

The Antichrist

1 John 2:18-23

Introduction: John said, **“These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.”**

Included in this is a warning about a serious matter of his day. This problem centered around a false teaching called Gnosticism. We will review this teaching in a moment. It was a teaching that originated in the church and was causing much disturbance.

I. Gnosticism.

- A. This is a term derived from the Greek word for knowledge (gnosis).
 - 1. Such things as good and evil, light and darkness, truth and falsehood, flesh and spirit were opposed to each other as being and non-being.
 - 2. They could not co-exist.
 - 3. Special “knowledge” allowed one to understand and be free.
 - 4. The Son of God (good) could not exist in a body of flesh (evil).
- B. Evidence of opposition to this teaching is found throughout John’s writings (**Jn. 1:14, 17; 1 Jn. 1:1-2**).
- C. The first great controversy in the church was over Judaizers (**see Acts 15**). Gnosticism was the second and was very prevalent at the end of the first century (the time of 1 John).

II. What The New Testament Says About The Antichrist.

- A. First, what religious people say about the antichrist.
 - 1. Will be a single world leader coming to power before the millennium.
 - a. Shows association with false doctrine of pre-millennialism.
 - b. More false reports on this than any other (Hitler, Mussolini, Reagan, Khomeini, Saddam, et al).
 - 2. Believed to be the **“man of sin” (2 Thess. 2:3)** and the **“beast” of Revelation 13**.
- B. The New Testament says:
 - 1. Only mentioned five (5) times in entire New Testament. Four times in 1 John and once in 2 John.
 - a. Many would have you believe it is found profusely.
 - b. Revelation has no mention at all, while some seem to think the antichrist is in every verse.

“That You May Know”

2. Notice:
 - a. More than one (**“antichrists” in 1 Jn. 2:18**).
 - b. Seen as already existing.
 - 1) **“even now many antichrists have come” (1 Jn. 2:18)**.
 - 2) **“is now already in the world” (1 Jn. 4:13)**.
 - 3) **“have gone out into the world” (2 Jn. 7)**.
3. These false teachers arose from among the brethren (**1 Jn. 2:19**).
 - a. **see Acts 20:29-30**.
 - b. Look both ways!
4. Deny Christ in the flesh.
 - a. **see 1 John 4:3 and 2 John 7**.
 - b. This is the **“spirit of the antichrist.”**

III. The Solution.

- A. The balance of our text offers the solution in the simplest of terms.
- B. You already have knowledge.
 1. By this time, revelation was nearly complete, (**“you know all things,” v. 20**).
 2. The truth of God is the **“anointing from the Holy One” (see Jn. 16:13)**.
- C. Imagine the case.
 1. You listen to one teacher who proclaims Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God (**see Matt. 16:16**).
 2. Another teacher then begins to argue that Jesus is neither the Christ nor the Son of God.
 3. Do you see:
 - a. The lie of the second teacher?
 - b. How this means you would not confess Jesus?
 - c. How this is a denial of His deity?
 - d. This actually reduces Jesus to a man who was apparently a complete lunatic?
- D. Do you know better than this? This “special knowledge” is blasphemous.

Conclusion: To know is one thing, to act is another. If you need to act upon your knowledge, do so now.