

So That You May Know

An Expository Study of the Epistle of **1 John**

Chapter 10- The Test of Truth **1John 2: 18-27**

81. Part 6

WAOY Friday/Monday 09/07-10/07; WOSM Monday 01/23/23

Welcome again, my beloved in Jesus Christ. We're continuing our verse by verse "journey" through the Epistle of **1 John**, and today I want to continue to look at what John taught about "The Test of Truth". So, let's turn in our Bibles and let's read **1John 2: 18-27** again together:

18 Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour.

19 They went out from us, but they were not *really* of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but *they went out*, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us.

20 But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you all know.

21 I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it, and because no lie is of the truth.

22 Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son.

23 Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also.

24 As for you, 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.

25 This is the promise which He Himself made to us: eternal life.

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

27 As for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him.

Now on the last broadcast, we were going over the three points that John is making in these ten verses.

1. Realizing the Danger
2. The Ability and Power that is given to us so that we may realize the Danger
3. The Way to Fight Against the Danger

And on the last broadcast, we were looking at the first point- Realizing the Danger and I want to finish that first point today. So, in order to understand just what danger John is talking about- let's read again verses 18 & 19 together:

18 Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour.

19 They went out from us, but they were not *really* of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but *they went out*, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us.

Here in verse 18, John tells us that one of the signs that we can know for sure that we are living in the last days is by what is happening to the issue of Truth. Many times, when someone speaks of the last days- the subject of the nation of Israel and other world events comes to the forefront- and that is fine- because surely- those areas *do* tell us where we live.

But John and Peter and Paul spoke not only about what was going to happen externally- out in the world- to determine if we were living in the last days- but also about what was going to occur *internally*- inside the walls of the Church- among believers to determine just what time it was.

For example- right here in verse 18, John tells us that the rise of many antichrists- the rise of many people who fight against Christ; who fight against the Truth; who are opposed to Biblical Christianity- that the rise of these people proves beyond any doubt that we are living in the last days.

Paul echoed that very same thinking that John was using when he wrote in **2Timothy 3:1-8**. So, let's read that passage together. Look at verse 1:

But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come.

Now the word that was translated here into English as "difficult" comes from the Greek word that means: perilous or dangerous. And this has to do with something that is life threatening or some kind of difficulty that is very dangerous. This word was normally used to denote great imminent danger like terrorism or something that threatens your existence or way of life.

So, what is it that Paul says that is going to occur in the last days that is so dangerous that Paul was moved by the Holy Spirit here to warn us? Look at verses 2- 8 of **2Timothy 3**:

2 For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy,

3 unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good,

4 treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,

5 holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these.

6 For among them are those who enter into households and captivate weak women weighed down with sins, led on by various impulses,

7 always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

8 Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these *men* also oppose the truth, men of depraved mind, rejected in regard to the faith.

So, we can see that the Apostle Paul thought that the rise of those who are reprobate concerning the Christian Faith and the rise of false teaching and the proliferation of false doctrine inside the Church was so serious and so dangerous that he termed it to be difficult, perilous or life threatening.

So, when John calls these people "antichrists"- John was not just calling these people names- he was not just insulting them or being a

smart aleck- but John was accurately describing those people who pose a very real and a very serious danger to the Christian Church.

So, we can see that the antichrists are the very same people as the “certain persons” whom Jude talked about in his Epistle and the very same men whom Paul says here are **men of depraved mind, rejected in regard to the [Christian] faith.**

Every single Apostle knew that the only thing that distinguishes Christianity from anything else and from everything else is Doctrine- what we believe; what we trust in. So, it was the job of the Apostles to *create* and *define* Christian Doctrine through what they wrote and by doing this- they were establishing Christianity and the Church on the earth. So, to be a Christian means something. To be the Church means something. And Truth- Divine Truth- inspired Truth defines for us what these things are. So, without Truth- we cannot know Christianity. Without understanding the meaning of the special, unique, inspired, inerrant, infallible, authoritative, relevant, and eternal Words of Scripture- we do not know, and we cannot know Truth.

