

# The Antichrist Deceivers

Sermon 6 in the 1 John Series

## 1 John 2:15-25

### I. Love not the World – 2:15-17

- A. The Desires of the Flesh are appeals to our natural appetites.
- B. The Desire of the Eyes is an appeal to our affections.
- C. The Pride of Life is an appeal to our ambitions.
- D. In the eternal state – our values and our appetites will be much different than they are in this fallen world. v. 17

### II. The Deception of the Anti-Christ 2:18-19; 21-23

#### A. Anti-Christ and the many Anti-Christ v. 18

1. **Definition of antichrist:** anti can mean = opposite – the opposite of Christ .  
It can also mean “instead of” or “in place of” Christ

2. A connection appears with what Jesus says in Matthew 24:5, 24

24:5 For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many.

24:24 For false christs (pseudo-Christ) and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.

3. John says the same thing again in 4:3 (**read 4:1-3**)

Among the Lutherans and Protestant reformers of the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> century – the issue was basically solved as the majority believed that the Pope of Rome is, to quote the LBCF 26:4, “that antichrist, that man of sin, and son of perdition, that exalteth himself in the church against Christ, and all that is called God, whom the Lord shall destroy with the brightness of his coming.”

“Luther declared that not just a pope from time to time was Antichrist, but the papacy was Antichrist because they were ‘the representatives of an institution opposed to Christ.’”  
(Roland Bainton – The Reformation of the Sixteenth Century – p. 44-45)

John Calvin wrote: "... yet from the time when it (*i.e. Rome*) began to be the seat of Antichrist it has ceased to be what it was before. Some persons think us too severe and censorious when

we call the Roman Pontiff Antichrist. But those who are of this opinion do not consider that they bring the same charge of presumption against Paul himself, after whom we speak and whose language we adopt ... I shall briefly show that (Paul's words in II Thess. 2) are not capable of any other interpretation than that which applies them to the Papacy." Institutes Vol. 3 p. 149

## B. It is the last hour. v. 18

“The last hour” and “The last day(s)” refers to the New Covenant time in which we live. The time since the death, burial, resurrection and ascension of Christ. (Acts 2:17; 1 Cor. 10:11; Hebrews 1:2; 9:26; 1 Peter 4:7 and other related verses)

## III. How to Recognize these Deceivers (antichrists) 2:19, 21-23

### A. They leave the true communion of believers – 2:19

This is leaving the truth and adopting a heretical view of Christ.  
They were never true believers – but once were part of a visible local church.

### B. They are not of the truth -- 2:21

### C. They are liars and antichrists -- 2:22-23

True Christianity is Trinitarian.

Jesus is God’s definitive revelation as revealed in Scripture and to reject Him as the only begotten son of God – is to reject the Father who sent Him.

## IV. The Anointing they have from The Holy One 2:20, 24-25

### A. Know all things or (and you all know) -- v. 20

ESV “But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and you all have knowledge.”

Amplified Bible – “But you have an anointing from the Holy One [you have been set apart, specially gifted and prepared by the Holy Spirit], and all of you know [the truth because He teaches us, illuminates our minds, and guards us from error].

### B. What was the anointing that they had?

In the OT anointing meant to be “chosen by God”. Those set apart for a task were anointed.  
Kings and Priests were anointed.  
Even things that were “set apart” as holy to God were anointed.

### C. Both the knowledge and the anointing come from The Holy One v. 24-25