

STUDY #5

1 John 2:18-27

John's Purpose Statement:

"¹³I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life." 1 John 5:13

→ Review

OBSERVATION QUESTIONS

→ Read vs. 18-21

¹⁸ Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore we know that it is the last hour. 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 it might become plain that they all are not of us. ²⁰ But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and you all have knowledge. ²¹ I write to you, not because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and because no lie is of the truth.

1. Based on the context, who are the "children" that John is speaking to?

2. What time does John reference here? And what is this referring to?
See also the following verses:

Hebrews 1:1-2 "Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world."

1 Peter 1:20 "He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you..."

3. What evidence confirms that it was the "last hour"?

4. How do the actions of the "antichrists" differ from true believers?

5. What blessing have true believers been given in Christ?

6. For what reason does John say he is writing to them?

→ Read vs. 22-23

²² Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son. ²³ No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also.

1. Here John provides a clear recognizable characteristic of the “liar” and the “antichrist”. List the 2 ways they deny the faith.

a. _____

b. _____

2. What is similar and what is different about these two denials?

3. How does John contrast the difference between the antichrist and a genuine believer?
Also see the following verses:

John 12:44-45 “And Jesus cried out and said, “Whoever believes in me, believes not in me but in him who sent me. ⁴⁵ And whoever sees me sees him who sent me.”

Romans 10:9-10 “...if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.”

1 John:4:1-3 “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for 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 from God, ³ and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already.”

1 John 5:12 “Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.”

2 John 7 “For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. Such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist.”

→ Read vs. 24-27

²⁴ Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father. ²⁵ And this is the promise that he made to us—eternal life.

²⁶ I write these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you. ²⁷ But the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie—just as it has taught you, abide in him.

1. What is the message they have “heard from the beginning”?

See the following verses:

John 8:31-32 “So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

1 Corinthians 15:1-2 “Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, ² and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.”

2. Here we see the repeated theme to “abide”. What does the word “abide” mean?

3. How can believers abide in the Son and the Father?

Also see the following verses:

John 15:9-10 “ As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love.”

1 John 4:13-16 “By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶ So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.”

2 John 9 “Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son.”

4. What promise have believers been given?
5. Why does John say he is writing these things to them?
6. What is the “anointing” they have received?
See also the following verses:

John 14:16-17 “And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, ¹⁷ even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.”

2 Corinthians 1:21-22 “And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, ²² and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.”

Ephesians 1:13-14 “In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.”

7. What are the results/benefits of this anointing?

Also see the following verses:

John 16:13 “When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.”

1 Corinthians 2:12-13 “Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. ¹³ And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.”

TEACHING NOTES

1. The heretics and the genuine Christians (2:18-21)

2. The nature and effect of the heresy (2:22-23)

3. The safeguards against heresy (2:24-27)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How do your actions and words reveal that you are a genuine believer?

2. What are some practical and specific ways you can “safeguard” your life against false doctrine/teachers? What other passages can you think of that can help you in this process? What are the consequences of being led away by false doctrine?

3. In this passage, John contrasted characteristics of the antichrists with that of genuine believers. His goal was not only to refute the false teachers, but also to protect the believers against them and reassure them of their faith.
How might John’s approach here help you as you encounter false teachers today?

4. Read John 10:27-29, “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand.”

How do these verses encourage and/or challenge you?

***Next week: 1 John 2:28-3:3**