**Sermon Manuscript: Sunday, June 29, 2025**

**Title: Truth, Deception, and the Anointing**

**Text: 1 John 2:15-27**

John says, “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.” I want to echo that this morning by saying that I am preaching this message to you today not because you don’t know the truth but because you do. May this be an encouragement to those here who know the truth and a warning and call for those who do not know the truth and are still believing the lie.

We have been moving along in our Summer Series of 1 John. Having already heard three messages now we are starting to pick up some of the themes and impacts of this letter. John has placed a strong emphasis on Light and Darkness and that God is Light and in Him is no darkness at all. We have also seen an emphasis on love. Love one another, if you don’t love your brother, you are not of the light but are in darkness. Another emphasis that John has made and is making in this letter is that of Truth verses lies or falsehoods along with assurance of genuine faith.

As a matter of review, this is a letter written by John the Apostle somewhere in the mid to late 80’s AD. This letter was to be circulated to various churches in Asia Minor to strengthen and encourage them both in sound doctrine and in Christian living. We are hearing the Word of the LORD today through the Apostle John and this sermon precisely because we need to be strengthened and encouraged both in sound doctrine and in Christian living. Thank GOD for this letter of 1 John.

**Thesis**: Those who place their faith in Jesus Christ receive the indwelling Holy Spirit, who illuminates the truth of Scripture within their hearts, equips them to discern and resist deception, and calls them to continually abide in Christ as the only sure foundation for eternal life.

1. **Knowing and Living the TRUTH (1 John 2:15-17)**

15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. 17 And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

In 1 John 2:15 John says, “Do not love the world or the things in the world.” Now at first glance you might think that is stating the obvious for us who are in the faith. What is more Christian than forsaking this world and loving God supremely? John is sternly reminding and warning the church to continue to fight the flesh as it continues to have an appetite for the lures of this world.

Followers of Christ should not love "**the world**"—meaning the values and systems opposed to God—because this love is incompatible with love for the Father.

Now, we must define what John means by, “the world”. The phrase, “the world”, has many meanings in the NT. It could be referring to the Universe; It could be referring to Mankind; It can be referring to the rebellious systems at play apart from God. It is this latter meaning that John is referring to here. He is not referring to God’s wonderful creation of Earth and all that is in it by His creative and powerful Word. He does not have in mind all mankind as in the salvation of the world. He is speaking of the selfish, materialistic, and covetous nature of this world’s way of life apart from any influence of God or His Christ. As we have seen in previous studies, it is the “way of Babylon”.

So, John says, “do not LOVE the world or the things in the world.” It is not a call against owning property or having material things or even enjoying a vacation to explore what God has made. Then what is it that we must not love or better said “be in love with” in this world? It is the system and ways of this world that John describes in greater detail in just a few verses. Right now, I want you to feel what John is saying. DO NOT put your hope in or think that this world has the answers for your deepest needs or desires.

The phrase, “Do not love…” is an ongoing perpetual action. Do not have a life that is guided by, directed by, and controlled by the patterns of this world, I might say.

Some of you might be asking, “WHY NOT?” What’s wrong with loving the world and loving God at the same time? Well, I’m glad you asked because John answers that in the same verse. Let’s read verse 15 again.

15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

Did you catch that? The love of the world is contrary to the love of the Father. It reminds me of “No one can serve two masters…” in Mt. 6:24. You CANNOT truly love both, better yet, you CANNOT have both, the world and the Father.

Many commentators struggled with the phrase, “the love of the Father is not in him.” One commentator explained it this way.

(It could mean our love for God; God’s love for us; or love that originates with God). But, context is key to unlocking the intended meaning. I believe John is directly comparing one’s love FOR the world with one’s love FOR the Father here.

So, it goes back to you cannot love two masters. Would you rather be mastered by this world and the trajectory that it is headed, or would you rather be mastered by the Father and the eternal promises that He has secured for you in Christ Jesus? John is reminding us NOT to be distracted or enticed by this world and it’s false claims. That leads us to verse 16.

“16 For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world.”

This better describes what John means when he says, “the world”, doesn’t it?

