

Thursday, April 11, 2024 ▫ Read 1John 2:18–27

Questions from the Scripture text: How does John address his readers in v18? What does this mean has happened to them (v12)? And Whom does this mean they have known (v13)? What hour does he tell them that it is now? Whom had they heard is coming? But who have already come? What does this show about the hour in which John was writing? From where did these antichrist's come (v19)? Why did they go out? What if they had been of the fellowship of 1:3? What has their departure manifested? But what do the believers have (v20)? What do they know, that corresponds to what the apostle now writes? What isn't the reason for his writing (v21)? What about them has led him to write? What do they know about lies? Who is the great liar (v22)? What is his title? What (Whom) does he deny? Whom doesn't the Son-denier also not have (v23)? Whom does the Son-acknowledger also have? What are they to let abide in them (v24)? What will happen by this truth's abiding in them—in Whom does this truth tell them to abide and make them to abide? What has been promised by this abiding (v25)? Who has promised it? Concerning whom is the apostle writing them? What (Who) abides in them (v27)? What don't they need? What else does this anointing teach them? How reliable is this anointing? What have they already begun to do by its teaching?

What does the Spirit do for believers? 1John 2:18–27 prepares us for the second serial reading in public worship on the Lord's Day. In these ten verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **the Spirit keeps believers from becoming antichrists by confirming Scripture and biblical teaching to them, so that they abide in God by abiding in Christ.**

What about those who don't "abide" in the church? The visible church/invisible church distinction. v17 concluded that he who does the will of God abides forever. But there were people who had went out from the church (v19a). What about them? Well, not everyone that is in the church is of the church (v19). Sometimes someone who learns about the distinction between the visible church (baptized members) and invisible church (all the elect) complains that this is not a biblical distinction. But it clearly is one here, with those who "went out from us" because "they were not of us." (Just as the same is clearly taught in Rom 9:6-12, especially v6.

Antichrist, and antichrists, come because it is the last hour (and has been for 2000 years!). It is a dreadful thing indeed either to have to be put out of the church (cf. 1Cor 5) because some sin or error has exposed your profession as false, or to leave from the church and expose your profession as false (v19). It reveals such an assertion of "self" authority and "self" theology that v18 describes such people as "many antichrists." Their autonomy and independence is in the image and spirit of that great Antichrist, the Man of Sin who puts himself in the place of God (2Th 2:3–4). What the Pope is, writ-large and eschatologically, the "lone-ranger" Christian is on a smaller scale. Sadly, these "independent thinkers" must be watched against, since they often are not satisfied merely to leave the church, but attempt to lead genuine believers astray (v26).

The Spirit agrees with Himself about the Father and the Son. How do real believers come to remain in biblical/faithful churches? They have "an anointing from the Holy One." God has anointed believers in Christ (cf. 2Co 1:21). Christ has poured out His Spirit upon them, specifically as the Spirit of truth (Jn 16:13). It is He Who had given all previous Scripture (cf. 1Pet 1:11). It is He Who makes our hearts to understand Scripture and agree with it (cf. 2Co 3:14–4:7). So John is encouraged, as he writes under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, because he is writing to those who recognize, by the Spirit, that what the apostle writes is true (v21).

The spirit of antichrist is especially present in those who deny the Persons within the Godhead; they deny the Father and the Son (v22). But God is One, and they cannot know or have God if they deny any of the Persons of the Godhead (v23a). Happily, this means that in giving Himself to us in the Son, God the Father has also given Himself to us (v23b). This is the great truth by which believers begin in Christianity (v24): God the Son became a man to save us, and we are saved by abiding in Jesus—by Whom we also then abide in the Father. This is the truth that must abide in us. And, God has promised that by abiding in Him we have eternal life from Him and in Him (v25, cf. 1:2–3).

Thanks be to God that the Spirit persuades us inwardly of what faithful teachers say outwardly: the triune God has given us to abide in Himself by abiding in Christ (v27). This is why, if you are a Christian, you have discovered that the truths of the divinity of Christ and doctrine of the Trinity are so important to you. Christ has given His Spirit to you precisely to convince you of Bible truth, so that you will abide in Him!

Who gave you the Bible? Who gives you faithful Bible teachers in the home and in the church? Who are these teachers? What do all faithful Bible teachers say about the Father, the Son, and the Spirit? In Whom do they teach you to abide? What do they teach you that you have by this abiding?

