

I John 2:18-27
The Doctrinal Test

John the Apostle has seen it all in the life of the church. He is keenly aware of opposition and attacks of the evil one. He knows that even Christians at times may be persuaded by false teachers often those who have infiltrated the church. The attacks against the Christian Church are so subtle; it is the work of Satan to deceive. John alerts those to whom he is writing about the antichrist doctrine and at the same time desires to assure those who abide and are faithful regarding the true Christian doctrine

I. The Characteristics of Antichrists – v.18,19,22-23,26

A. Doctrine is foundational – Acts 2:42; John 16:13-15

1. What is our attitude toward the truth of God as revealed in Jesus Christ?
2. “The last hour” –v.18; Jude 4
3. Antichrists occurs only in John’s epistles however the idea is frequently mentioned in Scripture: (I John 2:18,22; 4:3; II John 7) Dan. 7-11; II Thess. 2; I Tim. 4; II Pet.2-3; Rev. 13; Mark 13:22-23; Turn To: Matthew 24:15-31 (II Thess. 2:3-4)

B. The term Antichrist – (Gr. “anti”)

1. “The opposite of”
2. “Instead of”

C. Defection – v.19

1. Departing from the visible church
2. An eschatological perspective – Matt. 24:13

II. The Characteristics of Christians – v. 20-21, 24-25,27

A. Two essential characteristics

1. They have been anointed by the Holy One – (Gr. Chrisma) (Mark 1:24; Luke 4:34; John 6:69; Acts 3:14)
2. They all know the truth which is in Christ – (not all things KJV error)

B. Heresy – 22-23

1. Denial that Jesus is God- John 3:18
2. Beware of inclusive religion

C. Our Defense against Heresy – 24-27

1. The Word of God – 2:14; II Tim. 3:14-17
2. The Holy Spirit – 27
3. Priesthood of believers – 27

Conclusion:

1. *The serious nature of John the Apostle’s teaching here is the nature of the church and perseverance of the saints – v.19*
2. *We should ask ourselves, Am I in danger of drifting? – Heb. 2:1,3*

