

## **Bibles???**

### **The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority**

Turn your bibles with me to 1 John 2

We are continuing our verse-by-verse study through this short – but intimate, powerful and practical letter that the Apostle John wrote to you and to me.

And in his letter to us, the Apostle John reminds of the reality of who God is, the reality of who Jesus is and the reality of what it means to be a Christian.

And this reality is manifested in these things that is interwoven in John's letter.

And of course, I am talking about real fellowship (koinonia)

Real fellowship with God and real fellowship with one another

We are incapable of having real fellowship with one another until we have real fellowship with God.

And we are incapable of real fellowship with God unless we truly grasp and believe the reality of who Jesus is.

And so what John is going to bring up in our text this morning is going to be a warning to us.

That we can't believe in lies about the reality of who God is and who Jesus is and still have fellowship with Him.

We are being self deceived.

Let's pray...

Before we get in our text –

I want us to turn to Acts 20

And the reason that we are turning to Acts 20 –

Is because Paul – as the Lord used him to bring the gospel to the Gentiles, one of the places that he established a church was - the city of Ephesus.

His epistle to the Ephesians was written to the church there.

Later on, Timothy leads the church in Ephesus

And then, John comes back to Ephesus in his old age – and this is where he writes this letter.

Now, in Acts 20 – Paul is saying his goodbyes to the elders in Ephesus.

These were the spiritual leaders.

And listen to the warning -

**[Act 20:29-31 NKJV] 29 "For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. 30 "Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. 31 "Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.**

Paul spent three years in Ephesus pouring into these guys.

He invested his life and he invested his love

He gave them the entire council of God -he told them everything they needed to know to make sure that they have a right relationship with God and a right relationship with each other.

He warned them that false teachers would come out from among them and deceive many.

And Paul's prediction came true.

Timothy had to deal with it

And John had to deal with it

People from within the church – those who proclaimed that they had fellowship with God – those who said that they were Christians

They were the ones who would lead others astray.

So John wants to make sure that the believer who is reading this letter – is able to recognize these false teachers that had infiltrated the church and continue to infiltrate the church today as well as their false teachings

**[1Jo 2:18-29 NKJV] 18 Little children, it is the last hour; 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 hour.**

So right away, John makes it very clear who this warning is for – “little children”

He is writing to his spiritual children – he is writing to you and to me.

He is reminding us that it is the last hour –

Now, John wrote this 2000 years –

So it may seem like a very long “last hour”

But understand this – that “the last hour” began when Jesus rose from the grave.

That was the first day – that the last hour began and the last hour will continue until the moment that Jesus Christ returns.

The early church believed that His return was imminent – just like we do today.

John believed this -

**[1Jo 2:8 NKJV] 8 Again, a new commandment I write to you, which thing is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away, and the true light is already shining.**

What is John saying in verse 8 – it is the last hour.

I also had you make a note of the word, Antichrist

By the way – when we hear the word Antichrist, what book always comes to mind?

Revelation

But the word antichrist is never found in Revelation

John is the only writer that uses the word antichrist and he uses it here in 1 John and 2 John.

And so when John uses the word antichrist – depending on the context, John can be talking about three different things.

1. He could be referring to the person who will head up the final rebellion against Jesus
2. He could be referring to a spirit in the world that opposes truth. This spirit has been at work in the world since the beginning of time. Since the garden of Eden – trying to oppose God's will and His promises.
3. Or he can be referring to a false teacher that embodies this spirit.

**[1Jo 4:3 NKJV] 3 and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the [spirit] of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.**

You want to know what is the spirit of the antichrist?

Every false doctrine

Every religious substitute that seeks to undermine or displace Jesus Christ in the gospel of grace.

The people that come knocking on your door on Saturday morning.

Those who say that Jesus is Lucifers brother or that Jesus was created – they fall under the definition of antichrists.

Those that say that we have to add works to what Jesus did on the cross – what are they doing? undermining the reality of who Jesus is and what He came to do.

We need to understand that anti in the Greek is not always opposed, it can refer to an alternative – it could be “instead of”

Every human philosophy

All man made wisdom that suggests that we believe and embrace something other than Jesus – becomes antichrist.

So what John is saying here in verse 18 is that there will be an Antichrist – the individual who is going to lead a rebellion against God – in the future.

