-10-19

### Movement to Warning (vv. 18-23)

Encouragement > exhortation > warning

#### V. 18 - "Children, it is the last hour"

- "last hour" - only use in NT
  - Elsewhere: "last days," "last times" → Christ's 1st coming: 1. \_\_\_\_\_  
the new age, 2. \_\_\_\_\_ the doom of the old.
    - Period between Christ's 1st and 2nd comings (Acts 2:17; Heb. 1:2; I Pet. 1:20)
    - Last part of that period (II Tim. 3:1; Jas. 5:3; II Pet. 3:3; Jude 18)
    - Culminating end (I Pet. 1:5; Jas. 5:3; John 6:39-40, 44, 54; 11:24; 12:48)
  - The \_\_\_\_\_ era is the last hour
- Knowing the "last hour": Appearance of "antichrists"
  - "just as you heard" → part of their \_\_\_\_\_ instruction
  - John = only NT writer to use "antichrist/s" (ἀντίχριστος, "antichristos"). Elsewhere:
    - Jesus' "false Christs" (ψευδόχριστοι, "pseudochristoi," Matt. 24:24; Mark 13:22)
      - Developing Dan. 7-12 - Olivet Discourse (Matt. 24-25; Mark 13; Luke 21)
    - Paul's "man of lawlessness/son of destruction" (II Thess. 2:3-4; cf. Acts 20:29-30)
  - Antichrist is coming, but the "spirit of antichrist" is already at work in the world (4:3)
  - V. 19 - those who had \_\_\_\_\_ been a part of the community
    - "went out from us"
    - "they" who left vs. "us" who remained
      - Evidence of their true \_\_\_\_\_ (Judas in John 13:30)
      - Departure served a divine \_\_\_\_\_ - "that it would be shown that they all are not of us"
  - Doctrinal integrity, perseverance, commitment = \_\_\_\_\_ Christianity

Resources against deception: V. 20 - "But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you all know."

- "anointing"
  - Origin in practice of shepherds.
  - Symbolic of blessing, protection, and empowerment.
  - Various meanings/uses:
    - A mark of respect paid by a host to his guests (Luke 7:46)
    - A rite of inauguration for the Jewish offices of prophet, priest, or king (1 Kings 19:16; Exodus 40:15; 1 Samuel 9:16cf. Pillar at Bethel in Genesis 31:13)
    - Concerning Messiah ("anointed one") in OT and NT
      - Deliverer whose anointing would be with the HS, not oil (Isa. 61)
      - Fulfilled in his baptism (Luke 4:18; Acts 4:27; 10:38)
    - Conferred upon Christians by God (II Cor. 1:21-22)
  - Gk. χρίσμα ("chrisma") used only here and in 2:27 in entire NT
    - Root (*chrío*) used elsewhere in conjunction primarily with Christ's anointing with the Spirit by the Father (Luke 4:18; Acts 4:27; 10:38)
  - Refers to that anointing of the \_\_\_\_\_ ( see v. 27 below)
- This they "all know" - as opposed to the protognostic claims of special, exclusive knowledge
  - V. 21 - Remember what you already know

V. 22a - "Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ?"

- Secessionists claim: fellowship with God (1:5); to not commit sins (1:8, 10); to live in God (2:6); to be in the light (2:9)
- Their teaching: denying Jesus is the Christ. Acceptance of a \_\_\_\_\_ Christology
  - Recall Cerinthus (see "2019-6-5 - Introduction to I John")
  - Denial of the \_\_\_\_\_ (cf. II John 7)
  - You can't depart from "what we preached from the beginning" and still be Christian
- Denying biblical Christology makes one an \_\_\_\_\_
  - Denial of both the Son and the Father (v. 22b; cf. 4:10; 5:9-10)
  - V. 23a - "Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father"
    - No relationship with God apart from Jesus
    - Only through the Son (v. 23b; cf. John 5:23; 14:6-7; 15:23)
  - Doctrinal and obedience test (2:3)

### **Safeguards Against Heresy** (vv. 24-27)

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

To be safeguarded from error, 2 things must remain in them:

1. V. 24a - "As for you, let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning."

- The \_\_\_\_\_
  - Must remain theologically \_\_\_\_\_ (II Tim. 3:1, 7; 4:3)
- Result: "you also will abide in the Son and in the Father" and eternal life (v. 25)
  - Direct connection: sound doctrine > communion w/ God > eternal life

2. V. 27a - "the anointing which you received from Him"

- V. 27b - he "abides" in us...and "teaches" us all things
  - "True" (genuine) vs. counterfeit teachings of the secessionists
  - Spirit of truth (John 15:26), who guides believers "into all truth" (John 16:13), who would remain w/ us forever (John 14:16)
- No need for anything \_\_\_\_\_: "you have no need for anyone to teach you"
  - Not diminishing the general teaching ministry of the church (Acts 4:18; 5:28, 42; II Tim. 2:24) or the specific ministry of those gifted to teach (I Cor. 12:29; Eph. 4:11)
    - Teachers are a gift from the Holy Spirit (Eph. 4:11)
  - External instruction + internal instruction (Jer. 31:33-34)

Word + Spirit = safeguards against deception:

- Received at \_\_\_\_\_
  - You "heard" the Word (v. 24), which came "from us" (1:2-3, 5)
  - You "received" the Spirit (v. 27), sent directly from the Holy One (v. 20)
- Word = objective safeguard. Spirit's anointing = subjective experience