



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

1 JOHN 2:22-25 – “JESUS IS THE CHRIST”!

COLORADO

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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.¹ 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.

I. JESUS IS THE CHRIST! 1 JOHN 2:22-25

(22) “Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son. (23) Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also. (24) As for you, let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father. (25) And this is the promise which He Himself made to us: eternal life.” 1 John 2:22-25

John writes when the tempest of persecution and false teaching were on all sides against the church. Those who stood opposed to Jesus as the Christ yet claimed to be Christians were in fact, antichrists. John will continue to give clarity to their false deception and lies while at the same time revealing the encouraging truth about believers in Jesus Christ.

A. “WHO IS THE LIAR...” - 1 JOHN 2:22

John sounds the warning bell about these “antichrists” whom he describes as “liars”. Here the liars are identified. They are the ones who deny that “Jesus is the Christ.”

“Christ” is the Greek word for Anointed One and “Messiah” is the Hebrew equivalent. These antichrists, claiming to be Christians denied that Jesus was God’s Messiah and Son. They denied Jesus’ Divine equality with God. This is a denial no true believer can make. In 1 John 4:2-3 we find that these false teachers refused to believe that “Jesus had come in the flesh.” This denied the fundamental truth of Christ’s Incarnation. To them it was inconceivable that God would join Himself to flesh, frail flesh. Today, our churches are filled with men and women who refuse to believe the clear teaching of God’s Word in regards to the Person of Jesus Christ. If God’s Son had not come in the flesh, we could not be saved. Jesus Christ came as one of us and as our representative, He would provide for us the righteousness we lacked and the atonement for sin that we could never make. The gospel is the good news of God’s sovereign intervention in His Son, Jesus Christ.²

So the author identifies the liars by nature of their lie...this one is antichrist. And the seriousness of this denial, John writes, is

that in doing so, they also deny the Father and the Son. By denying what God had plainly revealed in His Word, they are being recognized as liars and antichrists because they distort the truth and promote a false gospel.

They can’t mislead the true believer, but they can muddle the simplicity of the gospel and confuse devotion to Christ. Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 11:3, “But I am afraid, lest as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds should be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.” False teachers can cause confusion but can never take away the faith in Christ that secures them to Christ and the eternal life that is theirs.

So, John says that anyone characterized by this crucial denial, that Jesus is not the Christ, there is no doubt on this one’s position. God has made His ultimate self-revelation in the human Jesus as the Incarnate Son of God. Hebrews 1:1-3 says, “God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. And He is the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.” To deny these truths is a direct attack on the heart of the gospel. Of this one, John declares, is antichrist and liar.³ And in denying Jesus as Christ, they deny the Father also. So to deny Jesus as God’s Son come in the flesh is to deny God the Father also.

B. “WHOEVER DENIES THE SON...” - 1 JOHN 2:23

The active denial that Jesus is the Christ is the prominent mark of the antichrists. And John says that the inescapable result of this denial is that he denies the Father also, “whoever denies the Son, does not have the Father”. They may claim to have fellowship with God, but such claims are empty when made by those who deny Christ is God’s Son come in the flesh.

Then John says in 1 John 2:23b that the true believer is marked by a confession of Jesus as the Son of God. That true believer confesses, accepts the revealed truth concerning “the Son” and that brings assurance that he or she has the Father also. (See also John 5:23, 14:6-7, 15:23) Confess means to agree with God that what He says is true. It is to acknowledge that truth and believe it.

C. “AS FOR YOU...” - 1 JOHN 2:24

In contrast to the antichrists who propagate lies, John says, “As for you...”. (1 John 2:24) John appeals to the true believer in

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this verse and to the truth “*which you heard from the beginning.*” What was that truth they heard from the beginning? The truth was the gospel about Who Jesus Christ is and what He has done. John appeals to the believer, let that truth “*abide in you*”.

“**abide**” Greek “**menelo**” let it be at home, operative in your life, let that message have its course in your life.

