



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

1 JOHN 2:20-21 – RESOURCES FOR EVERY BELIEVER!

COLORADO

FEBRUARY 12, 2019

Dan File, P.O. Box 1088, Lake City, CO 81235-1088/303-345-8830 / filefamily@centurytel.net

The mark of a true believer is that they continue to the end, not because of anything in themselves, but because they know the true and living Christ and remain in communion, in fellowship, in a shared life with Him eternally because He is the keeper of their souls. John Stott wrote that, “Endurance is the hallmark of the saved”. It is not that we once believed, but that we must continue to believe. Hebrews 12:1 says we have to run the race with endurance and Hebrews 4:14 commends us to hold fast to the confessions of Jesus Christ as the Son of God.

Regardless of the allurements from this world that is passing and the false teaching and deception from those who oppose Jesus Christ, true believers in Jesus Christ must remain, abide and continue in the faith. Genuine believers in Jesus Christ need not fear that some fatal influence might cause them to lose their salvation. They cannot fall away and will stay true to the faith. They will persevere to the end because they are in the hands of the Good Shepherd. As a believer in Christ, I am His. He is the Good Shepherd and will not lose one of His sheep. We are secure in Christ. (John 10:27-30, Philippians 1:6, Jude 24-25)

I. RESOURCES FOR EVERY BELIEVER! 1 JOHN 2:20-21

(20) “But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you all know.

(21) I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it, and because no lie is of the truth.”

1 John 2:20-21

We live, as John did, in the “*last hour*”. (1 John 2:18) It is not the final 60 minutes of the world; rather the time before Christ’s return. We live in a fallen world crawling with lusts and filled with those who oppose Jesus Christ as the Son of God. These are the last days. We will not be here forever and we must abide in Christ remain in Him until He comes. What would you do if you knew Christ was returning today? Would you live differently? ² Then live that way now.

The shadow of death hangs over us all. It is a universal law since the beginning of sin. In Mark 10:17, a rich man asked the all-important question, “*What must I do to be saved?*” Martha was asked by Jesus what she believed and she confessed this; “*Yes Lord; I have believed that You are the Christ, the Son of God, even He who comes into the world.*” May each of us confess that Christ is our only answer in this passing world.

A. “ANNOINTING FROM THE HOLY ONE...” - 1 JOHN 2:20A

John warns every believer about the false teachers and “*antichrists*” that will come in the “*last hour*”. (1 John 2:18) He then informs them of the resources given when faced with the

peril and deceptions by these false teachers. He reminds us of the tools we have to meet the crisis of strong opposition.

In contrast to the antichrists who propagate lies, John says, “*But you*”. (1 John 2:19) In spite of special claims by these antichrists who thought they were advanced in reason, John assures his “*children*” they possessed the truth and the needed understanding and ability to not be deceived. John assures his readers that they hold the needed spiritual resources to resist these false teachers.³

John asserts, “*But you have an anointing from the Holy One*”. All true believers have an anointing from the “*Holy One*”.

Moreover, because of this, “*anointing*” they have a true understanding that comes from God.⁴

“**anointing**” Greek “**chrisma**” literally means ointment or oil and refers frequently to the Holy Spirit Who has taken up residency in every believer. (Luke 4:34, Acts 3:14)

This is not referring to the action of anointing, but rather the result of it. It is generally accepted that the reference is to the Holy Spirit given to the believer the moment they are saved. The fact that John says, “*you have*” asserts their continued possession of this anointing. It is the indwelling presence that established believers in their faith and enables them to understand God’s truth. The Holy One has anointed true Christians and He indwells every believer, giving us the knowledge of the truth. (Romans 8:9) The Holy Spirit is the agent that enables the believer to appropriate and apply the Word of God in daily life.⁵

B. “YOU ALL KNOW...” - 1 JOHN 2:20B-21

The second means enabling believers to resist the antichrists is that “*you all know*”, or “*you know all things*”. (1 John 2:20b) This does not mean that they know everything, but the Holy Spirit will teach them the truth. They already know the reliability of God’s truth through the teaching of the Holy Spirit.

“**know**” Greek “**oidate**” suggests a reference not to the knowledge from study but rather an inner Spirit imparted knowledge.

Therefore, John is referring to knowledge that is given by the Holy Spirit to understand between God’s truth and the false claims of antichrists.⁶ John reminds them that they do know

BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS, GOVERNOR & SPOUSES: TUESDAY AT 7:15AM, CAPITOL BASEMENT, ROOM 0109

STAFF, LOBBYISTS, JOURNALISTS & SERGEANTS: TUESDAYS AT NOON, [SSB 1525 SHERMAN, RM #603- ACROSS COLFAX FROM CAPITOL](#)

Colorado

1 JOHN 2:20-21 – RESOURCES FOR EVERY BELIEVER!

the truth because of the indwelling Holy Spirit. In 1 John 2:21, John commends these believers for adhering to the truth that they already know. John says that he has not written because they do not know the truth, rather because they do! They know God's truth regarding Jesus Christ, the Divine Son and Savior of the world. And because they know it, John commends them to remember what they know.

