

“DISCERNING THE SPIRIT OF THE ANTICHRIST!”

(Three Texts)

> TEXT #1: 1 John Chapter 2:18-23 - ANTICHRISTS ARE WITH US!

- Let's establish our Christian Truth:

We Believe *the Bible to be the inspired, only infallible, authoritative, inerrant, all sufficient Word of God (2 Timothy 3:15-17; 2 Peter 1:21).*

We Believe *there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Genesis 1:1; Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:19; John 10:30).*

We Believe *in the deity of Christ (John 10:33); His virgin birth (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:34-35); His sinless life (Hebrews 4:15; 7:26); His miracles (John 2:11); His vicarious and atoning death (1 Corinthians 15:3; Ephesians 1:7; Hebrews 2:9); His resurrection (John 11:25; 1 Corinthians 15:4); His ascension to the right hand of the Father (Mark 16:19); His personal return to earth in power and glory (Acts 1:11; Revelation 19:11-16).*

We Believe *in the absolute necessity of regeneration by the Holy Spirit for salvation because of the exceeding sinfulness of human nature, and that all are justified on the single ground of faith in the shed blood of Christ, and that only by God's grace, through faith alone, are we saved (John 3:16-19; 5:24; Romans 3:23; 5:8-9; Ephesians 2:8-10; Titus 3:5).*

We Believe *in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved unto the resurrection of the life, and they that are not into the resurrection of damnation (John 5:28-29).*

We Believe *in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13; Galatians 3:26-28).*

We Believe *in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by Whose dwelling the Christian is enabled to live a Godly life (Romans 8:13-14; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19-20; Ephesians 4:30; 5:18).*

(v20) “anointing”- Every born again believer receives the “anointing” of the Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation.

- Beware Lessons from the past: Warren Wiersbe write “False Christians in John's day used two special words to describe their experience: “knowledge” and “unction.” They claimed to have a special unction (**anointing**) from God which gave them a unique knowledge. They were “illuminated” and therefore living on a much higher level than anybody else. But John points out that all true Christians know God and have received the Spirit of God! And because they have believed the truth, they recognize a lie when they meet it.”

- Antichrists Lie: (2:22)- “Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son.”

- Jesus said in Matthew 24:4,5,24- “Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many.” . . . “For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.”

- **What does the Bible say regarding Jesus as the Christ? – Matthew 16:13-18**

(FYI: Jesus means “Jehovah is salvation.” Christ in Greek is Christos - “the anointed one” in Hebrew “Messiah.”)

- **Kenneth Wuest writes** “Thus, in the name “Jesus” there is contained the doctrines of the deity, humanity and vicarious atonement of the Person who bears that name. Only Jehovah could offer a sacrifice which would satisfy the demands of His holy law which the human race broke. But that sacrifice had to include within itself human nature without its sin, for deity in itself could not die, and deity acting as Priest for the sinner must partake of the nature of the individual on whose behalf he officiates.” In these last days within much of the global apostate church we find the doctrine of “modernism” which denies that the Person called Jesus was neither God nor man, and that on the Cross He did not offer atonement for sin. Present day Modernism denies the deity of Jesus of Nazareth and the substitutionary atonement He offered on the Cross, while subscribing to His humanity.

(v23) “denial”- 1 John 2:23- *“Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who acknowledges the Son has the Father also”*. Jesus said in John 10:30- *“I and my Father are One”* In John 5:23- *“That all men should honor the Son, even as they honor the Father. He that honors not the Son honors not the Father which has sent Him.”*

> TEXT #2: 1 JOHN Chapter 4:1-6 - Beloved, Do Not Believe Every Spirit!

> John tells us to TEST THE SPIRITS (v1-4)

- **Test #1- Do not believe every spirit!** Literally- *“Stop believing every spirit.”* (Acts 16:16-18)

- **Thayer the Greek scholar writes** - The word as used here refers to **“one in whom a spirit is manifest or embodied, hence one actuated by a spirit, whether divine or demonical.”** Thus these spirits are human beings actuated either by demons or the Holy Spirit. In this case they would be the teachers, pastors and evangelists who circulated around the local churches.

- **Kenneth Wuest** (Paul declares in 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”*

- **Scofield comments** - Satanic deception which caused the fall of man will characterize the end of the age (Mt. 24:4-5; Mk. 13:6; 1 John 2:18-26; 2 John 7; Rev. 13:14; 19:20; 20:7-10). Satan is the one “who deceives the whole world” (Rev. 12:9) and is the power behind the beast and the false prophet (Rev. 13:4,7,12-15; 19:20; 20:3,7-10).