John is saying that strength and stability are assured by letting this message of the gospel be at home and at work in them. These are good and encouraging words in such unstable and unsettling times. John is saying that the result of letting that message of the gospel of Jesus Christ “*abide*” in them has an assured and maturing result.⁴

As believers let that message continue to be at home in you, abide in you, taking personal and active participation of letting Christ be at work in your life. Abiding carries with it a personal responsibility to allow and cooperate with the work of the Holy Spirit in our life. Philippians 2:12-13 puts it this way, “*So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you both to will and to work for His good pleasure.*” Our responsibility is to work out what God has worked in us. This begins at the moment we were saved. And the Holy Spirit enables us to work out what He is working in us, transforming us to be like Christ.

As we abide in Christ, John assures every believer the result of His Divine message abiding in us is the continuing reality of communion, fellowship, and a shared life with God.

D. “THE PROMISE...ETERNAL LIFE!” - 1 JOHN 2:25

The result of letting that message of the gospel be at home and operative in our lives carries with it the ultimate and supreme blessing of “*eternal life*”. Jesus Christ Himself prayed to the Father before going to the cross and said this to the Father, “*And this is eternal life, that they may know You; the only true God and Jesus Christ Whom You sent.*” (John 17:3) Eternal life is knowing personally and savingly, God and Jesus Christ.

This life we live is not eternal. It will come to an end. The shadow of death hangs over us all. We will all die. As we noted

before, the rich young man asked such an important question, “*What must I do to inherit eternal life?*” (Mark 10:17) John is saying that eternal life is a promised blessing to all who believe Jesus is the Christ. Remember, it’s not that you once believed, parroted a prayer, signed a card, walked an aisle, joined a church or even that you were baptized. None of that will bring you into a saving relationship with Christ. You must turn your heart to the Lord Jesus Christ Who God sent, born of a virgin, lived a sinless and perfect life, Who went to Calvary’s cross, bore in His body all the sins of all who would believe in Him, taken down from that cross, was buried and raised that third day. He came walking out of that tomb a risen and victorious Savior. He has ascended to the right hand of God the Father, where all authority in heaven and earth have been given to Him... and whosoever shall call upon His name, will be saved. Humble yourself, repent of your sins, and turn to Jesus Christ Who is the friend of sinners. Run to Christ and He says those who come to Him He will in no way cast out! Has God done this work in the depth of your soul? If not, run to Jesus Christ! (Romans 10:13, Acts 2:21, Matthew 11:28, Acts 2:28, Acts 4:12, Psalm 51:11, John 15:14, Acts 16:30-31)

And one incredible result of being a true believer, is the blessing of eternal life. John notes that there is a Divine character in this promise of eternal life. This is not something just anyone could promise. No, this promise is made by Christ Himself. He makes the promise, “*He Himself made*”. (1 John 2:25a) And this promise is “*made to us*”. This is a personal and present possession. Jesus Christ makes this promise to us, to all believers. Oh this is so very personal and John includes himself by saying “*us*”. This is not something any of us deserve. What a supreme blessing given to every believer by Christ. And it is a promise that can never be broken.

The result of abiding in Christ is a continuing reality of fellowship, shared life with God and the supreme blessing of eternal life promised by Christ Himself, a promise made to us personally...life forever with Him. A life with no end.

We live as John did...in the last hour. We live in a fallen world that is perishing. It is filled with those who oppose Christ as the Son of God. The world is full of deceivers and they are in the church. May we be watchful and abide in Him.

¹ Erdman, Charles R., *The General Epistles: An Exposition*. The Westminster Press: Philadelphia, PA, 1919. Pg. 114.

² Hamilton, Ian, *Let's Study the Letters of John*. The Banner of Truth Trust: Edinburgh, UK, 2008. Pg. 28.

³ Hiebert, D. Edmond, *The Epistles of John: An Expository Commentary*. Bob Jones University Press: Greenville, SC, 1991. Pg. 116.

⁴ Hiebert, D. Edmond, *The Epistles of John: An Expository Commentary*. Bob Jones University Press: Greenville, SC, 1991. Pg. 119.