

Joyful Life Bible Studies

I John 2:18-23

Lesson 12

FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. Review I John 2:15-17. What have you learned from this passage regarding *loving not the world*?
 - a. How have you noticed the attraction to the world growing dim in your life?
 - b. How have you noticed your love for the Lord growing brighter?
 - c. Why can't we have love for the world and love for the Lord at the same time?

*Farewell, vain world; my soul bids you adieu;
My Savior taught me to abandon you
Your charms may gratify a sensual mind,
But cannot please a soul for God designed.
-David Brainerd*

2. Much of I John deals with the importance of fellowship with the Father. We have learned that we cannot have fellowship with Him if we are walking in disobedience or hating our brother. Now, John is dealing with a factor that comes from the outside that can hinder our fellowship. It is again exposing the lie by means of another test, the doctrinal test. Note and mark the paragraph divisions in this week's study as follows and briefly state the key thought of each:
 - a. I John 2:18,19
 - b. I John 2:20,21
 - c. I John 2:22,23
3. As you begin studying this lesson, take a moment to thank God for the fact that you can have fellowship with Him and ask Him to reveal to you anything in your life that might be hindering that fellowship whether it is coming from the inside or the outside. Write your prayer here.

*The entrance of Thy words giveth light;
it giveth understanding unto the simple.
Psalm 119:130*

SECOND DAY:

Read I John 2:18

1. The *last time* is referring to the period of time that began with Christ's first coming to earth and ends with His ultimate return in glory. However, world events and Bible prophesy point to the time we are now living in as being the latter end of the *last times*. From this explanation, define *last time* in your own words,
 - a. How does knowing you are living in the *last times* affect how you live today?

2. What do the following verses reveal about the *last times*?
 - a. Acts 2:17

 - b. I Timothy 4:1

 - c. II Timothy 3:1-5

 - d. II Peter 3:3
 - 1) In what ways do you see these things occurring today?

3. *As ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists* (I John 2:18). The many *antichrists* who have already come (in contrast to the one *antichrist* who shall come) are here identified as human teachers. The word *antichrist* in the Greek is *anticristo* meaning *against Christ*. An *antichrist* is anyone who teaches contrary to the basic doctrines about Jesus Christ. The Gnostics of the day taught that God did not manifest himself in the Person of Jesus Christ. How do the following scriptures refute this?
 - a. Philippians 2:6

 - b. Colossians 1:(13)16

 - c. Colossians 2:(8)9
 - 1.) Why is it so important that we believe that Jesus Christ is God?

 - 2.) In what way is Christ's deity denied today?

Challenge: What doctrines, in addition to the deity of Jesus Christ, are essential for salvation? Use scripture to support your answer.

THIRD DAY: Read I John 2:19

1. What does I John 2:19 give as proof that these *antichrists* were not really part of the body of Christ?
 - a. Does this mean that anyone who leaves your church is not a part of the body of Christ? Why or why not?

2. *If they had been of us they would have continued with us.* (I John 2:19) How do the following scriptures support this:
 - a. Colossians 1:23a

 - b. Hebrews 3:14
 - 1.) Does this mean we will never sin? Use what you have learned from I John 1:8 - 2:1 to support your answer.

3. What do the following scriptures reveal about those who do not rightly represent God:
 - a. Psalm 78:36,37

 - b. Matthew 7: 15

 - c. Romans I: 18

 - d. II Timothy 3:5

 - e. II Peter 2: 18, 19
 - 1.) What do you discover in these verses that will alert you to be on guard against false teachings?

 - 2.) How should we react to those who bring false doctrines into the church? Use scripture to support your answer.

4. List from the following verses some of the advantages that a true believer has over one who only professes to believe in Jesus Christ:
 - a. II Peter 1:3

 - b. Galatians 3: 29

 - c. Add some verses that are special to you that relate to this.