The world promotes desires of the flesh, desires of the eyes, and pride of life, all of which are fleeting and **not** from God.

The first descriptive category seems to be the essence of the world with the following categories as subcategories. The desires or cravings of the flesh seem to be unchecked. The desires or lust of the eyes imply covetousness and greed along with the pride of life which implies materialism and lavishness. So, what does it look like to “love the world”? It looks like doing whatever feels good. It looks like self-autonomy. Behind it all is this philosophy coined by the occultic mystic, Aleister Crowley, "Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law." The Apostle Paul said it this way in Eph. 2:1-2.

Ephesians 2:1-2   
“And you were dead in the trespasses and sins 2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience”

John says, do not be in love with this world, for all that is in the world…is not from the Father but is from the world. Those selfish desires, and hungers and cravings for what this world can afford you do not come from God but from your sinful hearts and from the ruler of this world who is the Devil.

Notice John then gives another reason for not loving this world in verse 17.

“And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.” 1 John 2:17

The temporary pleasures of this world are passing away, John says. They are leading you down a dead-end street full of lures, false promises, and lies. Remember John writes these things to you not because you do not know the truth but because you do. Notice the stark contrast that John places with the one who does the will of God (which is to love God and not the world) abides forever. What a promise, what a hope we have in Christ.

True fulfillment and eternal life come from doing **God’s** will, not from pursuing worldly desires.

James Montgomery Boice declares, “How foolish, then, to pin one’s hopes on the world system, however attractive it may appear or however rewarding.”

1. **The Danger of Deception (1 John 2:18-25)**

“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. 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. 20 But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and you all have knowledge. 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. 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. 23 No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also. 24 Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father. 25 And this is the promise that he made to us—eternal life.”

Notice how John addresses the readers as “children”. This is both a term of affection and endearment as well as a positional statement as John is the elder over them. So, what is “the last hour”? Christ has already come once, made atonement for sin and has been raised and ascended to the right hand of the Father interceding for us until His soon return. Therefore, we are in the “last hour.” The fact that there is so much deception and false teaching concerning who Christ is also declares that we are in “the last hour”.

Who is John referring to when he says, “you have heard that antichrist (singular) is coming, so now many antichrists (plural) have come”? The singular antichrist is the “man of lawlessness” that Paul describes in 2 Thessalonians 2:4 “who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God” The many antichrists are specifically those that were once part of the church that John describes as not of us who we will see deny that Jesus is the Christ , the Son of the living God. Both are fueled and driven by lies and deception especially concerning the person and power of Jesus Christ as God.

Vs. 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.”

If you were here for our first message in 1 John that pastor Tim preached, you might recall he addressed this verse at some length. Apparently, there were some in this church who had once appeared to believe but had changed their view of Christ due to Gnostic influence that held to a high view of spirit and a low view of matter or the body. This led to the heresy that denied the deity of Christ and the physical death and resurrection of Christ.

John warns of “antichrists”—those who deny Jesus as the Christ and try to lead **believers** astray.

John is saying that the spirit that will characterize the final antichrist is already working in those who have recently left his readers’ congregations.

Two doctrines in vs. 19 are upheld: the perseverance of the saints and the nature of the visible church.

False Christs and false prophets seek to deceive even the elect if that were possible. Listen to what Jesus said in Mark 13:22-23

“22 For false Christ’s and false prophets will arise and perform signs and wonders, to lead astray, if possible, the elect. 23 But be on guard; I have told you all things beforehand.”

Now let’s read verse 20

1 John 2:20 “But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and you all have knowledge.”

There is a clear distinction between a genuine follower of Christ indwelt with the Holy Spirit and a false convert or false teacher. John says as a matter of fact to these true believers, “you have been anointed by the Holy One.” I take this to be that it is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, The Holy One who has anointed, or given, His followers the Holy Spirit. This is GREAT NEWS! Look at what John says next, “and you all have knowledge.” Knowledge of what or who? Knowledge of who Jesus really is confirmed by the Holy Spirit who was sent to teach you all things concerning Christ.

John 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 have said to you.”

