

THREE THINGS TO REMEMBER IN THE LAST TIME (1 John 2:18-27)

I. Remember the antichrist.

- A. John warns his readers that there is an antichrist is coming.
 - 1. I don't know if this refers to one particular person or not.
 - 2. It may be referencing the same thing that Paul called the man of sin (2 Thessalonians 2:3).
- B. We don't know if it is a person or a doctrine to be honest.
- C. There are many that believe it refers to the line of popes that exalt themselves above Christ.
- D. Whatever it was, John's readers had been told of it and he now reminds them he is coming and that those like him are already vexing the church.
- E. Notice their description:
 - 1. They had once been faithful Christians (vs 19).
 - a. They had once been part of the church but had left.
 - b. They did not have the same spirit or attitude of faithfulness as the apostles and other faithful Christians.
 - c. If they had that spirit they would not have fallen away.
 - d. By their leaving, they let all faithful Christians know that they no longer hold to the doctrine of Jesus.
 - 2. They deny the deity of Jesus (22).
 - a. This description fits the Gnostics of that day.
 - b. They taught that Jesus was either a spirit that took on the form of humanity but was not human or that He was just a man on whom the spirit of the Christ came at His baptism and left before the crucifixion.
 - c. They denied the incarnation of Jesus, saying that spirit and flesh could not dwell together.
 - d. This, in turn, is a denial of God the Father, whom Jesus came to reveal.
 - (1) He told Philip that since he had seen Jesus he had seen the Father.
 - (2) You can't confess the Father but deny the Son.
 - 3. They try to deceive those who are faithful (26).
 - a. Their teachings about Jesus attempt to seduce others into turning from Jesus.
 - b. They go against the authority of Jesus.
- F. There is this same spirit alive today.
 - 1. The Jehovah's Witnesses teach that Christ is God's Son and is inferior to Him - Jesus said they were one.
 - 2. Notice this statement from the Official Mormon website: "We believe in the Jesus of the New Testament and we believe what the New Testament teaches about Him. We do believe things about Jesus that other Christians do not believe, but that is because we know, through revelation, things about Jesus that others do not know."

- G. We also have those who teach that Jesus was a mere man today, such as the Muslims and modernists who deny the Bible.
- H. The Gnostics deceived by two means.
 1. They claimed new revelation - knowledge others did not have, just like the Mormons.
 2. Plain false doctrine from the perversion of Scripture.
 3. We know that both of these means are alive today.
- I. Read about Jose Luis de Jesus Miranda (Newsweek, Feb , 2007).
 1. Many are they that have claimed to be Jesus.
 2. Jim Jones, the leader of the Heaven's Gate cult and many, many more have made this claim.
- J. All of these display the spirit of antichrist because they set themselves above or against Jesus by their claims.

II. **Remember the anointing.**

- A. They needed to remember that they had an anointing from the Holy One.
 1. This enabled them to know all things, which in this context refers to all things about the denial of Jesus.
 2. It enabled them not to need to be taught again about the spirit of the antichrist.
- B. They knew what was a lie and what was truth about Jesus.
- C. I believe this is a reference to the miraculous ability that Paul, by inspiration called discerning of spirits (1 Corinthians 12:10).
 1. This miraculous ability allowed those that possessed it to discern between truth and error.
 2. He later tells this audience to "try the spirits" (1 John 4:1).
- D. Verse 24 tells them to use this gift and to continue in what they had been taught.
 1. This shows that they could neglect the gift, and despite possessing the gift, leave the truth.
 2. Their possessing the gifts did not mean they could not fall away (26).
- E. I do not believe we have this anointing today.
 1. We have that which is perfect, the Bible.
 2. With it, we can determine what is truth and what is error.
 3. They did not have a complete New Testament so they needed the revelation and confirmation of the miraculous.

III. **Remember to abide.**

- A. There are two things that abide in this passage:
 1. The word must abide in us.
 2. If it abides in us, we abide in Christ.
- B. As long as they used the anointing to discern they would abide in Christ.
- C. Since we have the word of God, it must abide in us as Paul commanded the Colossians (Colossians 3:16).
 1. Only by the word abiding in us can we discern error.
 2. This means study and effort must be given to the word in order for it to abide in us.

- D. If we allow the word to abide in us we have the promise of eternal life (25).
- E. We must be people of the word in order to make it to heaven.
- F. When the word abides in us we don't need someone to teach us what is truth or error because we know through our study.
- G. Just having a Bible does not mean we won't be mis-led.
 - 1. That is a very real possibility if we don't study.
 - 2. Just as the first century Christians had to use their miraculous abilities or be lost, we must know and use God's word or we will be lost.