5. Read Jeremiah 32:38-40. How do these verses comfort and assure you?

FOURTH DAY: Read I John 2:20, 21

1. What does I John 2:20, 21 reveal that is true of all believers?
 - a. *But you hold a sacred appointment, you have been given an unction - you have been anointed by the Holy One, and you all know (The truth) (I John 2:20 AMP) The Holy Spirit is the means of this anointing which is given to all believers when they receive Christ as Savior. What do the following verses reveal about this anointing.*
 - 1.) John 14:16
 - 2.) John 14:26
 - 3.) Ephesians 1:12-14
 - 4.) STOP! Don't proceed until you have thanked *the Holy One (God)* for this wonderful provision so that we might know the truth. Write your thanks here.
2. John is stating in I John 2:20, 21 that the Christian has spiritual understanding that the natural man does not have. How does I Corinthians 2:10-12 support this statement?
 - a. Share a time in your life when you experienced the guidance of the Holy Spirit when confronted by someone who was against Christ (antichrist).
3. *But you have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things.* Does this mean that we automatically know all spiritual truth? What do the following verses say about the need to grow in grace and in knowledge:
 - a. II Peter 3:1a
 - b. Colossians 1:10b
 - 1.) In what ways are you growing in truth because of your study of the Word of God?
4. *One of the ministries of the Holy Spirit is that of enlightening the believer regarding the meaning of the Word of God. The ability to know the truth. gives the saints the ability to detect error. Wuest* How have you found this to be true in your life?
 - a. What are some things that we can do to allow the Holy Spirit to fulfill His ministry within us to keep us in truth?
 - b. What can hinder this work of the Holy Spirit from being effective in our lives?

*It is extraordinary how things fall off from a man,
like autumn leaves once he comes to a place where
there is no rule but that of the personal
domination of the Holy Spirit.*

Oswald Chambers

5. The *antichrist* referred to in this passage did not know the truth. Who is the Truth?

John 14:6

a. What is the effect of knowing the Truth?

1.) John 8:32

2.) John 18:37c

FIFTH DAY:

Read I John 2:22, 23

1. We are living in an age where tolerance is promoted. Christians are being accused of being narrow-minded and having a lack of compassion. Write the two words John uses to label those who deny Christ.

a. What do they deny?

1.)

2.)

b. From I Timothy 6:3-5 describe those who profess to believe, but do not follow Biblical teaching. Compare with other versions.

1.) How are we to respond to them?

(a) Why do you think this is necessary?

2. How did John know that the Gnostic teaching that *God had not come in the flesh* was a lie?
I John 1:1, 2

a. What have you experienced in your life that validates the claim that Jesus is God?

3. Look up the word *deny* (*denieth*) in a dictionary. Record the definition and synonyms.

4. According to I John 1:22 the antichrists were denying that *Jesus is the Christ* (Greek: *Cristos*, meaning anointed, i.e. the Messiah). How do we know that Jesus is the true Messiah:

a. Mark 8:29

b. John 4:42

c. John 6:69

- 1.) How does reading accounts of those who saw *Christ* and acknowledged Him as Christ affirm your faith?

5. Many assert that they can believe in God the Father, without believing in God, the Son. Why is this not possible?

6. Notice the word *acknowledgeth* in I John 2:23. Using a dictionary define the word *acknowledge*.
 - a. In light of this, what do you think it means to *acknowledge* the Son?

1.) Why is this so important?

*I believe in Jesus
 I believe He is the Son of God
 I believe He died and rose again
 I believe He paid for us all
 -selected*

SIXTH DAY: Review I John 2:18-23

1. What is an *antichrist*?
 - a. How would we recognize an *antichrist*? I John 4:(2), 3
 - b. How would their teaching affect the body of Christ?

2. What might the fact that the false teachers *went out from* them indicate about the church that John was writing to?

3. How would their obedience to John 6:28, 29 have corrected these *antichrists*?
 - a. What are we to believe about Him?

4. How has having the *unction from the Holy One* affected your life?

5. Why is it important to know and believe in the claims of Christ?

6. Share an insight you have gained through this study of I John 2:18-23

*If Christ did not speak the truth in all matters.,
 the claims about Himself vanish like the idle babbling of a lunatic bent on deceiving the world.
 Unlike Plato and Aristotle, He could not afford to be wrong - even once.*