Sample prayer: Lord, thank You for teaching us that Jesus is God the Son, and for revealing Yourself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Thank You for teaching us that the church is Your own institution and that we cannot expect to be saved if we go out from it. Forgive us for how lightly we have taken the necessity of our church membership and the gift of faithful teachers in the church. Forgive us for how lightly we have underestimated the wickedness and danger of those who deny the divinity of Christ or the doctrine of the Trinity. Forgive us for when we have not been so intentional and diligent to abide in Christ and in His doctrine. Thank You for Your patience with us. Keep persisting with us by Your grace, as You continue convincing us by Your Spirit and helping us by Your Spirit, we ask in the Name of the Son, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP110B "The Lord Has Spoken to My Lord" or TPH212 "Come, Thou Almighty King"

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

First John 2 verses 18 through 27. These are God's words. Little children. It is the last And as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many Antichrists have come. By which we know that it is. The last R. 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 they might be manifest, that none of them were of us. But you have an anointing from the Holy One and you know, all things. I have not written to you because you do not know the truth but because, you know, it And that no lie is of the truth.

Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ. He is Antichrist who denies the father, and the son. Whoever denies the son does not have the father either. He who acknowledges the son as the father also. Therefore 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 Sun and in the father. And this is the promise that he has promised us eternal life. These things I have written to you concerning those who try to deceive you, But the anointing which you have received from him abides in you.

And you do not need that anyone teach you. But as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things and is true and is not a lie. And just as it has taught you, you will. Abide in him. So far the reading of gods inspired and And Aaron tort The Apostle has just said, he who does the will of God, abides forever.

But there's something that has happened in their churches. Among those to whom he is writing, there are people who have left the churches. People who quote went out. From us. And the Apostle John identifies himself for the church. And He's not there. He's exiled. Uh, on Patmos. Likely. Writing, especially to the church in Ephesus where he had been a minister Um, Perhaps to other churches as well, but he's identifying himself with them.

Uh, those who left their churches, have not just left the churches. They've left the Apostle and they haven't just left the churches in the Apostle, but you remember what he said? In chapter one. That truly. Our fellowship. So which what we have seen and heard we declare to you that you may have fellowship with us and truly.

Our fellowship is with the father and with his son Jesus Christ. And so he's Telling them here is talking to them here, about those who have left the churches, they don't have fellowship with the churches, or now with the Apostle, your fellowship is with us or now. He is saying Um, Do they don't have fellowship with the father or with the son, indeed.

They never had it. Those who don't abide in. Uh, in the church. Um, those who don't abide forever in Fellowship, not only with the church, but with the god, or the church, those who go out, go out because they were not truly of the church. You see this at the beginning?

And end of verse 19, they were went out from us but they were not of us. Beginning in verse 19, Uh, and then And he says, if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. So, one way you can tell someone who is genuinely converted, is that they value the church and they value their membership in the church.

They don't think that they can just be independent Lone, Ranger Christians. This is not what Spirit taught people who trust in the Lord Jesus think. And And believe and feel and act upon. And he concludes that verse. They went out that it might be manifest that none of them.

Were of us. And so there is this. Visible and invisible Church distinction that is a Bible teaching just as in Romans 9, not all who are descended from Israel were Israel. That there are those who have Covenant sign and Covenant membership but are not actually of Spiritual life and faith and Belonging to God in the Lord Jesus Christ.

And so there was always a Remnant within Israel. So also now we see here, it continues in the church. There is a Remnant within the church. There's there are those who are in the church but who are not of the church. And so, Romans 9, and then here first John 2, and we see something similar in First Corinthians 11, Uh, that there were factions in that.

So that it might be revealed who or reprobate who or not. Uh, approved. But these to whom he writes, he calls little children and this is his favorite uh name for his dear ones to whom. He writes they're not just his little children, they're Gods little children in the Lord Jesus.

Uh but it has a little bit more local significance or a little bit more significance in the local context here in verse 18 because he's just said in verse 12 and then in verse 13, little children, are those who whose sins are forgiven for the sake of the name of Christ, verse 12, little children, are those who know the father verse 13.

So and he says little children. You little ones who know that Jesus is God. The son you little ones who know. That you have eternal life. Uh by abiding in Jesus and that if you have Jesus, you have the Father by way of Jesus. And in Jesus, Uh, these are the little children of God, the ones who have the Holy Spirit.

The spirit of adoption. Who convinces us? That Jesus is God, and we trust in him. And he convinces us that in Jesus. We have God as father and he makes us to cry out to God and say Abba Father and so there is this great Triune work of God.

In Salvation. That is implied by the dear little phrase little children. Read that and identify with that and say, yes I am God's little child. His spirit is the one who is the spirit of adoption who has taught me to know Jesus, as Elder brother, to know God as my father.

Um, little children or those who hold to the doctrine of the Trinity and to see how the Triune God has revealed himself, and declared himself and glorified himself by saving us in the Lord Jesus Christ. Well, those who Uh, who go out of the church or set themselves up as independent.

Uh, and they are autonomous. Not wanting to be part of. The church corporate and they're autonomous in their Doctrine, their theology they come up with any idea to talk about Jesus except the the Trinity and accept the Divinity of Christ. These are Antichrists little a there is that great Antichrist.

