

SERIES: LESSONS ON THE LOVE OF CHRIST IN US

Lesson #6: "Love Brings an Anointing from God"

1 John 2:18-27

Announcements and opening prayer.



Connect: an opportunity for people to immediately interact and connect with each other; icebreaker/attention getters. **Icebreaker:** Who are some of the people you have heard or read about whom supposedly were, are will be the antichrist?

Transition: The antichrist has been a great topic for making books, movies and money. However, if we don't understand what was being said in the first century concerning the anti-Christ, then we may very well be distorting God's truth. That is very dangerous. Some people worry that some person will rise up and create the war to end all wars and suffering will be unimaginable. How can we see clearly what or who the antichrist is?

The Bottom Line: Christ gives us the eyes to know the anti-Christ.

LESSON PLAN



Denotes "Apply"

Before we even read the passage, it is important to know that this Greek word, ANTICHRISTOS, the words anti and Christ joined together, was used ONLY by the Apostle John. Here are some important points to understand:

- *Anti can mean either a substitution or opposition. It is highly likely that John means both. He is trying to be a replacement Christ and he stands against Jesus as the Christ.*
- *John does not give any specific details. It seems they people in the first century knew exactly what this teaching involved.*
- *Some people try to say this is the man of lawlessness that Paul speaks of in 2 Thessalonians, and that may or may not be true. Paul doesn't call that person the anti-Christ.*
- *Those are the simple facts and if we want to start with an open mind, that's all we need to say at this point. Now we dive into the Scripture.*

Read Matthew 24:4-5

1. How does Jesus' warning of what was to happen fit the example of the antichrist?

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We would have to spend days on this one chapter of Matthew, so we will only look at this one point for now. Jesus taught that a time was coming when false prophets would claim to be Christ. They would try to substitute themselves for God's true savior and therefore stand against Jesus as the way, the truth and the life, the only path to the Father.

Read 1 John 2:18-19

2. Why would John call this time, AD 85-90, the last hour?

Hour was used figuratively for a period of time. It's like John is saying, "This is it. We are in the final phase or time period. It would be synonymous with "The Last Days." This refers to the time between Jesus' first coming to earth and His second coming to judge the living and the dead.

3. Who did Jesus say knows the day and the hour of His return?

Read Matthew 24:36

- ⑥ What would we do if we knew the date of Jesus return or the day our life would end?

4. Had the people in AD 85-90 heard about the coming of the antichrist?

5. What makes us think that the antichrist does not seem to be a single person?

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John switches from singular to plural. He says not only is he coming but many antichrists were already there! It may be that the antichrist (singular) is a term for the spirit that inhabits all those who are antichrist, claiming they are the saviors and that Jesus is not what He claims to be. This would make them liars and deceivers, tools of Satan. Caesar declared himself to be savior and was a god. He was in opposition to Christ and therefore an anti-Christ in that time period.)

- ⑥ Who are some other people who claimed to be God?
- ⑥ Who are some other people who have denied that Jesus is the Messiah, Savior of the world?
- 6. How did they know they were living in the last hour?
- 7. Where did these particular antichrists come from that John is pointing out?
- 8. Why is John writing this to these Christians?
- 9. Who is the liar?
- ⑥ How does this Scripture call you and me to a greater hunger for Spiritual Growth?
- ⑥ How should this affect the ideas of faith we share with families and friends?

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Read 1 John 2:24-27

10. What does John urge them to do?

11. What are John’s final words of encouragement on this matter?



Interactive Teaching Ideas: ideas for learner-focused teaching. Ask the class to discuss at each table the following assignment and then share the results from each table: **Discuss** various antichrist ideas that are prevalent today and being taught in our society. How would you help someone who was being confused by one of them?



Going Deeper/Homework:

Memory Verse: “For I am the Lord, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior” (Isa. 43:3).