

Who is/are the antichrist(s)?

Virtual Study of I John – 1 John 2:18-29
Bellevue Church of Christ – Summer / Fall 2020

Definite article is not present in the Greek (John 2:3-4; 4:21-23; 5:24-25; 7:30; Heb 1:1-2; I Peter 1:20)

Confess the Son (18-23)

1Jn 4:3
2Jn v.7
2Th 2:1-12

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.

Did John think that Christ's return was imminent? If not, what did he mean by "last hour?" *Mt 24:36-44

Mt 13:20-21
Heb 2:1-4
1Tim 1:18-20

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.

Acts 2:38

They had to be knowledgeable of the truth before they could become Christians

20 But you have been **anointed** by the **Holy One**, and you all have knowledge.

John 6:68-69
Acts 3:12-14

John's readers were fully able to understand anti-Christianity

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.

John 8:42
John 14:6

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*.

Do we truly believe in Jesus and are we willing to share that with others?
-Phil 2:5-11-

Abide in the Son (24-29)

1Jn 1:3;
1Jn 2:5-7

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.

John 3:16;
5:24; 8:51

26 I write these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you.

They did not need any teaching outside of what they heard from the beginning

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.

28 And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming.

29 If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him.

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Questions for Discussion

Did John think that Christ's return was imminent? (v. 18; Matt. 24)

- If not, what did he mean by "last hour?" What are all of the possibilities? (vv. John 2:3-4; 4:21-23; 5:24-25; 7:30; Heb 1:1-2; I Peter 1:20)
- If yes, can we still say that this epistle was inspired?

Who or what is "the antichrist?" (vv. 18; II Thess 2:1-12)

- One or many? If one, then who?
- What are the characteristics of the antichrist(s)? (vv. 19, 22; 4:3; II John 7)

Who are those who "went out from us?" Does this statement provide support for the doctrine of the impossibility of apostasy? (vv. 19; Matt 13:20-21; Heb 2:1-4; I Tim 1:18-20)

What does it mean to be "anointed," and who is the "Holy One?" Why does John say that they "all have knowledge?" (vv. 20-21; John 6:68-69; Acts 3:13-15)

In this context, who is a "liar?" (v. 22-23; John 8:42; 14:6)

What is to "abide in us?" What is this? How can we "abide in the Son and in the Father?" (v. 24; 1:3)

What does the "anointing" teach us? How does the "anointing" teach us? (v. 27)

How can we have confidence? (v. 28)

How do we know if one has been born of God? (v. 29)

Love God (Vertical Relationship) / Continued from Study Guide #3

In the first part of chapter 2, John emphasized that keeping God's commandments was the true test of whether one knows God. What other characteristics does one have who truly know God and has a relationship with him?

Confess the Son

1 John 2:18–23 (ESV)

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. 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.***

*The Gnostics did not believe that Jesus came in the flesh, but John emphasizes that one cannot have the Father unless you “confess” or believe in the Son. An “antichrist” is anyone who denies that Jesus is the Christ. **John also emphasizes that no additional knowledge is needed from what they've had since the beginning.***

Do we truly believe in Jesus and are we willing to share that with others?

Philippians 2:5–11 (ESV)

⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

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Abide in Him

1 John 2:24–29 (ESV)

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**.

²⁸ And now, little children, **abide in him**, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming. ²⁹ If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who **practices righteousness** has been born of him.

Last Hour

Matthew 24:36–44 (ESV)

³⁶ “But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. ³⁷ For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. ⁴² Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

John 2:3-4

³When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." ⁴And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does this have to do with me? **My hour has not yet come.**"

John 4:21-23

²¹Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, **the hour is coming** when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. ²²You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³But **the hour is coming, and is now here**, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him.

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John 5:24-25

²⁴Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.

²⁵"Truly, truly, I say to you, **an hour is coming, and is now here**, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live.

John 7:30

³⁰So they were seeking to arrest him, but no one laid a hand on him, because his hour had not yet come.

Hebrews 1:1-2

¹Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ²but 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.

I Peter 1:20

²⁰He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for your sake...

Antichrist

1 John 4:3 (ESV)

³and 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.

2 John 7 (ESV)

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.

II Thessalonians 2:1-12

¹Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers, ²not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come.

³Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, ⁴who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God. ⁵Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? ⁶And you know what is restraining him now so that he may be revealed in his time. ⁷For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way. ⁸And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming. ⁹The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, ¹⁰and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the

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truth and so be saved. ¹¹Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, ¹²in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

Went Out From Us

Matthew 13:20–21 (ESV)

²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹ yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away.

Hebrews 2:1–4 (ESV)

¹ Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. ² For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, ³ how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard, ⁴ while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.

1 Timothy 1:18–20 (ESV)

¹⁸ This charge I entrust to you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, ¹⁹ holding faith and a good conscience. By rejecting this, some have made shipwreck of their faith, ²⁰ among whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.

Anointed

Acts 2:38 (ESV)

³⁸ And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Holy One

John 6:68-69

⁶⁸Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, ⁶⁹and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God."

Acts 3:12–15 (ESV)

¹² And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: “Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk? ¹³ The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had

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decided to release him. ¹⁴ But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, ¹⁵ and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses.

The Father and the Son

John 8:42

⁴²Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me.

John 14:6

⁶Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Abide in Him

1 John 1:3 (ESV)

³ that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.

1 John 2:5–7 (ESV)

⁵ but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: ⁶ whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

⁷ Beloved, I am writing you no new commandment, but an old commandment that you had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word that you have heard.

Eternal Life

John 3:16 (ESV)

¹⁶ "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

John 5:24 (ESV)

²⁴ Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.

John 8:51

⁵¹Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death."