The man of sin who sets up, In the temple of God and makes himself and his Doctrine that through which all must go to heaven. Um, Uh, he whom we confess has been consummated. Now, in the pope of Rome, but that man of sin, second Thessalonians. Chapter 2, verses 3 and 4.

Um, and we We shrink and shiver. At the greatness of the wickedness, of the Antichrist who sets himself up as if he were God But then we should be sobered and warned. That if we want to be autonomous and out from The Fellowship of the church and out from under the authority of the Elders of a faithful church.

If we want to have our own Doctrine and not believe from the scriptures, what faithful churches have believed in faithful ministers have taught for 2000 years in which the Holy Spirit, affirms and confirms in the hearts of True Believers. If we want to be independently minded. People seem to be proud of being independently minded and autonomous.

But here is a great strike of God against that Pride. That is the spirit of antichrist. And so, we are warned here and the this uh, set people setting themselves off. As independent and coming out of the church. And, and So forth. This is something that marks it as the last hour, the church has now been established.

The foundation of the Apostles, prophets, and evangelists have been laid. Jesus has ascended into heaven and given as gifts among men, not just Apostles prophets and evangelists, but Pastor teachers who are teaching the true Doctrine. And yet now that the last hour has come and the church has been established.

Uh, there are those Antichrists that Mark the last hour? Uh, like second Thessalonians, 2 teaches us like the Lord, Jesus warned, um, in connection to The fall of Jerusalem, ushering in this last. Uh, in which he says, Um, during during this last hour, during this time, don't be deceived when people say that the Lord Jesus is returning.

Because his return. Will be obvious when it comes but the last hour is going to be a long time. Well, if it was the last hour, when John wrote, The slaughter than certainly, it still is the last hour now and we shouldn't be easily shaken. Even if there's an eclipse and you guys aren't exposed to a lot of false teaching, but so you can imagine, as has happened in great celestial.

Events in the past, there are all kinds of charlatans. Who. Uh, declared that this was foretold. And this was the end. And if that was true of an eclipse in America, just wait until there's A path of totality in Egypt, in 2027 and the false teachers will come crawling out of the woodwork, but don't be easily shaken.

It's been the last hour for 2000 years. Um, and it's a warning. Not. Um, not to freak out and think that the end has now come. Um but it's a warning and encouragement to keep abiding in Christ by having his truth abide in us. And that's why he's writing, he says he's not writing to those who don't know the truth, he's writing because they know the truth and he's writing the things that correspond to the truth.

They, he's writing to those who have an anointing from the Holy One, the Lord Jesus has given the Holy Spirit, The Same Spirit by which first Peter 1 says he is caused.

Uh, the words of scripture to be written The Same Spirit, whom he promised to the apostles during the apostolic age and John 16, especially in John 16 verse 13 that he would lead them into all the truth.

The same Spirit who removes the veil from the hearts of those who are members, not just of the visible church but who are elect, who are of the invisible

Of course, agrees with himself. What the Apostle writes and what was written in the scriptures that preceded him and what the Holy Spirit confirms in the hearts of Those whom he's bringing to Faith in Jesus Christ? What faithful churches have believed and faithful Ministers have taught now for 2000 years.

It's all the same. It's all of a peace. Praise God. In his writing, so that we will continue that the, that what we heard from the beginning would abide in us and the truth that teaches us about God, the son become man for us that by abiding in him.

We abide also in the father This is the truth that teaches us to keep trusting in Jesus. Keep abiding. In Jesus and he has promised us. Then verse 25 eternal life by this. So, watch out for false, teachers verse 26, reminds us that although, they're quite happy to go out of the church.

They don't seem quite displeased to leave those who are in the church alone, and they attempt to deceive these things, I have written to you. He says, concerning those who try to deceive you but do not fear, just be warned about them. That the Holy Spirit verse 27, the anointing, which you have received from him, that is from Christ abides in you.

And as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things and is true and is not a lie, just as it has taught you, you will abide in him. And so God the Holy spirit will preserve you. And you can have your confidence in the Triune God and the father, who has given the son for you and sent the spirit and the son who has come for you and has poured out, the spirit in the spirit who teaches you, the truth, and who gave you the Bible, and who confirms the Bible, to your heart, the Triune God will see to it.

That you abide. Uh, that you abide in Christ. And praise God. His promise is true. We will have eternal life. Let's pray. Our gracious. God in our heavenly father, we pray that you would Come near to each one of us. Uh, that each one would know in their own mind and their own heart.

That Ministry of your Holy Spirit, who confirms to them. The truth about you are trying God. The truth about your son. Our Lord Jesus. Who became a man to be God and man and one That we might abide in him. Have righteousness in him, have life in him. And have eternal life.

And so we pray for the ongoing work of your spirit, in Jesus name. Amen.