

1 John 2:18-23

Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour. They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but *they went out* that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us. But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things. I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and that no lie is of the truth. Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son. Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who acknowledges the Son has the Father also. *NKJV*

From Part 1:

John writes to these followers of Christ to remind them that they need not be frantic over the unsettling nature of the confusion that began to abound in their fellowship. "You know it [truth], and that no lie is of the truth." Christians need not fear that the convincing and manipulating ways of false teachers and religions will erode the security of their salvation through the One and only Savior Jesus Christ.

Part 2. Characteristics of Christians:

The difference between those who leave the Church and those who stay is their view of Christ. The anti-Christians deny Christ, Christians trust in Christ. **They never transfer trust from Christ unto false teachers.** They may doubt, they may even wander away from the Church for a while, but they are never truly fall for the deception.

For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame. For the earth which drinks the rain that often comes upon it, and bears herbs useful for those by whom it is cultivated, receives blessing from God;

but if it bears thorns and briers, it is rejected and near to being cursed, whose end is to be burned. But beloved, we are confident of better things concerning you, yes, things that accompany salvation...
Hebrews 6:4-9

The reason Christians will not ultimately be deceived is because they have truly been changed by the Truth. Their personal transformation and relationship with Christ trumps the arrogance of more knowledge and another "anointing." The false teachers of John's day were infatuated with an intellectual view of religion (later known as Gnosticism) and claimed to have a separate anointing than that of the Holy Spirit. Theirs was a claim fueled by pride and self-righteousness. **Christians have knowledge of God that has proceeded out from their faith in Christ and an anointing not of their own doing, but of God's special promised presence and seal upon their lives.** The false teacher's efforts in the church were meant to intimidate Christians into believing that there was a "secret knowledge" to be obtained through the Scriptures. A knowledge that apart from them could not be ascertained, a sort of code or acronyms that could only be deciphered by "intellectual" teachers.

Christians have an anointing, it's from the Holy One. All other anointing is inferior to His special work in the believer's life. This anointing of Christians is not with a pouring of oil, as was symbolic in the Old

Testament appointment of priests and kings, but a spiritual one that was special now for every believer because it demonstrated the special favor and attention that Christ has for each of His followers. It is none other than the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in the life of every true believer in Christ, not for a special sect of “ultra-spiritual” and “spiritually elite” people like the anti-christs claimed.

But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. Acts 1.8

The Holy Spirit is our teacher. Since He is the author of Scripture, He therefore has the ability also to speak its truth into our lives by the Scriptures even apart from a human instrument. No teacher is needed to take a Christian to a “deeper meaning” or a “special experience” of hearing Jesus speak. Christ has spoken, as recorded in the Scriptures, and the Holy Spirit takes those words and teaches them to the heart of the believer. **One need not fear that he has not heard the “voice of God,” or that he has not heard “Jesus speak,” when he has a copy of the Scriptures to open up and learn for Himself the very words of God.** It is then that the Holy Spirit teaches them to him!

The Holy Spirit is reliable to not teach a mixture of error and truth. He is the One Who has taught you salvation from the beginning. **He will not deviate from that which He first instructed your heart—salvation rests in Christ alone.**

John reminds the Christians that **they will be faithful**, they cannot deny true faith, **that they have received a special anointing** in the presence of God in their lives, and that **He will teach them all things they need to know**, without the help of arrogant “de-coders” of the Scriptures. **They can trust that that which they had been taught by God from the beginning of their salvation is still reliable.**

LIFE APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. **What is the difference between those who depart from the faith and those who remain?**
2. **Can those who deny the biblical revelation of Christ be redeemed from their sin?**
3. **What was the problem with the anti-christs, false teachers teaching?**
4. **Who anointed the followers of Christ and with what (Whom)?**
5. **What is the effect of false teaching upon the lives of those who listen?**
6. **Who is the ultimate teacher to every believer of Christ?**
7. **What is the surety of the teaching of the Holy Spirit that John indicates can stabilize the doubting believer?**