

1 John 2:18-27/4:1-6
Warning of the Antichrist

Intro:

- Steve story or Baseball illustration... (decide in practice)

1 John 2:18-19

- The last hour, is another word for end times... We live in the end times... this is nothing new. It's not new if you have been coming here or this is your first time. Peter preaches this at Pentecost in **Acts 2:17 "And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams."**
- We have been in the end times since the outpouring of the Holy spirit in Acts 2.
- Where God is moving the enemy will try to deceive.
 - God is a creator, Satan cannot create he can only manipulate what has been created. He tries to distort what god has done and created.
- John here is giving us a warning about the spirit of the antichrist working. He says the antichrist is coming soon but that many have been here and are at work.
- **The spirit of the antichrist causes people to Depart from the community of believers.**
 - Vs19.
 - Not everyone in the Church is part of the Church.
 - This begs the question... how do I know if I am apart of the church.
 - Easy... two things.
 - 1. Have you departed from the community of believers?
 - No, then abide
 - Yes, then return
 - 2. **We are called to Abide in Christ**
 - We do this by remaining in the community of believers.
 - Be careful of who you listen to online... compare it to the word of God. Also pay attention, are they apart of a Church or community of believers?

1 John 2:20-25

- John is writing not to non believers but to believers about the deception of the antichrist.
- **The spirit of the antichrist Denies the deity of Jesus Christ**
 - Ultimately we know that the culmination of the spirit of the antichrist culminates itself into one being and becomes a false Christ, and tries to take the place of Jesus. He desires to be worshiped in the place of Jesus Christ. He presents a false self identity and sacrifice. Taking what Christ has done and trying to manipulate it for himself. Trying to steal the victory of Christ to bring it into his victim hood.
 - I say all of this, to say once again that the spirit of the antichrist denies the deity of the Lordship of Christ.
 - This is done in multiple ways, saying things like.

- He is a prophet- Muslim
- He is a moral philosopher- Jewish
- He was a man then became a God- Mormon and Jehovah witness
- Christianity is the number 1 persecuted Religion in the world
 - In Nigeria alone since 2009 54,000 Christians have been martyred for their faith by a religious organization that denies the deity of Christ
 - 322 Christians are killed every month.
 - 388 million christians are under persecution (USA population 322 million)
- My heart is heavy as I read these stats and researched them. My heart breaks and cries out God will come soon. For I know the antichrist is at work... If it's true that whenever God is moving the enemy will be there to try to deceive. My eyes turn to what God is doing. And I see that in last decade 10.2 Muslims have been converted to Christianity. I can not help but see that and be brought to tears as i see my Lord working even in the midst of the chaos of the World.
- For my God is bigger than the world and bigger than anything I can comprehend. So in all of this, in the storm, in the chaos, in the persecution, in the hardship... I abide in Him because I know he has this.
 - John tells us vs 24-25
 - **We are called to Abide in Christ**
 - Illustration of best on the court (pick up basketball)
 - When we abide in Christ we lean on what he is doing and teaching. Thats when we step in step with the spirit and follow what John tells us to do. John writes two times in in his letter about being deceived by spirits
 - **1 John 4:1-6**
 - **We are called to Abide in Christ**
 - Only then can we discern, who is proclaiming the same Jesus we are worshiping

1 John 2:26-27

- **The spirit of the antichrist deceives**
- 2 John 7 teaches us one of the deceptions of the antichrist,
 - **“For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. Such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist.”**
- The enemy can not create He can only deceive us. He takes creation and tries to distort. So then what do we do? With so much going on in the world and so much deception and struggle in the world.

We are called to Abide in Christ

- When we abide in Christ He abides in us and his word abides in us giving us the strength, wisdom and understanding to persevere. It is not that when we abide that we will not struggle... no in fact the opposite is true. We will be pushed harder and harder because the enemy wants us to stumble.

- We have been anointed... in the OT when someone is anointed it is a sign that God is with them!

Basketball illustration of Abiding and having the Spirit in us.

So how do we abide? We do the opposite of the antichrist is doing

The Antichrist:

Abiding in Christ:

<i>Departs from believers</i>	<i>Remains in believers</i>
<i>Denies Christ</i>	<i>Proclaims Christ as Lord and Savior</i>
<i>Deceives others</i>	<i>Disciples others</i>

That is discipleship: following Jesus, being changed by Jesus and joining the mission

We are called to Abide in Christ