But that now, we have a bunch of antichrists giving us sneak previews of the deception that will happen occur in later times.

Jesus spoke of the false prophets that were going to deceive many (Matt 24)

He spoke of those who came in sheep's clothing but inwardly were ravenous wolves.

(Matt 7)

And as you read almost all the epistles – the church was contaminated by false teachers – who were taking out those who were not rooted and grounded in God's word.

Church -

This is why the word of God taught simply and carefully and faithfully serves as one of the great protections so that we don't have to worry about being taken advantaged of or being deceived.

**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 they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us.**

The false prophets, the false teachers, these antichrists – they didn't originate from outside the church – they originated from inside the church.

Just like some of the elders in Ephesus

They were part of the fellowship, they would show up to church and then they would make a statement that maybe what the bible says about God and about Jesus and about salvation was not true after all.

John says that these antichrists were never true believers.

They were never born again

They were never really part of the fellowship – that is what John is saying.

If they were, they would have continued in the community of Christ.

But the fact that they left, it proved they were frauds.

True believers remain in fellowship and then they persevere in faith

I think we all know someone who would say –

I used to go to church

I used to believe the bible

I used to pray

I used to have fellowship



But not anymore – I don't believe in that anymore

Don't lose sight of what John is telling us – a real Christian remains in fellowship

Some people hear the truth

Some people even taste the truth

But they never really accept the truth in their heart

They never allow the truth to reign in their heart and in their thinking and in their lives.

So when persecution comes, when doubt comes, when trials come – they say  
goodbye.

The excuses are endless –

Apostates abandon the church

And if they do stay, they infect the church, until apostasy and unbelief and wickedness  
and false doctrine become a part of their church.

**20 But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things.**

John has been warning us about the coming Antichrist and antichrists that are currently  
here.

But as he warns us -he also offers up protections against these antichrists.

What are these protections?

We have the Savior's anointing

We have the Holy Spirit dwelling inside of us.

The false teachers of this day were saying that they had an inside track to God – just like the false teachers today.

They were saying that only they had the knowledge that was required.

They were saying that they had a direct anointing from God

That they had an inside track

But John reminds the believer that God does not withhold knowledge from His children.

He has given us His Holy Spirit and we receive the knowledge that we need through the Spirit and there is no inside track.

This knowledge is universally granted to those who by faith, come to Jesus and make Him Lord and Savior over their lives.

We know all things that pertain to salvation – we know everything that we need to know to have our sins forgiven

We know all things about the truth

We know all things about the gospel

We know all things about Jesus – why He came, what He did for us and why He did it

**21 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.**

Those who are anointed by the Holy Spirit – know the truth about the reality of God and the reality of Jesus Christ and are able to discern when someone misrepresents the Father or misrepresents the Son.

God reveals Himself in Creation and in His Word and through His Son

John is not writing to reveal the truth to us – we already know the truth.

He is writing to confirm the truth to us.

Which by the way – is exactly why God has placed me here this morning.

The truth is here (bible)

I don't have any new revelations

It is not my job to reveal

It is God's job to reveal

It is my job as a teacher and a pastor to confirm the truth to you

The false teachers were never about confirming

They were announcing revelation

The false teacher always claimed that they needed something more.

They needed something mystical

They need the golden glasses that could interpret the tablets – LDS

So – John' response - that no lie is of the truth

Question?

Can something be both truth and a lie at the same time?

John says – no

Bad Theology is not okay

Some of the people were thinking that since these other teachers used to be in the church, that they were okay, even if they had something strange to say about Jesus.

No lie that misleads a person concerning Jesus can be good.

Remember what I said when we started our study in John –

If they are wrong about Jesus – it doesn't matter what they are right about.

**22 Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son. 23 Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who acknowledges the Son has the Father also.**

If you speaks to someone from the LDS church – they will tell you that they believe that Jesus is the Christ

If you speak to a JW – they have no problem saying that Jesus is the Christ

The problem is their definition of Christ

It is not the biblical definition of Christ

You see, both of these cults – deny Jesus' divinity

They deny that Jesus is the Son of God, who perfectly revealed the Father to us.

And according to the scriptures, Jesus was fully God and fully man at the same time.

You see – what John is saying is that we have to believe and be able to say, that everything the Father says about the Son is true, everything that the Son says about Himself is true.

