

Christian's defense
1 John 2:20-21, 24-25, 27)

Introduction

John warned the church of antichrists that will come in and deceive people. He said that we shouldn't be surprised that they leave the church. He said that the reason they left the church was that they never belonged to Christ. These antichrists deny the faith and preach a different gospel. Because they preached a different gospel (claiming that they "realized" the truth) they set out to deceive the true church. In the midst of all that was happening, John encouraged the church by telling them that they (as an invisible church) would not desert Him. John answered some implied questions within the text: Do you know why you have not left and followed the antichrist? Do you know why you stand firm? The answer is that true Christians have the Holy Spirit and the Word of God in their hearts to defend against the attacks of the false teachings of the antichrists.

I. Holy Spirit (v20-21, 27a)

Note: John is contrasting the false teachers (antichrists) with the true Christian, and the first contrast is that the believer is anointed with the Holy Spirit.

- Anointing
 - Oil
 - OT—pouring of oil over priests, kings, and prophets

Ex 40:13 You shall put the holy garments on Aaron, and anoint him and consecrate him, that he may minister to Me as priest.

1 Sam 16:13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the Lord came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel arose and went to Ramah.

Note: The anointing with oil was an outward manifestation of enabling for service. It was also an induction for priests, prophets, and kings.

- Picture to show the influence and effect of Holy Spirit on believers
- Anointing from the Holy One
 - Holy One—Christ

Luke 4:33-34 Now in the synagogue there was a man who had a spirit of an unclean demon. And he cried out with a loud voice, (34) saying, "Let us alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are--the Holy One of God!"

John 6:69 (NIV) We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.

Acts 3:14 You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you.

Note: The false teachers in the church apparently thought that the anointing was the special knowledge that they possessed (and it contrasted with the gospel which we will talk about in a minute). They considered themselves a cut above the ones who do not have that "anointing". John is saying here that every believer has the Holy Spirit because He has been sent from Christ to dwell in us. Paul says that God has anointed us and sealed us in the Holy Spirit (**2 Cor 1:21-22**). Every single one of us who believe. Jesus Himself said that He would send a Helper to us.

- The Holy Spirit
 - Our guide

John 16:13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.

- Guide in truth (v 21)

Note: John here is talking about that with the anointing, the Holy Spirit guides us into the knowledge of truth. Through the Spirit we have the mind of Christ. The truth is in us through the Holy Spirit. Notice that John said there is no lie in truth. Lie and truth are wholly incompatible with each other. John is implying that the Holy Spirit cannot contradict Himself in the Word as He had inspired men to write Scripture.

- Abides in us

Eph 1:13-14 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, (14) who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

Transition: John is showing here that the Holy Spirit guides us to truth—every single believer. But there has to be an objective standard—after all, our feelings are fleshly and cannot always be trusted. People have often mistaken their feelings as the Holy Spirit's prompting which is not the case because it causes confusion as to who has the authority. The only authority we have is the Word of God and the Holy Spirit guides us to all truth.

II. Word of God (v 24-25)

- “you have heard from the beginning”—the gospel
 - Gospel according to the apostles

1 Cor 15:1 Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand.

Eph 2:20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.

1 John 1:3 We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.

- Unchanging Gospel

Jude 3 Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt I had to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints.

Rev 22:18-19 I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book. (19) And if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.

Note: Anytime someone claims to have new revelation or to have new teaching in supplement to the gospel—run away! The gospel has never changed from the apostles’ teaching—as Jude said that it was once for all delivered to us. The gospel never changes because it is based on God who never changes (**Mal 3:6**).

- Gospel is truth
 - Revealed to us by the Holy Spirit (**v20; John 16:13**)
 - Based on the Son

John 14:6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

- Gospel is life-changing (**v 25**)

Rom 1:16 I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

- Based on His promises

Titus 1:2 a faith and knowledge resting on the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time,

- We have eternal life

John 3:36 Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him.

2 Cor 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

Eph 2:6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,

Note: Eternal life is not only the promise for the future, but it is reality for today. Our sin nature is changed, and our old self has passed away. We are now seated with Christ in the heavenlies. Note this is all present tense...in the now for a believer. Salvation today is reality in the lives of the believers and the glorious freedom that they have in Him.

Transition: The gospel—the pure doctrine—that we cling to (believe by faith) is the gospel that saves us (**Rom 10:17**). The preaching of the gospel is essential in the work of the Christian. Antichrists deny the gospel and teach contrary to the doctrines laid by the apostles. Our responsibility is to learn and teach and ensure that the false doctrines do not take root in our church.

III. Christian Responsibility (24a, 27)

- “see that you have heard from the beginning remains in you” (NIV)
 - Studying the word of God (**Psalm 119:11**)

2 Timothy 3:15-17 and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. (16) All Scripture is Godbreathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, (17) so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

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Note: Paul says that the Scripture is vital to our life in righteousness. He says that Scripture contains doctrine (teachings that are correct), reproof (to show us our sins and how those are affronts to God), correction (to change our life from sin), and training (imitating Christ from Scripture) that leads us to righteousness. And all these will equip us for good works that God has prepared for us in Christ Jesus. We are called to work for Him and serve Him and in order to do that is through learning Scripture. We use Scripture to test everything, and we use Scripture to interpret Scripture—*Sola Scriptura* and *Tota Scriptura*.

- “you do not need that anyone teach you”

- What this does not mean

Note: This does not mean that we stop teaching because John is obviously teaching the church in his letters. Jesus commands us to teach in Matt 28:20 which John is obeying.

- You do not need (just) anyone teach you (about anything)

Note: What John is saying here is that false teachers were coming in and claiming new teaching, new revelation, and that their revelation was truth. Their teachings were contrary to the gospel. These undermined the true gospel laid out by the apostles. John says here that the antichrists’ teachings are all lies and that Scripture is truth.

Conclusion

John says here that as true Christians, God has given us a defense against error and deception—and that is because we have the Holy Spirit and His guiding us in the truth in the Word of God. With the two—we have our own built-in lie detector that help us to identify error. John said that we “all know things,” and he was talking about Scripture...not worldly knowledge. Jesus promised that He would not leave us as orphans, all alone to fight against ravenous wolves!