Some translations say that “you know all things.” We are not, nor will we be omniscient and know all things. The better translation is that born again believers, indwelt by the Holy Spirit, know and are being taught by God as to who He really is. You know all the truth about Jesus in order to reject the antichrists and false teachers and deceivers who will come and have already come.

Let’s take a look now at a very rich passage concerning the relationship of God the Father and God the Son.

1 John 2:21-25

“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. 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. 23 No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also. 24 Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father. 25 And this is the promise that he made to us—eternal life.”

John is affirming what they already know. He is writing these things not because they don’t know but because they do.

Let the truth you received from the beginning **remain** in you as assurance of your salvation and connection to the Father and the Son.

The lie is not that Jesus is the Christ the Son of the living God. The lie is that He is NOT. John equates those who were of us (appeared to be true believers) who went out from us (no longer believed that Jesus is the Christ) as antichrists.

Look at the language that John uses here. “He who denies the Father and the Son” “No one denies the Son has the Father” “Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also” This is strong trinitarian language. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit yet there is only ONE GOD.

Let verses 24 & 25 ring loud and clear in you heart and mind this morning church. Listen to this declaration from God through the Apostle John and by my reading it to you today.

24 Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father. 25 And this is the promise that he made to us—eternal life.”

Is the Word of the Gospel, and the Truth concerning Jesus of Nazareth ABIDING in YOU? For the love of God and His glorious Son let that truth abide and remain in you so as to spring forth unto eternal life.

Let’s turn our attention now to the Holy Spirit’s work and role in all of this.

1. **The Role of the Holy Spirit – The Anointing – 1 John 2:26-27**

26 I write these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you. 27 But the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie—just as it has taught you, abide in him.

How does the Bible become alive in you and all who love salvation through Jesus Christ but to others it remains a confusing ancient history book, dull, dry, and irrelevant? How are the Scriptures and the Truth of Scriptures illuminated in our hearts and minds? Enter THE HOLY SPIRIT – The Anointing by The Holy One. Look at vs. 27 again. The anointing (Holy Spirit) abides in you. Not just to sit and relax but to teach you everything that Jesus has instructed.

If you are a Christian, you have received the Holy Spirit, who will **teach** and **empower** you to discern truth and resist deception.

The Gnostics or other false teachers and deceivers are going to claim secret knowledge and look at you as being uninformed or knowledgeless. John is reminding us that we have The Comforter Helper Teacher, none other than The Holy Spirit of God Himself within us and the Word of God before us illuminated by The Spirit all for the purpose of resisting falsehoods and deceptions. Thy Word is TRUTH, The Holy Spirit of TRUTH.

Now, disclaimer. John, when he writes, “…you have no need that anyone should teach you,” he is not implying that you know everything and have no need of instruction. He is meaning that you, by faith in Jesus Christ, have the Holy Spirit that has awakened you to the truth of Jesus such that you have no need for their “secret knowledge” or heresy lies. If you have Jesus, you have THE TRUTH. I am the way, THE TRUTH, and the life.

The Holy Spirit confirms the true identity of **Jesus** and will keep you anchored in the obedience of faith.

I would like to close with the last phrase of verse 27, “…abide in Him” If you are a true follower of Jesus Christ this morning, take this an encouragement and an exhortation to ABIDE and KEEP ABIDING in HIM. Get and stay close to Christ. Cling to Him, Run to Him, Let Him hold onto you.

**4. Call to Action**

• Examine yourself: Ensure your beliefs **align** with the foundational truths about Jesus and His relationship to the Father.

• Guard against deception: Stay rooted in the **gospel** and seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

• Abide in Christ: **Remain** close to Jesus, let His truth dwell in you, and **resist** the false promises of the world.

**Key Promise**: Those who abide in Christ and hold fast to His truth are promised eternal life.

If you are here today and this thought of abiding in Christ is foreign to you, consider the claims of this passage. John said of those who deny that Jesus is the Christ are liars. Are you holding onto a lie? Are you deceiving yourself and are being deceived by those in the world who see nothing glorious in Christ. Ask God, the God of Light and Love to open you blind, deceived eyes that have been fixed on the world but need to be FIXED and Anchored on Christ.