

## DISCERNING EVIL & DECEPTION

### 1 JN 2:18-27

Jude 1:3 ¶ Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that **you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints.** 4 For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

2Jo 1:7 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.

#### I. THE DECEIVERS

- A. 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.
- B. Children it is the last hour— not an exact hour but refers to chronology or time of events.
- C. as you have heard that antichrist is coming—>“The antichrist”
  1. refers to the ruler of Satan that will come in the last days
  2. 2Th 2:4 who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God.
- D. “so now many antichrists have come”
  1. “Many antichrists” are already here—> NOT “The” antichrist but “types”
  2. Christ warned—> Mt 24:5 "For **many will come in My name**, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and **will mislead many.** 24 "For **false Christs** and false prophets **will arise** and will show great signs and wonders, so as to **mislead, if possible, even the elect.**
  3. Word “antichrist” means those that will come and try to take the place of Christ and also will speak in direct opposition of Christ
  4. “False Christs” will appear and sound like Christ but they will be subtle in the beginning but then slip in deception and lies.
  5. Even **mislead, if possible, even the elect!**
- E. John’s epistle is written specifically to warn and correct the false teaching of the Gnostic
  1. Jesus was NOT the Christ
  2. Christ came on Jesus as a Spirit at His baptism, but left in His suffering on the cross
  3. Teaching salvation through higher learning
  4. Denying that Jesus Christ was Messiah
- F. John’s point to the professing believers is that “the antichrist” will come in the final days as prophesied, but there are deceivers, the spirit of the antichrist here now and their intent is to misled, misguide and deceive those that can be led away from Christ!

#### II. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DECEIVERS

- A. 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.
- B. They went out from us—>out from us —> “us” is the church,

1. looked like faithful men/women of God at one point!
2. Taught their false doctrine, caused damage, lured weak minds to follow after them

C. **They went out** → they left the church to go elsewhere to do the same thing

D. Fact ALL BELIEVERS MUST UNDERSTAND TODAY! → FALSE TEACHERS ARE IN THE WORLD, AND IN THE CHURCH!

1. But, “**they were not of us**” → these were NOT true believers, false converts
  - a. **these are not just off-base true believers**
  - b. Left the church, they left the confession of salvation by Christ alone

E. **for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us.**

1. John emphasizes here that true believers remained through all the turmoil caused in the church by these antichrists
2. Standing for truth caused the unbelievers to leave the church

3. **for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us.**

4. **Main characteristic is PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS!**

- a. Jesus said, **Mt 24:13 "But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved.**
- b. **Perseverance is not a path to salvation, but perseverance is a definite attribute of salvation!**
- c. **True saints given the truth of salvation by faith alone in Christ alone and they believe into this salvation made possible by the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.**
- d. **Truth given by the Holy Spirit Himself**– man can never convince themselves of this truth – it is God’s workmanship
  - (1) **Eph 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.**

F. **Perseverance is the ultimate test of True Saint**

1. **Mr 13:13 "You will be hated by all because of My name, but the one who endures to the end, he will be saved.**
2. **2Ti 2:12 If we endure, we will also reign with Him; If we deny Him, He also will deny us; 13 If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself.**
  - a. false converts **deny Him**, and He is just as faithful to deny you in that day you stand before him in judgement
  - b. to do anything less, would mean **He [would] deny Himself** as being just!
3. God has a way of separating the sheep from the goats!
4. Their exit from the church and truth, makes it **plain that they all are not of us.**
  - a. **1Co 11:19 For there must also be factions among you, so that those who are approved may become evident among you.**
  - b. **Heb 3:14 For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end,**

5. Perseverance is a testimony of the work the Holy Spirit has done in you
6. False teachers sneak into the church and eventually they will leave **and take some with them that are taken in by their deception**
7. for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us.
8. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us.
  - a. leaving demonstrated exactly who they were– imposters
  - b. **all are not of** – means none of the antichrists were members of the true church
9. FF Bruce (commentator) - *“The perseverance of the saints is a biblical doctrine, but it is not doctrine designed to lull the indifferent into a sense of false security; it means that perseverance is an essential token of sanctity.”*
10. Just hanging out in the church without growing in sanctification, pursuing the life of Jesus Christ, and without actually believing eternal life is in Christ does not make you a true member of God’s church, but perseverance in faith in Jesus Christ is what makes you a Christian.

### III. BELIEVER HAVE BEEN GIVEN THE TRUTH!

- A. 20 ¶ But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and you all have knowledge.
- B. **you** → are the true believers who walk steadfast in the faith of the gospel
  1. No man can sell himself the faith to believe in Jesus Christ
  2. It requires and anointing by the Holy One!
- C. **TRUE BELIEVERS are anointed by the Holy Spirit**
  1. **Jesus Christ is the Holy One**, → even the demons know Him → Lu 4:34. . .Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the **Holy One of God!**"
  2. Anointing here is the coming of the Holy Spirit into the heart of a believer.
  3. He GUARDS the believer from false doctrine.
  4. The anointed have had the gospel revealed to them by the Holy Spirit and are gifted with faith to believe into IT.→They are guarded by Him from deception
- D. TRUE BELIEVERS are guided the Holy Spirit- they **all have knowledge**.
  1. Point of Christ sending His Holy Spirit into the world was not to just expound truth in the world but to bring truth to the heart of the individual who believes upon Christ!
  2. Joh 14:26 **"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.**
  3. Joh 16:13 **"But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.**
  4. True believers, because of the Spirit living in them, know when they hear a lie
  5. Tolerating and walking in apostate religion–demonstrates they are NOT of the Truth!

6. As John already wrote: 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.**

#### IV. TRUE BELIEVERS KNOW AND HOLD ONTO THE TRUTH!

- A. 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.
- B. John reminding them of who they are and what they know
- C. “no lie is of the truth” – stick to what you have been taught by the Holy Spirit

#### V. WHAT IS THE TRUTH?

- A. 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.
- B. **How do you know if a person is a false teacher?**
  1. Anyone who questions or denies Jesus is actually the Messiah, the Christ is a liar!
- C. Gnostic heretics denied everything about Jesus– they are liars.
- D. This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son—> these are sons of Satan
- E. 23 No one who denies the Son has the Father.
  1. Deny Jesus and deny God the Father
  2. There is no such thing as having a relationship with God the Father and deny His son.
  3. Any religion that rejects the absolute deity of Jesus Christ is a false religion.
  4. Any teacher that preaches anything that contradicts salvation through Christ alone by faith alone-> is a false teacher, a LIAR!
  5. They are antichrists!
- F. 23b . . .Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also.
  1. We have the Father by and through our confession into the Son
  2. Simple definition of Christianity -> those who profess Jesus Christ
  3. And they that profess Jesus Christ are in true fellowship with God the Father