

1 John 2:18-20 ¹⁸ *Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.* ¹⁹ *They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.* ²⁰ *But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things.*

I. Introduction

A. "Little Children"

1. John the apostle often uses this phrase as an elder addressing the church
 - a. Paul also uses this phrase in his letter to the Ephesian church
Ephesians 5:1 Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children;
 - b. Christian taught to keep a child-like spirit with God
2. Christian needs to remain "teachable"

B. Final Biblical age

1. John calls church age the "final hour"
2. Hebrews calls church age these "last days" where God has chosen to speak by His Son – Hebrews 1:2
3. Peter preached on Day of Pentecost when the church was born "in the last days" – Acts 2:17
4. Paul warns Timothy in the church age as the "latter times" that some people will depart from the faith – 1 Timothy 4:1

C. Christian needs to stand with discernment in these days

II. Reality of Antichrist

A. Person of Antichrist

1. Comparison of Christ vs Antichrist
 - a. Meaning of Greek word "antichrist"
 - i. "anti" meaning 'against'
 - ii. "christ" meaning 'anointed one' or 'messiah'

- iii. Coming Antichrist will claim to be promised Messiah for the Jews

b. Chart of comparison between Jesus & Antichrist

Jesus the Christ	Antichrist
From above (John 6:38)	From below (Revelation 11:7)
Humbled Himself (Philippians 2:8)	Exalts (lifts up) himself (2 Thessalonians 2:4)
Despised & rejected (Isaiah 53:3)	World wide celebrity status & admired (Revelation 13:3)
To seek & save the lost (Luke 19:10)	Came to destroy (Daniel 8:24)
Living truth (John 14:6)	Liar (2 Thessalonians 2:11)

2. Characteristics of Antichrist

a. Timing in God's calendar

- i. First Jesus comes again for the Christians at end of church age

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 ¹⁶ For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: ¹⁷ Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

- ii. Today the Day of Christ has not yet come

2 Thessalonians 2:2-3 ² That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. ³ Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

- iii. But God will destroy the Man of Sin – the Wicked One

2 Thessalonians 2:8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming.;

b. Seven characteristics

- i. Come up from obscurity (unknown) among 10 kings – Daniel 7:7

- ii. Little horn (symbol) grew stronger than other kings – Daniel 7:20
- iii. Little horn (symbol) will be great speaker & charismatic – Daniel 7:8
- iv. He will speak blasphemy against the Most High God – Daniel 7:25
- v. He will be very powerful world leader conquering 3 kings out of original 10 kings – Daniel 7:8
- vi. He will be the Abomination of Desolation, Man of Sin, Son of Perdition (false Messiah) – Matthew 24:15, 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4
- vii. He will first appear as a peace maker or Man of Peace (rider on white horse) conquering the world through diplomacy – Revelation 6:2

3. Activities of Antichrist

- a. Beast (symbol for Antichrist) will appear to bring world unity & peace (similar to Daniel's visions in Daniel 7) – Revelation 13:1
- b. Dragon (symbol for Satan) gave his power to Antichrist – Revelation 12:9, 13:2
- c. Antichrist will suffer a deadly head wound & be healed of it – Revelation 13:3
- d. Humans will worship Antichrist – Daniel 13:4
- e. Antichrist will control world economy – Daniel 13:16-17
- f. Antichrist will receive worship as a god – Revelation 13:12-15

B. Predecessors of Antichrist

1. Plurality of antichrists

- a. Many antichrists will appear as Christians
- b. Church membership not same as spiritual union with Christ
- c. God wants Christian to change lifestyle to fit Bible doctrine

2. Rejection of antichrists

- a. Antichrists reject Christian fellowship after some time in church
- b. Antichrists go away over time from local believers
- c. Antichrists left because they were not born-again Christians
- d. Antichrists wander away so Christians can see their true character

- e. Apostasy often pattern of sinful lifestyle or false teaching of doctrine
 - i. Change their doctrine (teaching) to fit sinful lifestyle
 - ii. Teach that Bible is inspiring but not God inspired
 - iii. Process of their heart becoming hard to God
 - iv. Times of multiple delusions and lies

III. Reality of Holy Spirit

A. How can I avoid spiritual deception?

1. Teaching comes from knowledge of the Word of God
2. Wisdom comes from presence of the Holy Spirit
3. Discernment comes from leading of Holy Spirit

B. Presence of the Holy Spirit

1. Word “unction” means anointing from the Holy Spirit
2. Holy Spirit also called Promise of the Father
 - i. Jesus promises the coming Holy Spirit

Luke 24:49 And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

- ii. Peter preaches about receiving the Holy Spirit on Day of Pentecost

Acts 2:32-33 ³² This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses. ³³ Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.

3. Christian sealed with Holy Spirit of Promise

Ephesians 1:13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

4. Holy Spirit promised as an earnest (down payment) on future inheritance of salvation

2 Corinthians 1:21-22 ²¹ Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God; ²² Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.

Ephesians 1:14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

5. Holy Spirit anointing remains with Christian & teaches them

1 John 2:27 But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.

C. Power of the Holy Spirit

1. Discerning all things is in power of the Holy Spirit
2. Christian should not believe every spirit, but test the spirits

1 John 4:1-4 ¹ Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. ² Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: ³ And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world. ⁴ Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

- a. First doctrines of demons deny Jesus deity (Jesus is Emmanuel – God with us)
- b. Second demonic doctrines deny Jesus humanity (Jesus is fully human)
- c. Third, demons influence people to live in hypocrisy (lies), or living with a seared conscience having no moral compass

1 Timothy 4:1-2 ¹ Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; ² Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;

IV. Conclusion

A. Christian can lead informed life

1. Christian can see the times & seasons of Day of the Lord

1 Thessalonians 5:1-2 ¹ But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. ² For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

2. Christian not caught by surprise even when many saying “Peace & safety”

1 Thessalonians 5:3 For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

B. Christian to live life realistically

1. Christians are children of the kingdom of light

1 Thessalonians 5:4-5 ⁴ *But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.* ⁵ *Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.*

2. Christians needs to be watchful & know reality of society

1 Thessalonians 5:6 *Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.*