



SCRIPTURE: 1 John 2:18 - 28: **Love that Overcomes.**

*Personal story - As a kid, we played outside! We would spend hours outside! We would leave in the morning, come home at lunch and then back out to play till the street light came on.

A friend of mine and I found some He-Man figures laying out in someones yard! Well, we got the idea that we would take them to the park to play with them.

What happened next, is a travesty! Instead of playing with them, we broke them apart, and them buried them in the sand at the end of slide.

So, I came home at dinner time, my dad had bot gotten home yet, so, for some unknown reason, maybe guilt, maybe ... I honestly don't know, I told me mom about it the whole thing. The only thing was, I omitted the fact that I was apart of it. I basically told my mom on my friend! She called his mom! The truth came out, my dad was on the way home, and I don't think I need to share anymore details!

I was a Liar and a deceiver, yet the truth was eventually revealed.

This Morning we are going to be in 1 John 2:18-28.

In our passage this morning John writes a warning to the church about people that are opposed to Christ. He calls them Antichrist's.

1 John 2:18-19

18 Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know it is the last hour. **19** They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would

have remained with us; but their going showed that none of them belonged to us.

John points out to the church that their are individuals that are in opposition to the teachings of Jesus.

There are the obvious ones, those that are outside of the church and their actions show that they are opposed to the church. We can even see this today. In verse 19, he points out that some are, or even were apart of the church.

19 They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us; but their going

showed that none of them belonged to us.

During the 1st century church, there was a religious group called the Gnostics. In the basics of their beliefs, they taught that the world was created and ruled by a lesser god, that Jesus was not divine, and that knowledge was the key to salvation. Gnosticism came out of a combination of Jewish and early Christian teachings.

John warns the church about them, because one of the tactics they would use, was a twisting of the truth. They would say that, "we serve the same God", yet their beliefs would counter that saying.

Anti-Christ

John calls them Antichrists. Many of us have heard this term antichrist before. Many times, when we hear it, it is in the context of end times teaching, when people are talking about the apocalypse, or rapture, and Jesus' return. But I don't want us to get focused on just that one thing. Because, there isn't just one antichrist. There are many of them, and there have been many in the past. Jesus warns of it in Matthew 24:24:

Matthew 24:24

24 For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and

wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.

How would some know that a person is an antichrist.

1. Liar - 1 Timothy 4:1-2 - The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. 2 Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron.
2. Deceivers - Mark 13: 5-6 - 5 Jesus said to them: "Watch out that no one deceives you. 6 Many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am he,' and will deceive many.

3. Opposition - 1 Tim. 6:3-5 - 3 If anyone teaches otherwise and does not agree to the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ and to godly teaching, 4 they are conceited and understand nothing. They have an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words that result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions 5 and constant friction between people of corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the truth and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain.
4. Divisioners - Romans 16:7 - I urge you, brothers and sisters, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary

to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them.

5. Leads others astray - Matthew 18:6 -
"If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea.
6. Deniers - 2 Peter 2:1-3 - But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them—bringing swift destruction on themselves

The point in recognizing these signs, is this, when you know what your enemy looks like. When you know their methods and tactics, you are able to build up a defense against them and you are able to combat those attacks.

How do we combat or stand up against those that oppose you, the church, sound doctrine? We need to remember that we have been prepared! We have been equipped for the battle.

1 John 2: 20-27

20 But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know

the truth. 21 I do not write to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it and because no lie comes from the truth. 22 Who is the liar? It is whoever denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a person is the antichrist—denying the Father and the Son. 23 No one who denies the Son has the Father; whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also.

24 As for you, see that what you have heard from the beginning remains in you. If it does, you also will remain

in the Son and in the Father. 25 And this is what he promised us—eternal life.

26 I am writing these things to you about those who are trying to lead you astray. 27 As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit—just as it has taught you, remain in him.

How do we stand up against the attacks of those that try to cause division, tell falsehoods, are hurtful... We need to recognize, that we have been prepared! John reminds the church, that we have an anointing that comes from God.

We have been given the gift of the Holy Spirit. God has placed that in the hearts of each believing, repentant, confessed, immersed believer.

What does anointing mean? Many people have used in different ways. Some have used it to self proclaim that they have been given something more or greater than other believers. Some use to help them remember that God

has claimed them, that God has made them purposefully.

Anointing is something that has been done for 1000's of years. In Jewish practice, anointed or *meshiyach*, literally meant to rub or smear with oil as a ritual to set someone apart for a specific reason. It was a setting apart.

Exodus 29:7 records that Aaron was anointed with oil because he was the chief priest. Both Saul and David were anointed as kings James 5, records that elders can anoint and pray over the sick, Jesus is called the anointed one (Meshiach, Messiah).

An anointing is something that is done with humans hands, yet the work is done by God! God has set apart priests, God has set apart kings, God is the one that heals, God has placed the Holy Spirit in us.

We have been given this anointing, this setting apart. It is a reminder of what Peter writes:

2 Peter 2:9

9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him

who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

We are a priestly people. God has set us apart. He has marked us as his own.

This passage is a great reminder for us, Just as John was reminding the 1st century church and going them warning, this is a great reminder of us today.

For us to stand firm in our faith, to combat those that speak false doctrine, and try to deceptively lead people astray, we need to simply **REMAIN!**

In recent years, faith and the church have taken the back burner to other interests

in our culture. Some people have a hard reconciling their faith with current trends in our world and culture. Some try to meld the two, but we know at some point there are things that cannot be brought together. Just like darkness cannot exist in the light, neither can the living for world and for living Jesus. When we try to do this, we can be lead astray.

Revelation 2: 4-5a

4 Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. 5 Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first.

I want to give you three easy, reminders that we can remain in Him today!

We need to Remain

1. Remain in the Word:

Bible study
Small Groups
Person Study
Accountability

Psalm 119: 105

Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

Psalm 119: 11

I have hidden Your Word in my heart that I might not sin against You

2. Remain in fellowship

Hebrews 10:25

Do not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

3. Remain in Deed

Galatians 5: 12-14

13 You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh[a]; rather, serve one another humbly in love. 14 For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

When we do these simple acts, believe it or not, your faith, knowledge and understanding of Jesus, and your kindness can be the greatest defense.

One final thing that John writes:

1 John 2: 28

28 And now, dear children, continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming.

Our hope is not in this world. It's not the things of this world. It shouldn't be in any of these, but instead, our hope is in Jesus. His life, His death, His resurrection, and we are looking forward to His return!

Invitation:

SG Questions:

1. What are some of your favorite memories as a kid spending time with friends.
2. Has there ever been a time when you lied, or twisted the truth so you didn't get in trouble?
3. John writes in his letter that there are people that can be in the church, yet they try to divide and cause disunity. Discuss healthy biblical ways that those instances can be dealt with?
4. Is there a difference between someone that might have a different theology and someone the twists God's word? What are biblical ways to handle those situations?

5. Have you ever been anointed with oil, or have you watched a ceremony where that took place? Share about the experience.
6. Read 1 Peter 2:9 - what does it mean that we are a Royal Priesthood? What responsibility does that give us?
7. We have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Talk about some of the ways the Holy Spirit works in our lives.
8. What does it mean to Remain?
9. Share some of your tools you use to study God's Word.
10. As a group, pray for discernment and wisdom as we come in contact with people that might oppose Jesus and the Church.