

1 John 2:18-27

3/4/19

In this extended section, [2:15-3:3](#), John continues to challenge and encourage his readers. There are dangers to their faith. There are also things that they have as believers that help them in their ongoing and non-politically correct walk with Christ.

One of the dangers is the world and its ongoing antagonism and enticements. Another threat is the spirit of antichrist. It is the ongoing spiritual battle waged by Satan and his demons who are real beings. There are also people who are set on deceiving John's readers about the person and work of Christ.

But John encourages these followers of Christ that there are also tremendous tools at their disposal.

They have an anointing from within. They have been chosen and set aside as God's very own. They are His children. These believers have been indwelt by the very Spirit of God who teaches them the truth. If they are indeed His, the Holy Spirit is their instructor ([John 14:15-26](#); [1 Corinthians 2:16](#)).

They also have fellowship. Individually they have the Holy Spirit, and corporately there is a protection in reminding each other what they know to be true. True fellowship is centered around the person and work of Christ. It is, in fact, partnership. In [Philippians 1:3-11](#) Paul commends the Philippian church for their partnership with him in the gospel. The writer of Hebrews encourages this kind of fellowship in [Hebrews 3:12-13](#). He does so again in [Hebrews 10:23-25](#). On our own, we become easy picking for the enemy. We can often talk ourselves into believing almost anything, or be talked into almost anything by those who really are denying the truth. Fellowship is much more significant and important than mere friendship. It is linking arms with those who are submitted to the same Master.

One other thing that John reminds his readers is that they have the truth ([1 John 1:21-25](#)). Truth stands forever. It does not change with cultural fads, nor does it shift with spiritual fads. God's truth abides forever. And part of that truth is that this world is quickly passing away. We are to continue in the truth and live in the ever present reality of His imminent return.

The key to appropriating what John tells his readers is abiding. They are to allow the truth to abide in them, and they are to abide in truth. While that sounds so simple, that is a daily choice and daily task. We have a significant part to play in the process. Abiding is not passive, nor is it easy.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

- What does it mean that John's readers are anointed? Are you anointed and what difference does it make in your life?

- What does it mean that John's readers were living in the last hour? Was he mistaken? If they were living in the last hour, what does that mean for us?
- The word "antichrist" is used only by John. What does it mean and what does it mean when he calls those who have left the faith and stand opposed to them "antichrists"?
- How important is it to keep eternity in mind as we live each day? How easy is it to forget? What does John mean that we should abide in Him so that we don't shrink in shame at His coming?
- How important is legitimate fellowship or partnership in the gospel? What are the results of not being in ongoing partnership with others committed to God's purposes?
- What one thing can you apply to your life this week?