We cannot have a wrong view of Jesus and a have a right relationship with the Father.

Denying Jesus is denying God

So my LDS neighbor is going to hell because he or she doesn't believe the same thing I believe – no, they are going to hell because they are sinners in need of a savior.

In the same way that I was going to hell – because I was a sinner in need of a savior.

And the only way to avoid hell – is to enter into a right relationship with God through His Son.

**[Jhn 14:6 NKJV] 6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.**

**24 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 Son and in the Father.**

What is John referring to – when he says, which you heard from the beginning.

In context – it speaks the exact opposite of what the antichrists were teaching,

They were preaching against the gospel

They were teaching that Jesus was not the Son of God

They were teaching that Jesus was not really man.

So John – says – stick to the fundamentals, stick with the gospel

From the beginning they have heard that they needed to believe in Jesus.

From the beginning they have heard about the reality of who Jesus is

From the beginning they have heard to love each other.

So what does John mean when he says – let it abide in you

Turn to the right to 1 John 4

**[1Jo 4:15 NKJV] 15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.**

So what does it mean to abide in Christ?

It must mean that we believe that Jesus is the Son of God

It must mean that we have fellowship with Him

It must mean that we have fellowship with each other

That we walk in obedience

That we have spiritual growth

That we do not have a love of the world

All the tests that John has been giving to us in the first two chapters to affirm our stance in Him.

**25 And this is the promise that He has promised us--eternal life.**

Who made the promise?

Jesus made the promise

Write these scripture references down – 4 of them

**[Jhn 3:14-15 NKJV] 14 “And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15 “that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.**

**[Jhn 3:36 NKJV] 36 “He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”**

**[Jhn 5:24 NKJV] 24 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.**

Jesus is His prayer

**[Jhn 17:2-3 NKJV] 2 "as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. 3 "And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.**

So Jesus makes the promise – that when we abide in Him, we receive the very life of Christ

He wants to impart to us – the kind of life that He had

What kind of life is that?

It is a life that knows the Father.



It is a life that resists sin

It is the life that sacrifices himself or herself even unto death and even in death, they come back to life.

**[Jhn 11:25-26 NKJV] 25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. 26 "And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"**

Will death separate us from the relationship or fellowship with the Father and the Son?

Nope – because the moment we breathe our last breath here on earth – we are immediately in the presence of God forever.

**26 These things I have written to you concerning those who [try to] deceive you.**

**27 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.**

First of all – I am going to tell you what this verse does not mean.

It doesn't mean I can quit my job right now – you don't need me anymore.

It means that the true Christian – the one who has genuine fellowship with God

He or she can spot the lying antichrist

And therefore, we don't need another teacher because the Holy Spirit is teaching us the truth about the Father and the Son and the gospel

Remember, the Holy Spirit's main role is to point us to Christ

The Holy Spirit tells us to remain in Christ, to abide in Him

John is condemning the false teachers

The ones who are trying to lead us astray

The ones who say that we need more than the bible, more than Jesus, more than the gospel.

The true follower of Jesus can discern right from wrong, and good from evil and truth from lies

Does this mean we know everything about everything

Nope

It just means that we have the ability to discern when something doesn't line up with His word.

Let's pray...

To Receive Christ do the following:

Admit, "I am a sinner."

Confess and be willing to turn from your sin.

Believe, by faith that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross.

Receive, through prayer, Jesus Christ into your heart and receive eternal life.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins and cleanse me by Your blood. I accept You by faith as my personal Lord and Savior. Give me a thirst for Your Word and Help me to follow You all of my days. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

An old dead guy once wrote

If in everything you seek Jesus, you will doubtless find Him.

But if you seek yourself, you will indeed find yourself.

For you do yourself more harm by not seeking Jesus than the whole world and all your enemies could do to you.

I like that –

And here is why

If we think that false teachers can hurt us – we are right they can

If we think that loving this world can hurt us – we are right it can

But the thing that is going to hurt us more – is when we make the simple decision that I am not going to dwell in Christ, that I am not going to dwell in the gospel

That I am not going to live in the riches that has been given to me in the word of God

[Num 6:24-26 NLT] 24 '

May the LORD bless you and protect you.

May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you.

May the LORD show you his favor and give you his peace.'

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