So, it was through the Words of the Apostles which were written down and preserved for us- and *only* through their words- that we know about the Christian Faith. Therefore- without knowing what these men meant by what they wrote, or by having what these men wrote distorted or altered or changed or hidden or added to or taken away from- then Christianity itself will not be known.

And if Christianity is not known to us accurately and rightly and fully- then Jesus is not known to us. Because we cannot and we must not form opinions about Jesus outside of what Scripture teaches us. To do so- is to make up something about the Lord that isn't true, and it isn't reliable; and it isn't eternal- because it isn't inspired. And that is exactly what the Jehovah's Witnesses and the Mormons, and the other cults have done.

Everything that we know about Jesus that is true- didn't come from any other source other than the Bible. Everything else that anyone else has said or written about Jesus is not inspired and didn't come from God.

And if we don't know about Jesus- then we won't know about Salvation and we won't know about Heaven or hell or Righteousness or the Church and we will simply make it up as we go along and that is exactly what John says not to do.

Without the Words of the Apostles- that have been recorded and preserved for us in Scripture- we are simply fabricating our own religion based upon our own human logic and own our own human reasoning.

So- because all of this is true- what these men wrote- and the meaning of their words- and the practical application of their words into the lives of all believers became paramount. And therefore- any distortion; any change; any addition; any subtraction; any twisting of meanings from the exact true meaning of what these men wrote was not tolerated in the early Church. And it should not be tolerated today either.

Those who faithfully taught and preached and expounded upon the reality of what these Apostles wrote in Scripture were called “good and faithful ministers” and those who deviated from what these men wrote were called “antichrists”. And the antichrists were called on the carpet and they were presented before the Church to give an account of what they were teaching and why they had taken it upon themselves to teach contrary to Divine Revelation by the Fathers of the Church.

And those who repented were restored back into good graces- but those who refused to recant; those who refused to submit to the Authority of Scripture went through the four step process that Jesus initiated in the 18th Chapter of Matthew and if they continued to teach false doctrine- they were excommunicated from the Church and branded as heretics.

Now I know that many of you right now are cringing as though I just said something that is mean and cruel and harsh and even unchristian- but I didn't do this- beloved- the Apostles John and Peter and Paul did this and they did it on instructions from none other than the Lord Jesus Christ Himself.

If a person is determined to disobey Scripture and teach contrary to what God has said- and that person will not repent- what are you to do with that individual? Give him your pulpit? Let him teach impressionable sheep? Allow him access to the souls of men? John didn't think so. Neither did Paul and neither did Peter and neither did Jesus.

So, after repeated warnings; after refusing to graciously repent and teach only what Scripture teaches; after being warned repeatedly with tears by the leadership of the Church- these heretics were banished from the Church and labeled for who they really are- infidels and

antichrists.

Where do antichrists come from? Are they Syrians? Are they Middle Eastern men who rise into high levels of Government? Not in the sense that John is talking about here. Look at where John says that antichrists come from by reading **1John 2:19**:

They went out from us, but they were not *really* of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but *they went out*, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us.

The many “antichrists” that John refers to in verse 18 came from *inside* the Church! These men crept into the Church just like Jude taught and they sat with the saints, and they pretended to love Jesus and they went through the motions, and they were at one time a part of the visible Body.

But because they were not saved and because they really didn't love Jesus and they really didn't love the Words of Jesus- they soon began to depart from the Faith, and they began to teach things contrary to sound Doctrine and they began to influence other people. As soon as it became apparent that these men were teaching things false- they were confronted about what they were teaching by the leaders of the Church who guard the souls of the sheep and they were called to account.

And some repented and believed- but other notable men refused the wise and godly counsel of John and Peter and Paul and the other Apostles- and they rebelled against the Truth- John says that these are the men who left the Christian Faith and went out into the world – to propagate their false teaching on the souls of men. These are the antichrists that John is speaking about.

Well, I have to stop right here, but please join me on the next broadcast as we continue our journey through the Epistle of **1John**. May God help us all.

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