

## **“A CALL TO RIGHT BELIEF”**

### ***The Doctrinal Test of Authentic Christianity***

**1 John 2:18-27**

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Sunday, November 19,

First John contrasts genuine Christians who believe that Jesus is the Christ with false teachers who deny both God the Father and Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit teaches the truth about Christ, but the false teachers are trying to seduce believers away from the gospel truth.

*True Christians accept as truth that Jesus is the Christ.*

#### **I. DISTINCTION OF TRUTH. 1 John 2:18-21**

##### ***The Difference between the Heretics and the True Believers***

- A. Error of the antichrists. 18-19
- B. Knowledge of the Christians. 20-21

*The “last hour” is here, but John did not want his readers to panic. They could see that they were different from the heretics and, therefore, could find assurance. Their reception of the Holy Spirit and his teaching them of truth firmly established them as different from the antichrists.*

#### **II. DEFINITION OF ERROR. 1 John 2:22-23**

##### ***The Explanation and Effects of the Heresy***

*To buy into the belief that Jesus is not the Christ is to reject a saving relationship with the Father and His Son.*

#### **III. DELIVERANCE FROM ERROR. 1 John 2:24-27**

##### ***The Protection against the Heresy***

- A. Abiding in the Truth. 24-25
- B. Avoiding the Error. 26-27

*It is the Word of God and the Holy Spirit’s illumination of that Word that will keep a person true to the heavenly Father. The proper understanding and application of Scriptures is the key to a person’s security in the Lord.*

#### **TAKE AWAYS TO REMEMBER AND APPLY**

- To avoid spiritual deception, be discerning of people and doctrine.
- To avoid spiritual deception, develop discernment by abiding in the Word and in the Spirit.

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**Reminder:** *This Wednesday evening, November 22, at 6:30 p.m., we have our **Thanksgiving Eve Praise Service and Pie Social**. Our Church family & friends are invited to join together in the auditorium for a one-hour celebration followed by refreshments. **Guests are welcome!***

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#### **QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION FROM 1 JOHN 2:18-27**

- 18 - Why does the apostle John say that it is the last hour?
  - 18 - Why did John call the false teachers antichrists?
  - 20 - What was the source of genuine knowledge for the Christians?
  - 22-23 - Why is a person’s view of Christ crucial?
  - 24, 27 - How do believers continue in Christ?
  - 26 - What were the false teachers trying to do to John’s readers?
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- What is the difference (if any) between being discerning and being distrustful? Is it wrong to be distrustful of someone?
  - How do you develop discernment without becoming skeptical of everyone and everything?
  - Since there are so many views of different doctrines, how can you know that you are right? How can you hold to being right without becoming arrogant?
  - How do you determine which doctrines are core doctrines, worth dividing over, and which are more peripheral?
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- If the gospel is, “Believe in Jesus Christ,” then why can’t we accept Roman Catholics, who believe in Jesus, as saved?
  - The Bible commands us not to judge others (Matthew 7:1). How does this square with “refuting those who contradict” (Titus 1:9)?
  - Why is it crucial always to link the Spirit with the Word? Does the Spirit give direct revelation today? If so, how can you know if it is the Holy Spirit?
  - Some argue that verse 27 militates against using commentaries. Why (biblically) is this a serious mistake?
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- ✓ Is the “anointing” only for certain believers? Does John teach that the Holy Spirit is received more than once?
  - ✓ What are the two forms of protection against heretical teachings that John gave? How do they work together?