

**BIBLE STUDY – LESSON 7**  
**SUBJECT: WARNING ABOUT ANTICHRISTS**  
**FEBRUARY, 5, 2010**

**KEY PASSAGE: 1 JOHN 2:18 - 29**

Preface:

1 John was written by John, son of Zebedee. John was an apostle and author of the Gospel of John and Revelation. Also, he was a fisherman and a disciple of Jesus Christ. John wrote the letters of 1 John for two reasons:

- Expose false teachers.
- Give believers guidance and assurance of salvation.

He wrote the letters during a time of Gnosticism. What is Gnosticism?

- Unbiblical teaching during the 1<sup>st</sup> two centuries of the church.
- One of the most important false teachings that came from Gnosticism was that salvation was escape from the body, achieved not by faith in Christ, but by special knowledge.
  - NOTE: The Greek word for knowledge is “gnosis,” hence Gnosticism.

**1. 1 John 2:18 - 19**

- 1.1. Notice that John uses the term “children.” It is possible that he used the term to reflect that the readers of the letters were spiritual babies, meaning they needed instruction or had much to learn. Being spiritually immature would make them more susceptible to being deceived. See [Ephesians 4:14](#).
- 1.2. The whole period beginning with Christ’s first coming is viewed as the last time/days because there was no indication of another era before the return of Christ.
- 1.3. Every Christian born since Christ’s coming has been in the last days. The Jews knew that the Messiah would come in the last days and that there would be awful opposition to Him. That awful opposition did take place, which confirmed that the Messiah had come and that they were in the “last time.”
- 1.4. The term “last” may have been used to instill a sense of urgency to the Church to be alert while waiting for the return of Christ.
- 1.5. The church at that time had heard that an antichrist, a great enemy of God, would come. But, John warned that there would be many antichrists (plural) that had already come and would come. This was an indication of the last days.
- 1.6. Some people today only think of “antichrist” as the one enemy of God who will come in the last days. However, there have been and will continue to be MANY antichrists among us.
- 1.7. John actually says that the antichrists were with the church and then left.
  - 1.7.1. Antichrists try to stir up things in the church and deceive. When they fail, they tend to leave, break ties with the church (Christians/believers), etc. But the church is unmovable.

**2. 1 John 2:20 - 23**

- 2.1. Believers (Christians) are expected to know and understand the truth because of their salvation and anointing from Jesus Christ and the Father. When you received salvation and baptism, you received the Holy Ghost, which gives you the “ability” to know the truth.

- 2.2. "Christ" means "the anointed one."
- 2.3. John defines what antichrists are.
  - 2.3.1. Antichrist is a liar; a man who denies that Jesus is the Christ; a man who denies the Father and the Son. See [1 John 4:2-3](#)
- 2.4. Antichrists also refers to simple evil that opposes God. Today we see people who openly and blatantly oppose God and Christ. We even see people make attempts to replace the truth of God to better fit their ways, desires or ways of the world (compromise). This even happens in the church today.
- 2.5. It seems that John views "antichrists" the same as "false teachers."
- 2.6. No one, even if they proclaim they are saved, a preacher, teacher of the Gospel, can deny Christ and still have the Father. You must acknowledge the Son to have the Father. NOTE: There are many who say they believe in God, but deny Christ.
- 2.7. God will reveal antichrists. See [Luke 12:2](#).

### **3. 1 John 2:24 - 25**

- 3.1. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning." [John 1:2](#)
- 3.2. Who is "He" in this passage? Jesus Christ.
- 3.3. Study the Word of God. Believe the Word of God. When you "hear" the Word in truth, allow that Word to abide in you so that you can stay your course with Christ.

### **4. 1 John 2:26 - 27**

- 4.1. John warns that there are false teachers out there to lead the church astray. That is still the case today.
- 4.2. When you accept Christ and become a believer, you accept the Holy Spirit (the anointing) that remains in you.
- 4.3. John is not saying to rule out teachers/teaching from man. God does give human teachers to the church with a GIFT of teaching. He may have meant that you should not be dependent on human teachers and their words, but you should depend on God's Word.
- 4.4. Remember, during this time when Gnosticism was in place, there were those who believed that one needed "higher knowledge," which the Gnostics claimed to possess, in addition to salvation, which is what the apostles were teaching. The Gnostics taught that Christ was just a phantom. Evidently, the Gnostics were false teachers, deceivers.
- 4.5. Rely on the Holy Spirit to teach you about ALL things. The Holy Spirit, the Word of God, will teach you about all you need to know about salvation and Christian living. God gave the anointing to Christians (not Gnostics) to possess knowledge of all things. This is so because Christians acknowledge Christ and receive the Holy Spirit (anointing).

### **5. 1 John 2:28-29**

- 5.1. Continue to live for Christ Jesus. Live holy and righteous so that you may be confident that, when He returns for the Church, you will be able to go with Him. You will not be ashamed. Most importantly, you will not be left behind.
- 5.2. Those who are born again exemplify righteous behavior, modeling their behavior after the One who is righteous.