Christians are taught by the Holy Spirit and know the truth because of Him. They can recognize error for what it is and thus not be deceived. Truth and falsehood cannot mingle, and since believers know the truth, they will not accept the lies taught by the false teachers and antichrists. Something cannot be true and false at the same time, "*because no lie is of the truth.*" (1John 2:21)

John has a deep concern for Christ's honor and the church's safety, which causes him to write so bluntly. Antichrists will often manipulate the truth and we cannot let deception slide for the sake of unity or peace in the church. There can be no unity without them because there is no salvation and no gospel unless these truths are embraced.

What truths might these be? John began his Epistle by making them clear: that Jesus Christ came to this earth in the flesh (the Incarnation), that Jesus is fully God, (His Deity), that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, that Jesus and the Father are one and the same, and that salvation comes through embracing and believing those truths and confessing our sins. The disciples were eyewitnesses giving clear testimony to the truths about Christ.

John wrote about this time in his Gospel as an eyewitness to the truths about Jesus Christ as the Son of God Who came in the flesh, died on the cross bearing the penalty of sin and satisfying the wrath of God, rose from the dead victorious over sin and death, ascended into heaven where He sits at the right hand of God the Father. He writes to believers with tenderness, love and affirmation, yet you hear the rumble of thunder in the background as he writes about deceivers and those against Christ.

1 John is a message written about eternal life: the very life of God revealed in Jesus and shared by all who put their trust in Him. This eternal life is secured in God through Jesus Christ His Son.⁷ These words from John give us the starting point of revelation, the disclosure of God in Christ. Though many were denying that Jesus Christ came in the flesh, John gives his eyewitness testimony to the fact that Jesus is God Incarnate.

It is this most awkward truth of all (Jesus Christ is fully God and fully man in one Person) that John pulls together as essential for the gospel because only with this doctrine does what happened on the cross make sense. Who Christ is and what Christ did are bound together. If you try to parse away Who Jesus is, you may have a neater philosophy that is easier to believe, but you will misunderstand Christ and forfeit the gospel. In addition, if you do not understand Who Jesus is, then John says you are not a Christian. You must know that in His love for us God Himself took on flesh, lived a perfect life, died the death sinners deserve, and then arose in victory over sin and death. For God to be tempted like any man as we are and pay for sin, He had to be fully man. Along with that, He had to live a perfect life and be the perfect sacrifice for sin so Christ had to be fully God. The most important question you could ever ask yourself is Who is Jesus Christ? Do you believe He is the Son of God? ⁸

The Incarnation of the Son of God rests at the very heart of our Christian faith. In no other way could God justly deal with the sin that set us under His just judgement and provides us with the righteousness that would fit us for fellowship with Him. As 2 Corinthians 5:19 tells us that it was in Christ, the God-Man, was reconciling the world to Himself. This is the uniqueness of Christ that the world stumbles over. The gospel of Jesus is not one of a number of options for men and women to consider...it is the one and only way for sinners to be reconciled to God and rescued from the coming wrath.⁹

This is why John was compelled to warn the church. And you must ask yourself, what do you believe?

¹ Stott, John R., *The Epistles of John*. Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company: Grand Rapids, MI, 1964, Pg. 105.

² O'Donnell, Douglas Sean, *Reformed Expository Commentary: 1-3 John*. P&R Publishing Company: Phillipsburg, NJ, 2015. Pg. 87-88.

³ Hiebert, D. Edmond, *The Epistles of John: An Expository Commentary*. Bob Jones University Press: Greenville, SC, 1991. Pg. 112.

⁴ MacArthur, John, *MacArthur Commentary Series on 1-3 John*. Moody Press: Chicago, IL, 2007. Pg. 102.

⁵ Hiebert, D. Edmond, *The Epistles of John: An Expository Commentary*. Bob Jones University Press: Greenville, SC, 1991. Pg.112.

⁶ Hiebert, D. Edmond, *The Epistles of John: An Expository Commentary*. Bob Jones University Press: Greenville, SC, 1991. Pg.114.

⁷ Erdman, Charles R., *The General Epistles: An Exposition*. The Westminster Press: Philadelphia, PA, 1919. Pg. 114.

⁸ Dever, Mark, *The Message of the New Testament: Promises Kept*. Crossway: Wheaton, IL, 2005. Pg.477.

⁹ Hamilton, Ian, *Let's Study the Letters of John*. The Banner of Truth Trust: Edinburgh, UK, 2008. Pg. 2.