

The Devil's Deception

1 John 2:18-27

I. The Antichrist is Determined to Attack Christ (1 John 2:18) Let's look at the key aspects of the Antichrist according to the Bible.

1. They Deny Jesus's nature: Antichrist figures deny fundamental Christian truths, such as Jesus's identity as the Son of God or his human body and divinity.
 2. They Worship and Present False claims: They are boastful, proclaiming themselves as God, and being worshipped by others.
 3. They are in Opposition to God's people: These figures are described as speaking against God and attempting to change divine laws.
 4. Deception and signs: Antichrist figures can perform great signs and wonders to deceive people.
 5. Association with the "Beast": The Antichrist is often associated with the "Beast" from the Book of Revelation, a powerful figure of global authority who will rule for a short time.
 6. Historical and future interpretations: The concept has been applied to historical figures, such as Roman emperor Nero, as well as more broadly to a future leader.
- "In place of" or "against": The Greek word "anti" in "antichrist" can mean both "against" and "in place of," suggesting a figure who is either opposed to or replaces Christ.
7. Multiple antichrists: The New Testament letters of John also refer to "many antichrists," suggesting that anyone who denies the true nature of Jesus's incarnation is an antichrist.

a. The coming of the antichrist is anticipated. "as you have heard that antichrist is coming..." Jesus, himself predicted that these deceivers would come. Listen to Matthew 24:4-5 ***"And Jesus answered them, 'See that no one leads you astray. For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and they will lead many astray."*** Also Matthew 24:9-12: ***"Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake. And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold."*** All the apostles were now dead, John was the last of them; perilous times were now coming on, impostors and heretics were rising against the church, against Christ, which John cautions his disciples or "little children" to warn them that those who oppose Christ are coming to deceive. and so still he writes to them, agreeably to their age and character, who, being such, were most likely to be imposed upon by those who lie in wait to deceive.

b. The coming of the antichrist has been acknowledged. "so now many antichrists have come."

II. The Antichrist is Destructive by Abandoning the Church (1 John 2:19-23)

- a. The antichrist physically deserts the fellowship. (1 John 2:19) Paul calls them out in 1 Timothy 1:18-20: ***"This charge I entrust to you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that by them you may wage the***

good warfare, holding faith and a good conscience. By rejecting this, some have made shipwreck of their faith, whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.”

- b. The antichrist spiritually denies the faith. (1 John 2:22-23)

III. The Antichrist is Devoted to Assaulting Christians (1 John 2:24-27) John answers the way to battle those who are devoted to assaulting Christians. It's not through weapons, flesh, and blood, though we should defend ourselves. The weapon that we will use to do spiritual warfare of course is the armor of God listed in Ephesians 6:10-18. In verse 17 of that passage Paul talks about the sword of the Spirit, God's Word. This is our offensive weapon in spiritual warfare. What do antichrists want to do? They want to take you captive with their philosophy. People will say things like preachers shouldn't talk about politics. Politics are no longer about which party will build roads and bridges, politics has redefined marriage to an unbiblical definition. Politics has redefined the sanctity of life to an unbiblical definition. If preachers don't address it, the world will! The world would love to normalize, numb, and nuance our children with an unbiblical world-view! It's taking our kids! Paul states in Colossians 2:8 ***“See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.”*** How do we do that? John answers this with two main tools of the faith!

- a. Christians have the authority of Scripture. (1 John 2:24-25) The way to not be deceived is by knowing the Word of God. Paul tells this to Timothy. Listen to 2 Timothy 3:14-17: ***“But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”***
- b. Christians have the anointing of the Holy Spirit. (1 John 2:26-27) If the Holy Spirit tells you it's wrong, it's wrong. John 10:10 is very real today. Do not be deceived, may Christ be your joy!