

Theme: Authentic faith does not follow antichrists - counterfeit teachers - but remains firm in Christ through the anointing of the Spirit and the apostolic teaching of Scripture.

I. Pilgrims Progress

- A. A great story we read to our kids many times
- B. Published in 1678, written by John Bunyan
- C. Translated into over 200 languages now
- D. Christian leaving City of Destruction to Celestial City
- E. Dangers & distractions before he even gets to the cross
- F. But many after as well - trying to turn him from the way
- G. This is true to our life - false teachers always try to lure
- H. How does the authentic faith respond to this?

II. The Call: Remain In Christ

- A. Note the word “remain” (or abide) in this passage
They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have **remained** with us; but their going showed that none of them belonged to us... ²⁴ See that what you have heard from the beginning **remains** in you. If it does [**remain** in you], you also will **remain** in the Son and in the Father...
²⁷ As for you, the anointing you received from him **remains** in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit—just as it has taught you, **remain** in him. 1 John 2:19, 24, 27
- 1. Greek word for remain appears 6 times in passage
 - 2. This is a very important idea for John

- a. 68 of 118 times in the New Testament
- b. 24 times in 1 John
- c. 11 times in 1 John 2 alone - 6 in this passage!

3. This is a strong call to remain in Christ & His way

B. John does not want pilgrims to leave the way!

III. The Dangers of the Last Hour

- A. We live in the last hour
Dear children, **this is the last hour**; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know **it is the last hour**. 1 John 2:18
- 1. The church lives in the last hour - always
 - 2. You don't need to look for signs - it has been the last hour for 2,000 years!
 - 3. We know it is last hour because of antichrist
- B. The danger of antichrist
- 1. The fact of the antichrist
Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the **antichrist** is coming, even now many **antichrists** have come. This is how we know it is the last hour. 1 John 2:18
- a. Heard antichrist was coming? - already here!
 - b. Heard of antichrist? - many antichrists!
 - c. Many antichrists throughout last hour
- 2. The nature & work of the antichrist

Who is the liar? It is **the man who denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a man is the antichrist—he denies the Father and the Son.** 1 John 2:22

- a. The nature of the antichrist is to deny Jesus
- b. This is what the word means - against Christ
- c. Antichrist denies Jesus' Person and work

3. The spirit of the antichrist

but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world. 1 John 4:3

- a. Spirit of antichrist opposes Spirit of God
- b. Once again, he denies Jesus - anti-Christ
- c. Once again, antichrist is already here

4. The identity of the antichrist

Many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world. **Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist.** 2 John 1:7

- a. All who deny Jesus came in flesh are antichrist
- b. Not speaking of atheists, but of false teachers
- c. Counterfeit teachers are antichrist
- d. The key issue - false doctrine of Christ

C. The work of antichrist counterfeit teachers

1. Their goal: deceive believers

I am writing these things to you about those who are trying to lead you astray. 1 John 2:26

For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect—if that were possible. Matthew 24:24

- a. These antichrist teachers labor to deceive the elect
- b. Jesus spoke of these same people as well

2. Their method: distort teaching about Christ

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- a. Gnostics - distorted Jesus' Person and work
 1. Jesus was not really human, not really flesh
 2. Human Jesus was not the Christ
- b. Many similar heresies today - from Jesus to the Christ
- c. Jesus is the center of the faith - we must remain!

3. Their call - leave Church for our "deeper" truths

They **went out from us**, but they did not really belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they **would have remained with us**; but their **going** showed that none of them belonged to us. 1Jo 2:19

- a. They went out; did not remain; their going
- b. Gnostics set up false, rival church
- c. They promised deeper truths for those who would

leave church and come to them

- d. This is why John emphasizes loving brothers, fellowship so much in this letter

IV. The Antidote To Antichrist

A. The Spirit: you have an anointing

But you have an **anointing** from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth... ²⁷ As for you, the **anointing** you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his **anointing** teaches you about all things and as that [**anointing**] is real, not counterfeit—just as it has taught you, remain in him. 1 John 2:20, 27

1. John uses anointing - chrisma - 3x (NIV adds 4th)
2. Play on words chrisma and antichristoi
3. John is referring to Holy Spirit who anointed Jesus
4. Anointing of Spirit is antidote for spirit of antichrist
5. The Spirit teaches us - not Gnostic 'teachers'

But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth. ²¹ I do not write to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it and because no lie comes from the truth. 1 John 2:20–21

- a. New Testament believers have been given Spirit
- b. Does not mean there are no teachers
 1. John is teaching in this letter - and this verse!
 2. We are told Jesus gave teachers to the Church
- c. It does mean we do not need people with “deeper” truths

6. The basic stance - we have Spirit to teach us

B. The Word: you have the apostolic teaching

1. Remain in what you heard from the beginning

See that **what you have heard from the beginning** remains in you. If [**what you heard from the beginning**] does [remain in you], you also will remain in the Son and in the Father. 1 John 2:24

- a. What you have heard from beginning - apostolic preaching of Christ
 - b. John states this 2x (NIV drops 2nd) - this is critical
 - c. To remain in apostolic teaching is to remain in Christ
2. The Spirit always leads back to apostolic preaching
 - a. We never move on from this!
 - b. We do not need “new” revelation - we need to be rooted in the apostolic preaching of Christ!
 3. The apostolic preaching is contained in Scripture
 - a. We do not have Peter, Paul, and John with us
 - b. But we do have their teaching - in Word!
 - c. This is why the Spirit always leads to the Word

C. The Church: you are part of God's true people

They **went out from us**, but they did not really belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they **would have remained with us**; but their **going** showed that none of them belonged to us. 1Jo 2:19

1. Gnostics set up rival church & tried to lure Christians

2. Loving brothers and fellowship is a major theme
3. There is great protection in the Church!
4. Some today say we do not need the Church - but God says we do!

Teaching keywords: false teaching and heresy, apostles, Christology, perseverance, Holy Spirit, eschatology, Word of God

5 May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, 6 so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 15:5–6

V. Applying the Authentic Word

- A. Are we using God's antidote against the antichrist?
 1. We're still in the last hour - and still many antichrists
 2. Like Christian, we face many dangers on our way
 3. But God has given us His Spirit, Word, Church
 4. Do we walk and talk with the Spirit daily?
 5. Do we soak in the Word daily?
 6. Are we faithfully walking with the Church?
- B. The Table of the Lord Jesus
 1. We are called to remain in Christ - He is central
 2. Greatest danger is minimizing or distorting Christ
 3. "Christ centered" is more than just a motto - it is life
 4. This Table is centered on His Person & work
 5. Come receive from the Authentic Table of Jesus

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²⁴ See that what you have heard from the beginning remains in you. If it does, you also will remain in the Son and in the Father. ²⁵ And this is what he promised us—even eternal life.

²⁶ I am writing these things to you about those who are trying to lead you astray. ²⁷ As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit—just as it has taught you, remain in him. 1 John 2:18–27

Authentic Faith and the Antichrist

1 John 2:18-27
 June 7, 2015
 Communion
 Romans 15:5-6