

Antichrist
1 John 2:18-19, 22-23, 26

Introduction

The letter that John wrote is a very applicable letter for today. He was writing to the first century Christians about the dangers of false teaching and wrote to assure them of their (the Christians) salvation. He talked about having the correct doctrinal view of Christ—namely that He has come in the flesh and that Jesus is the Christ. The only way to resist error was through doctrinal purity and having the correct understanding of Scripture as the Apostles have taught. Without the correct doctrine (and of the Holy Spirit), a person can fall sway to false teaching and be led astray. Today we have many false teachers that are in the churches and we have to be on guard. We see them all the time on television, books, public arenas, etc that we need to ensure that we do not fall under their false teaching. John bluntly equates the false teachers and false prophets as antichrists. For the rest of the chapter 2, John compares a Christian and an antichrist, with today being the focus on the identity and the characteristics of the antichrist.

I. Last Hour (v 18)

- Same as “last time” / “last days”
Acts 2:17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh
1 Peter 1:20 He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you.
- Refers to the time between the comings of Christ (First and Second)
 - *Hebrews 1:1-2* God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, (2) has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;
Note: 1st coming of Christ inaugurated the last age. After this present age—>the age to come, which is the eternal heavenly reign with Christ. This last age comes the next redemptive act of God—the Second Coming of Christ.
- The last age of the present evil (after the Fall) (**Galatians 1:4**)

Transition: Soon after Jesus ascended to heaven, there were false christs that came along. John here then draws attention to us about the antichrist...both the Antichrist and the many antichrists.

II. Identity of the antichrists (v 18)

- Meaning—oppose to Christ (against Christ)
- The Antichrist
Note: This is the only time the words antichrist appears in the Bible. It is all here in the letter of John; however, this is not new teaching as the others talk about the Antichrist in the future. Paul talks about him. We do not know the identity of this Antichrist since this is in the future, but when that happens, we will know who that person is and then the Second Coming of Christ is at hand!
 - Man of sin
2 Thessalonians 2:1-12 Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, (2) not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. (3) Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, (4) who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. (5) Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? (6) And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. (7) For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. (8) And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. (9) The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, (10) and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. (11) And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, (12) that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.
Note: Paul says that the Second Coming of Christ will not be revealed until this Man of Sin appears...the Antichrist. Paul describes him as a man who would exalt himself as God. He would be a tool of Satan, doing many false signs and wonders, deceiving many. Note that this is a man...not Satan himself.
 - The beast out of the sea
Revelation 13:1-7 Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name. (2) Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority. (3) And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast. (4) So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?" (5) And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months. (6) Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven. (7) It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation.

Note: The beast is the one that is given power from the dragon (Satan). He blasphemes God and everything about God. This takes place during the last 42 months before the coming of Christ.

- Controlled by Satan

Revelations 12:9 *So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan,*

Revelation 13:2 *The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority*

Luke 22:3 *Then Satan entered Judas, surnamed Iscariot, who was numbered among the twelve.*

Note: The dragon is Satan, and he will give the Antichrist power.

Transition: The Antichrist in **Revelation 13** is the last of the many antichrists that had come and will come.

- Antichrists

- Same attitude of the Antichrist

Note: we will look further later with their identities.

- Unbelievers that are against Christ (**Matthew 12:30**)

- **Matthew 24:24** *For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.*

Note: These are false christs who pretend to be Christ to deceive people.

Transition: Jesus said in Matthew that we can identify the false teachers, false prophets, and antichrists by their fruits. They will only have bad fruits because a bad tree cannot bear good fruits. John describes their fruits so that we can identify those who oppose Christ. John says that they are liars which places them in the company of Satan because Jesus says that Satan is a liar and father of lies (**John 8:44**).

III. Characteristics of the antichrists (v 19, 22-23, 26)

- Depart from the faith (v 19)

- They would leave the true faith and join with their kind

John 6:66 *From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more.*

Note: Will expound on this next Sunday.

- Deny the true faith (v 22-23)

- Deny the true doctrines of the Christian faith

1 John 4:3 *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.*

1 Timothy 4:1 *Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,*

Note: Deny that Jesus is the Christ. Denial of the Son is to deny the Father (see **Hebrews 1:1-2**). God has revealed Himself to us through the Son. No other revelation is accepted. List of false teachings: 1) Jesus was just a man, 2) Jesus was never a physical being, only a spirit, 3) Jesus is not the Christ. All these doctrines are of the devil or, in other words, the spirit of the antichrist.

- Deceive the faithful (v 26)

- Would try to deceive the faithful...and be unsuccessful (**1 Timothy 4:1**)

2 John 7 *For many deceivers have gone out into the world who do not confess Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.*

2 Peter 2:3 *By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words*

- Destined to destruction (v 19)

- If continue to reject Christ, then destruction is their destiny

Jude 4 *For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Conclusion

For those that deny Christ, John has this chilling revelation—they also deny the Father. People that say that they believe in God and worship Him but deny Christ in any way that contradicts Scripture, they are committing heresy—the very denial of truth that God has revealed. However, this is encouraging...John says that they were not of us...not part of us. He is stressing the unity of believers in Christ, and that the unity is secure forever. We will look at this in detail next Sunday.