- **Test #2 - Are they of God?** The word *test or try* is *dokimazo* “to put to the test for the purpose of approving, and finding that the person put to the test meets the specifications laid down, to put one’s approval upon him.” I’ve heard it said in the church today “Doctrine divides, but love unites.” That’s a slogan from the devil’s bag of lies. WE MUST LOVE GOD AND HIS WORD FIRST, THEN AND ONLY THEN WILL WE HAVE LOVING UNITY! (I.e.- Adam & Eve)

- **Test #3- How to identify a false prophet? Deuteronomy 13:1-5; 2 Peter 3:10-18**

- **Test #4- Test their confession regarding Jesus?**

Did Jesus **come** in the flesh?

Is Jesus the **eternal** Son of God?

Is Jesus the **one & only** Savior of the world?

Is Jesus the Second person of the **Trinity**?

Is Jesus death on the cross, the shedding of His **blood** our atonement?
Does faith in Jesus Christ alone **save** us?

“You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.”- 1 John 4:4 (Christians cannot be demon possessed.)

- Jesus said in John 17:14-19- *I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth.*

- The Spirit of Truth & the Spirit of Error (v5-6)

Hearing God’s word is the spirit of truth! Not hearing God’s word is the spirit of error!

- Paul speaks boldly to all Pastors in 1 Tim 1:18-20 - *This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, having faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck, of whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I delivered to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.*

> TEXT #3: 2 THESSALONIANS Chapter 2 - THE ANTICHRIST IS COMING!

(v1-2) Be rapture ready! – The word **coming** (v1) is *parousias*, *para* – **along side of**; *ousia* – **coming and remaining with**. The word for **gathering together** is *episunagoge* (ep-ee-soon-ag-o-gay’); which means **a complete collection** (1 Thess. 4:13-18); **especially a Christian meeting (for worship** - Rev. ch. 4 & 5 reveals that the church is worshipping in Heaven; this is before the “great tribulation” Rev. ch. 6 - 19).

- The term **“the day of Christ”** is the period at the end of time when **Jesus will return to claim faithful believers and members of His church as His own** (1 Cor 1:8; 5:5; 2 Cor 1:14; Phil 1:10;). A related concept, **“the day of the Lord,”** focuses on God's judgment against unbelievers.

(v3-5) Let no one deceive you! – There’s going to be a **“falling away”- apostasia (Gk.) – a defection from the truth; a rebellion; a forsaking**. The root word is *apostasion*, which means **something separate, i.e. divorce**. (ref. Rev. 3:14-22 “Church of Laodicea” – the lukewarm church).

- There’s going to be a **man of sin** revealed and he will **exalt himself above God** and demand that the world must worship him. This will take place in the temple of God in Jerusalem, which will be rebuilt in the **“Great Tribulation”** period according to **Rev 11:1-2** - *Then I was given a reed like a measuring rod. And the angel stood, saying, "Rise and measure the temple of God, the altar, and those who worship there. But leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles. And they will tread the holy city underfoot for forty-two months. Jesus refers to this as the **“abomination of desolation”** (Matt. 24:15-22)*

(v6-8) The mystery of lawlessness is already at work! - **LAWLESSNESS** in the Greek is *anomia* and is most frequently translated "iniquity." *"The mystery of lawlessness" is not recognized by the world, for it does not consist merely in confusion and disorder; the display of "lawlessness" by the "lawless" one v. 8 will be the effect of the attempt by the powers of darkness to overthrow the divine government.*

- In **1 John 3:4**, the RV adheres to the real meaning of the word, "*every one that doeth sin (a practice, not the committal of an act) doeth also lawlessness: and sin is lawlessness.*" This definition of sin sets forth its essential character as the rejection of the law, or will, of God and the substitution of the will of self. (from Vine's Expository Dictionary)

- Who is restraining the full force of lawlessness? In verse 7 we have a reference to "He" which is the Holy Spirit (ref. John 14:16-17; 16:12-13). Notice that the Holy Spirit is **NOT taken away**, but **taken OUT of the way**; then the *lawless one* will be revealed.

- Many believe that this takes place after the rapture of the church, remember the gates of Hades will not prevail against the church (Mt. 16:18). Our Lord will ultimately destroy this *lawless one* (Rev. 19:11-21).

(v9-10) Beware of Satanic power and deception! The Bible declares that Satan is an imposter (2 Cor. 11:3-4, 13-15); and produces false religious doctrine (1 Tim 4:1-3); and Satan will do powerful works, unveil incredible signs, and produce lying wonders.

- **Satan will lead the world into deceptive lifestyles of unrighteousness.** The followers of Satan would not receive the *love of the truth*, which is found in **John 14:6** - *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.*

(v11-12) Be warned! God will send those who have heard the gospel message and won't repent a strong delusion that they should believe the lie and ultimately be condemned.

- The word *delusion* in Greek speaks of "energy of deceit." God cuts them loose to their own desires. The hardened heart of Pharaoh is a good example of this (Ex 7:13; 9:12; 10:1,20,27; 11:10; 14:8).

(v13-17) Believe in the truth, stand fast and be comforted!