

April 12, 2011

Antichrists and Little Christs

1 John 2:18 – 3:12

¹⁸Children, **it is the last hour**, and as you have heard that an antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore we know that **it is the last hour**. ¹⁹They 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 it might become plain that they all are not of us. ²⁰But you have been **anointed** by the Holy One, and you all have knowledge. ²¹I write to you, not because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and because no lie is of the truth. ²²Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son. ²³No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also. ²⁴Let what you heard from the beginning **abide** in you. If what you heard from the beginning **abides** in you, then you too will **abide** in the Son and in the Father.

²⁵And this is the promise that he made to us—eternal life.

²⁶I write these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you. ²⁷But the **anointing** that you received from him **abides** in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as his **anointing** teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie—just as it has taught you, **abide** in him.

²⁸And now, little children, **abide** in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming. ²⁹If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him.

1 John 1:5 – 3:12 = In the World, Not of It

A) Because his blood cleanses us from all sin (1:5 – 2:2)

B) Because the true light is already shining (2:3-11)

C) Because the world is passing away (2:12-17)

D) Because it is the Last Hour (2:18-29)

E) Because even now we are His children (3:1-12)

2:17- “and the world is passing away along with its desires...”

18 “it is the last hour” x 2!! We are already in the End Times, have been since Jesus ascended!

“an antichrist is coming... many antichrists have come”- false prophets and teachers! (**Mt 24:3-14**)

19 “they went out from us”- they could not endure the true teaching and left the Church (**2 Jn 7-11**)

20 “anointed by the Holy One”- anointing with oil was done as part of the Baptismal rite (Eph 1:13)
(also see study note in *The Lutheran Study Bible* for connection of anointing and Baptism & Acts 10:38)
“you all have knowledge”- having been taught before baptism, they shouldn’t be duped by Gnostics

22-23 Who is the antichrist? ANYONE who denies Jesus Christ

24-29 This is John’s exhortation to remain in your baptism and the true teaching of Christ (Mt 28:19-20)

24 If the Word abides in us, then we abide in the Son & Father- what happens if we forgo the Word?

26 “those who are trying to deceive you”- Gnostic teachers, peddlers of lies and false teaching

27 “you have no need that anyone should teach you”- So what are you doing here at Bible Study!?!?
“just as it has taught you, abide in him”- remain in Jesus through faith in Him & His Word

Anointing and Abiding- go hand in hand in this chapter

ABIDE- John 6:56; 8:31-32; 15:1-17 ANOINT- *Christ* means “Anointed One” 2 Cor 1:21-22

Compare what anointing does here with what the Holy Spirit does- John 14:17; 15:26; 16:13

28 Why shouldn’t we shrink in shame at Christ’s return? (2:25)

29 “born of him”- more on this later in 1 John 5, for now, look back at John 3:3-5

^{3:1}See what great love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Beloved, we are God's children **now**, and what we will be has **not yet** appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. ³And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

⁴Everyone who keeps on doing Sin also does lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. ⁵You know that he appeared to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶No one who **abides** in him **keeps on sinning**; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. ⁷Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever keeps on doing righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. ⁸Whoever keeps on doing Sin is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. ⁹No one born of God does Sin, for God's seed **abides** in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God. ¹⁰By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not keep on doing righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not keep on loving his brother.

¹¹For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. ¹²We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous.

3:1 "the world does not know us is that it did not know him"- John 16:3; 17:25

In what ways does the world "not know us?"

2 "now... not yet"- a common way that John writes in the Gospel and the Revelation
"be like him... we shall see him as he is"- Rom 8:29; 1 Cor 13:12; 2 Cor 3:18; Php 3:20-21; Rv 22:4

3 Purification does not depend on keeping all laws in righteousness... but on what?

4-8 Any "Christian" who looks at his sin and says, "meh, it's alright, I'm forgiven" lacks repentance and faith
Likewise- any Christian who looks at his neighbor in need and refuses to help does not know Christ.

9 No one born of God performs Sin. Are you born of God? Do you still perform Sin? What gives?! Rom 7
Maximus the Confessor: If someone who is born of God does not sin, how is it that we who have been born of water and the Spirit, and thus of God, do in fact commit sins?... By faith we are born again in principle, but God still has to get to work on us in order to refashion us according to his likeness.

10 Our righteous and loving deeds are evidence of our birth from God- what should we do when we sin & fail?
"loving his brother"- "love" in the NT is not modern "love"- tender feelings or affectionate concern

12 Cain and Abel.... From the Book of **GENESIS** – Sunday at 9:15am in the Walther Room!!!

11 The message received from the beginning- "love one another"- The Church MUST redefine & adjust its practice of "loving one another" for the sake of her families & for the sake of her witness to the world.

Dr. Richard Shuta (CUAA)- "Love" is a Verb, not a noun. It's not some ambiguous concept that is spoken onto someone. It is an action that must be shown. In the NT loving someone is about one thing: Sacrifice- another word watered down by the world.

How can Christians (spouses, children, workers, etc) properly, biblically LOVE one another?
Ephesians 5:1 – 6:9 is a great example!

How can Christians best biblically LOVE the unbelieving neighbor and unrepentant sinners?