

FIRST JOHN 2:15–27

“What think you of Jesus is the test. If you think wrongly of him, you will be wrong on the rest.”

John Newton

Big Point: We overcome our love for the world by desiring to dwell in the presence of God through Jesus. We dwell in the presence of Jesus when we think rightly of him, guided by His Word.

Addressing the heresy of Docetism

- The church in Ephesus was plagued by Greek philosophical influence.
- Primarily, the division between the material and the immaterial, the sacred and the secular.
- Moreover, the Greeks labeled the immaterial as *good* and the material as *bad*.
- Docetism: *to seem or appear*

Do not love the world

(vv. 15-17)

- Lust of the Flesh
 - To be controlled by carnal impulse
- Lust of the Eyes
 - To desire what does not belong to you
- Pride of Life
 - To value what will pass away

Resist all antichrists

(vv. 18-23)

- Any person or idea that denies Jesus.
 - Specifically, John’s insistence upon the Jesus he heard, saw, and touched.
- The presence of antichrists is the indication that we are in the *Last Hour*.
 - No one expected the last hour to last as long as it has.
- Jesus is alive, the Spirit “anointed you” and is in you, and the Church is his body in the world for as long as the hour lasts.

Abide in God

(vv. 24-27)

- “For the Christian, it is decided that to dwell in the presence of God is better by far than any other purpose, pleasure, or passion.” – Harder, 2014
- We know we are dwelling with God when we abide in His Word.

1 John 2:15-27 Christian Standard Bible (CSB)

A Warning about the World

¹⁵ Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride in one’s possessions—is not from the Father, but is from the world. ¹⁷ And the world with its lust is passing away, but the one who does the will of God remains forever.

The Last Hour

¹⁸ Children, it is the last hour. And as you have heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. By this we know that it is the last hour. ¹⁹ They went out from us, but they did not belong to us; for if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us. However, they went out so that it might be made clear that none of them belongs to us.

²⁰ But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth. ²¹ I have not written to you because you don’t know the truth, but because you do know it, and because no lie comes from the truth. ²² Who is the liar, if not the

one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This one is the antichrist: the one who denies the Father and the Son. ²³ No one who denies the Son has the Father; he who confesses the Son has the Father as well.

Remaining with God

²⁴ What you have heard from the beginning is to remain in you. If what you have heard from the beginning remains in you, then you will remain in the Son and in the Father. ²⁵ And this is the promise that he himself made to us: eternal life.

²⁶ I have written these things to you concerning those who are trying to deceive you. ²⁷ As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you don’t need anyone to teach you. Instead, his anointing teaches you about all things and is true and is not a lie; just as it has taught you, remain in him.