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Conflict

I John 2:18-28

INTRO: John wrote the Epistle of First John to warn and to protect the church from false teachers (2:26).

In the passage that we are studying, we have a three fold cord of instruction, warning, and blessed assurance.

1. We have instruction concerning the believer and his relationship to God and truth.
2. We have warning against error set forth by charismatic false teachers. We are warned of the traps they set.
3. We have the assurance that all who believe the Gospel are truly saved.

“The lines are sharply drawn between truth and falsehood, Christ and anti-Christ, confession of Christ, those who have the anointing from the holy one (true Christians) and those who do not (pretenders)” (Vaughn 59).

I. VSS 18-19, THE PROBLEM WE FACE

A. Vs 18, We face an anti-Christ society.

1. “It is the last time.” John said that nearly two thousand years ago. If it was the last time then, just think of how close we are to the second coming of Christ.
 - a) We are in the final hour of the age of grace. The clock is ticking toward the tribulation. It is later than it ever has been before.
 - b) As we race toward the coming of Christ, the Bible says: “perilous times will come,” and we will face difficulties on every hand (II Tim 3:1; I Tim 4:1).
2. “Antichrist shall come... there are many antichrists...” In the scriptures, antichrist is used in two ways. First, it means one who comes as a substitute for Christ, one who takes His place. Second, it means anyone who stands against Christ, anyone or any philosophy opposed to Christ.
 - a) At the end of the age of grace, a false Christ is going to come on the scene (the anti-Christ). He will promise peace, but he is a liar and the peace cannot and will not last (II Thes 2:3-5).
 - b) Anti-Christ also speaks of anyone or any philosophy that is against Christ.
 - (1) The anti-Christ philosophy affects the religious world for there are preachers who deny the virgin birth, substitutionary death and resurrection of Christ.
 - (2) The anti-Christ philosophy affects the social and moral world.
 - (a) Drugs, alcoholism, and humanism are a part of

- the anti-Christ philosophy.
 - (b) Venereal disease, so called free sex, and the break up of the home shows us that anti-Christ has invaded the moral world. “The world manifests its opposition to Jesus Christ in art forms such as literature, painting, and music” (Pentecost 61).
 - 3. The Christian’s response to an anti-Christ society is separation from the world (II Cor 6:17). Let us do all that we do to the glory of God (I Cor 10:31).
 - B. Vs 19, We face the problem of Church defectors. People defect for different reasons.
 - 1. Many people who are on church rolls have never been saved. They have no desire for the church Christ died for; thus they do not go to church. These folks may have held out for a while; but because they have nothing within, before long they are without.
 - a) Judas Iscariot walked with Jesus and the church for three and a half years, but was lost and betrayed Christ.
 - b) Like Judas, some go out because it is God’s divine plan to make manifest that they were not of us.
 - 2. Some go out providentially– God moves them. These are not the folks John is talking about here.
 - 3. Some go out morally– their lives are a shame and a sham.
 - 4. Others defect religiously– denying the fundamentals of the faith.

II. VSS 20-21, THE POWER WE HAVE TO FACE CONFLICT

- A. Vs 20, We have the anointing of the Holy Spirit (Rom 5:5).
 - 1. The Greek word for “unction” is *charisma* meaning anointing. This anointing is the imparting of the Holy Spirit to believers at regeneration.
 - a) “Ye have” points to a present possession (Rom 8:9).
 - b) Believers are indwelt and sealed by the Holy Spirit.
 - 2. “All things” here is related to all things concerning truth and error.
 - a) “A Christian does not need to know everything in order to know who is an antichristian liar” (Lenski 436).
 - b) Having the anointing, inner knowledge, believers perceive truth and shun error. An alarm sounds in the heart when error comes around.
- B. Vs 21, We have the truth.
 - 1. These believers knew the truth. They had received Christ; they believed the Gospel.
 - 2. He writes because they know the truth and will follow his admonition to stay away from error.
 - 3. They are to watch out for lies because no lies is of the truth. “The lie” is the teaching of the anti-Christ.
 - 4. Do not add to or take away from the truth. Stick with truth.

III. VSS 22-25, THE PRESENCE OF THE ANTI-CHRIST

- A. Vs 22-23, We face the problems of Christ deniers.
1. Vs 22, Anyone who denies that Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of God is a liar (I Jn 4:3).
 - a) "Who is a liar," we can identify those who are liars.
 - b) Those who deny the Father and Son are liars.
 2. Vs 23, This is an expansion of the verse before it.
 - a) To deny the Son is to cut yourself off from the Father.
 - b) To deny that Christ is God is to call God a liar (Jn 10:30). In this verse, Jesus, the Christ and the Son, are the same.
 - c) When you acknowledge that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, the sinless substitute who died and rose again, you have the Father as your Father.
- B. Vss 24-25, Instruction to believers.
1. Vs 24, We are to abide in the "word of God."
 - a) "Abide" is the Greek *meno* meaning "to remain." We are to stick with the Word.
 - b) Memorize the Word- "Thy word have I hid in mine heart..." (Psa 119:11).
 - c) Delight in the Word (Ps 1:2-3). Many defect because they do not delight.
 2. Vs 25, Every believer has this promise. With this assurance, we are able to confront the anti-Christ system.
 - a) The promised eternal life is emphatic.
 - b) John 3:16, 26; 5:24; I Jn 3:2, 14

IV. VSS 26-28, THE PROVISION BELIEVERS HAVE TO FACE DANGER

- A. Vs 26, This verse is a warning. We know the truth, yet there are those who would seduce us.
1. "Seduce" is the Greek word *planao* and means: "to cause to wander" or "to lead astray."
 2. The world is full of philosophies and philosophers who want to lead us astray.
- B. Vs 27, We have a divine teacher, the Holy Spirit, a built in Bible teacher, the author Himself.
1. This verse does not do away with the need for Bible teachers. One of the gifts given to the church to edify the body is the gift of teaching (Rom 12:6-7; Eph 4:11). The Holy Spirit takes the water of the word preached and turns it into wine.
 2. Let the Holy Spirit teach you all you need to know to live a victorious life (Rom 12:1-2).
- C. Vs 28, We are encouraged to "abide" in Christ.
1. One day Jesus is coming for His bride. When He comes again, we want to be confident not ashamed.
 2. "Little children," little born again ones.

CONCLUSION: There are those who would lead us astray. Stay close to Christ and have the confidence of a victorious Christian life.