

The Antichrist is Coming

Introduction:

- A. 1John 2:18-22, 4:1-6; 2John 7
 - 1. The New Testament Scriptures mention the Antichrist as one who opposes the Lord.
 - 2. Christians need to examine what and who the Antichrist to clear their understanding of the many misconceptions concerning him.
- B. John wrote in the latter part of the first century.
 - 1. Gnosticism had arisen to become a problem to the church and claimed special knowledge.
 - 2. They developed doctrines of the nature of Christ which were erroneous, based on what they believed to be the incompatibility of humanity and divinity, believing humanity and divinity could not dwell together, so they had to deny either the humanity of Jesus or His divinity.
 - 3. Two schools of thought developed, both of which denied an essential element in the nature of Jesus.
 - a. Docetists denied that Jesus was actually human, that He only appeared to be flesh and blood.
 - b. Cerinthians said Jesus was born as a man and that deity descended on Jesus at His baptism and left Him at the cross.

I. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE ANTICHRIST

- A. Many are looking for a single personality to appear on the scene and fight openly against Christ.
 - 1. That would be too obvious. Everyone would recognize him and he would deceive very few
- B. The meaning of anti - "opposed to" - 1John 2:18
 - 1. Note the singular and plural usage
 - 2. There is not just one powerful person opposing Christ. Instead there are many who are secretly, deceptively working in opposition to the Son of God and His people.
- C. Identifying antichrists is possible today.
 - 1. Our salvation depends upon understanding who they are and what motivates them - 1John 2:19
 - 2. "They went out from us"
 - a. John, an inspired apostle, stood for the revealed word of God.
 - b. Those who went out from the apostles taught something else
 - c. They were anti (opposed to) Christ, hence "antichrists."
- D. This is the key to identifying the antichrists: all who deviate from the word of revealed word of God oppose Christ.
 - 1. They may be loving personalities, dynamic in persuading people to be saved, live for good works, etc.
 - 2. Our assessment of these things are subjective; God gets to define good works and loving personalities
 - 3. Therein lies the danger: Anyone can become "antichrist"

E. Matt. 7:21; Luke 6:46; John 8:31

F. We are either with Him or “anti” Him - Matt. 12:30

1. How can we tell?

2. The real test: agreement with and acceptance of the same doctrine the apostles taught - 1John 2:22-23

3. At the time of John's writing people were denying that Jesus had come in the flesh. This was an important point of the epistles of John

4. This principle is true in any departure from the faith - 1John 4:6

G. Whoever is a deceiver in opposition to Christ is antichrist

1. 2John 7; 2Thes. 2:1-4

H. Everyone in this world has taken a stand in relation to Christ: we are either on His side, fighting for and living in His kingdom, or we are against Him, His cause and His people.

1. If you reject the Christ and are against Him and His cause, look in the mirror and you will see the antichrist.