

# Lessons From I John

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## The True Antichrist

(I Jn 2:18-27)

### INTRODUCTION

1. Good Morning
  - a. Greeting...
2. Series of "Lessons From I John."
  - a. Last week examined "Love Not The World."
    - i. We noticed the dangers and tragedies of doing such.
  - b. This week we will look at what "The True Antichrist" really is.
3. John begins this section using a familiar term.
  - a. Children
    - i. This word is a common word John uses throughout I John.
    - ii. It is found 14 times in 13 verses.
  - b. This term is found here as a warning concerning what was a very real problem at that time.
    - i. The problem...the antichrist.
4. The term "antichrist."
  - a. This is a term that has been used and really abused by far too many people in today's world.
    - i. It has long been associated with ones like the lawless one though that can easily be disproved by the singular verse plural nature of the nouns under consideration (**II Th 2:1-12**).
    - ii. It has long been associated with verses like above trying to prove "Premillennialism," a false doctrine concerning the second coming.
      - a. See our website for the sermon entitled "Premillennialism."
  - b. It would surprise many to find that this word is actually only found in **I & II John**.
    - i. **I Jn 2:18** – twice
    - ii. **I Jn 2:22** – once
    - iii. **I Jn 4:3** – once
    - iv. **II Jn 7** – once
  - c. The word antichrist is a compound word.
    - i. The first word "anti" means...
      - a. "opposite, i.e. instead or because of (rarely in addition to):—for, in the room of. Often used in composition to denote contrast, requital, substitution, correspondence, etc." (Strong, J., S.T.D., LL.D. (2009). Vol. 1: A Concise Dictionary of the Words in the Greek Testament and The Hebrew Bible (12). Bellingham, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.)
    - ii. The second of course "Christ" meaning...
      - a. Our Savior.
    - iii. Thus we have presented the one that is in opposition to Christ or against the Savior.
      - a. As anyone can see this definition makes it possible to be more than one person and thus this is see true in **I Jn 2:18** where we see there are many "antichrists."

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5. With this information at hand let us ask and answer the questions...
  - a. Who were these "antichrists?"
  - b. How were the Christians to steer clear of being deceived by them?
  - c. How can we avoid being deceived by them?

### I. Who Are The Antichrist?

- A. They are those that do not follow the apostles teachings
  1. Notice verse 19 again.
    - i. **I Jn 2:19** "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."<sup>1</sup>
- B. They first of all were not apostles
  1. It appears that some tried to present themselves as apostles.
    - i. Today we have the same thing done in some denominations.
      - a. Those that say they have modern apostles are Mormons, Catholics, and some Pentecostal denominations.
  2. The word apostle means "one sent from or forth, a messenger, delegate." (<http://goo.gl/GQyv9>)
    - i. The word is used in two different senses in the New Testament.
      - a. The generic sense in where one simply sends another.
        1. Barnabas – **Ac 14:14**
        2. Jesus – **He 3:1**
      - b. The official sense in where ones were divinely chosen to be Jesus' ambassadors (**II Co 5:20**).
        1. This would be the original 11 chosen, minus Judas, then Matthias and Paul (**Mt 10:1-5; Ac 1:26; 9:15; Ro 1:5**).
  3. Thus what it appears to be is that these antichrists were ones that were presenting themselves as apostles in the official sense.
    - i. This was not an uncommon thing.
      - a. **II Co 11:13-15** "For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. 14 And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. 15 So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds."
- C. They also were ones that deny that Jesus is the Christ
  1. Notice verses 22-23 again.
    - i. **I Jn 2:22-23** "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."

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<sup>1</sup> All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted.

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2. They second of all were ones that denied Jesus was the Christ.
    - i. Gnosticism believed that Jesus and the Christ were two different persons.
      - a. They taught two different points of view.
        1. That Christ merely appeared to have flesh but really didn't.
        2. That Christ ascended on Jesus at His baptism and descended at the point of suffering.
      - b. It was this denial of Jesus coming in the flesh as man and God that John recognizes in **I Jn 4:3-4**.
  3. They thirdly, by implication, were calling God the Father a liar and thus denying Him.
    - i. By denying Jesus was the Christ they denied He was the "only begotten Son of God."
      - a. **Jn 13:20** "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever receives the one I send receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me."
  4. Thus what we find here is the antichrists are ones that deny Jesus as the Christ and by implication deny the Father as well.
- D. The result of all this, is a denial of apostolic authority and thus a denial of God's authority
1. Notice that these "false apostles" were ones that had associated with the apostles, but now were not associated with them ie not in fellowship with them anymore.
    - i. The reason for this is given later in that these antichrists do not "listen" to the apostles teachings any longer.
      - a. **I Jn 4:6** "We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error."
  2. If one does not listen to the apostles and thus deny their apostolic authority they also deny God's authority.
    - i. **Mt 16:18-19** "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. 19 And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." (NKJV)
      - a. **Jn 13:20** (see above)

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### II. How Does One Steer Clear Of The Antichrists?

- A. First by noticing what John told the Christians then to do
  1. Remember your anointing (**20, 26**)
    - i. Being anointed by the Holy Spirit meant two things for them.
      - a. They would all have knowledge.
      - b. They would have no need for anyone to teach them.
    - ii. We too, like them, have all knowledge and have no need for the apostles to personally teach us because we have, like by this time, the Word of God.
      - a. They might not have had the entire N.T. lacking now only II & III Jn and also Revelation.
      - b. They did however already have "all things that pertain to life and godliness" already.
        1. **II Pt 1:3** "His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence"
      - c. This allowed them just like us to know who the antichrists were by their teachings.
  2. They were encouraged to remember what they heard from the Spirit (**24-25**).
    - i. Remember the teachings of God the Holy Spirit.
      - a. Having all knowledge did not "keep" them from being misled they had to continue therein that knowledge.
      - b. Only by continually heeding the Word of God would they be able to continue to abide in God.
        1. **II Ti 2:15** "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth."
    - ii. We too, like them, must continually study to make sure we are ready for any false teaching that we are not led astray.
      - a. This is only done through constant encouragement from God's Word in study and constant encouragement from each other to "stay strong."
        1. **I Th 5:11** "Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing."
      - b. Having the Word of God does not assure us that we will stay faithful and not be led astray.
        1. However continually encouraging each other in the Word will help stay on that straight and narrow path.

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### CONCLUSION

1. John knew we are in the "last days" and wanted these Christians and future Christians such as ourselves to know that at any time Christ could return at which point if we are not following our great and awesome God it will be too late to do so.
  - a. Let us continually encourage one another to strive for perfection in Christ, not letting the world influence us but rather letting us influence the world.
2. Question: Are you one for Christ or against Christ?
  - a. Remember what He said...
    - i. **Jn 14:15** "If you love me, you will keep my commandments."
3. Invitation
  - a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.
    - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
  - b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.
    - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
    - ii. Believe Jesus Is The Christ **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
    - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
    - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
    - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
    - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**