

I John: Lesson #90 – Stay Faithful to the Son
Notes for Parents to Study With Their Children
For Wednesday, April 15th

Read I John 2:18-28; 3:22 – 4:6; 4:14-15 (a simplified explanation of the text will be supplied at the end of these notes.)

Memory Verse: I John 4:15 “Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.”

Believing the Truth About Jesus

We have talked about before that there are three very important things we must believe about Jesus.

- **Jesus was the Christ.** The words “Christ” and “Messiah” are terms that describe the One especially chosen by God. In the Old Testament, prophets said that this Special Person was coming. One prophecy said He would be “God with us.” He would do miracles. He would teach great things. He would die to save us from our sins. He would be resurrected. And He would rule the world from God’s throne.
- **Jesus was the Son of God.** Jesus was not just a man. He lived as God along with God the Father, before He came to this earth. When Jesus was born, His Father was God. He was the only person ever to be born this way. He is God’s only begotten Son. Jesus loved us so much that He gave up all the glory, honor and beauty He had in heaven to come help us be saved. When Jesus ascended, He went back to Heaven and all the glory He once had was restored to Him. He has been chosen by God His Father to rule over everything. One day Jesus will judge the whole world.
- **Jesus came to earth and lived in a fleshly body.** Jesus was not only the Son of God, but He also often called Himself the Son of man. Jesus was born. He grew up in a family. His body was just as real as our bodies. He got hungry. He got tired. He could bleed. And He could die. Jesus never chose to sin, but He understood what it meant to be tempted. To die for our sins, Jesus had to have a real body. Because Jesus took on the appearance of a man, you would not have been able to look at Him and see that He was really the Son of God. His heavenly glory was seen in what He taught, in the miracles He did, and in His resurrection.
- John said that he was a witness of these truths about Christ. He says it is important that we never give up believing these things.

These Christians Had Been Taught the Truth

- When Jesus was on the earth He taught His disciples. After Jesus left the earth, He sent the Holy Spirit to tell the apostles all the truth they needed to know to serve God and go to heaven. From the very beginning, the apostles had preached these things and written them in the books of the New Testament.
- John is writing now to remind Christians to keep following what Jesus had revealed to the apostles. John said, “I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you know it...” (I John 2:21). These Christians knew what the truth was. They just needed to stay with it. In I John 2:24 he says, Therefore let that

abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father.”

- John says that they have been anointed with the truth. To be anointed usually meant that something like oil or perfume was poured on you. But in the Old Testament, when someone was about to be appointed as King or a prophet, they would be anointed with oil. So to be anointed meant that God had blessed you to serve Him. These Christians of John’s time had already been anointed with God’s Word. Because Jesus had already anointed them with truth, they didn’t need someone new to come along and teach them. They just needed to continue in the same teaching that had been given them from the beginning.
- If we want to please God today, we must keep following all that Jesus revealed in the New Testament. These are His commands and His teaching.

Some Were Teaching Different Things

- John said some of His time starting to teach things different from what Jesus and the apostles had taught them at the beginning. These people, both the teachers and their followers, had left the truth and broken away from the true Christians. John is writing to faithful Christians so that they will not be led into believing these false ideas.
- Christians were warned that many false prophets have gone out into the world. God’s people should not believe every thing other people said, but test and examine to see if their doctrines really came from God’s Word.
- These that had left the truth did not believe in the same Jesus that the apostles taught. Some denied He was the Christ. Some said He was not the Son of God. And some claimed that He did not really live in a fleshly body.
- The apostle John warned that those who said that Jesus was not the Christ were liars. Those who died that Jesus was the Son of God, did not have God as their Father. Those who claimed that Jesus did not live in a fleshly body did not belong to God.
- John says that these who taught these false ideas about Jesus were “antichrists”. The word “anti” means that they were against the true Christ, or that they were putting something in place of Him. They opposed who Jesus really was.
- All these false ideas about Jesus came from the world, not from God. We must stay faithful to the truth about Jesus and never follow false ideas.

Simplified Explanation of the Text

Antichrists Had Left the True Church

2:18 Little children, this is the last hour. Just as you’ve heard that antichrist would come, and that now many antichrists have come, this let’s us know that it is the last hour.

19 These have gone out from us, but they were not of us, because whoever was really of us would have remained with us. But when they left, it clearly showed that they were not truly of us.

John Writes to Those Who Had the Anointing of Truth

20 But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know everything.

21 I'm not writing to you because you don't know the truth, but because you do know it and that no lie comes from the truth.

22 For instance, when someone says that Jesus is not the Christ, they are liars. That person is an antichrist who has denied the Father and the Son.

23 Anyone who denies the Son, cannot have the Father. Everyone that confesses the Son has the Father, too.

24 So let the teaching you learned from the beginning continue to remain in you. If what you heard from the beginning remains in you, then you too will remain in the Son and the Father.

25 And this is the promise that He promised us – eternal life.

26 These things I'm writing to you about those who are trying to deceive you and lead you astray.

27 But this anointing which you have received from Him still remains in you. You don't need any of these to come along and teach you. Just as that same anointing you have teaches you everything, and is not a lie but the truth. By continuing in what has been taught you, you will remain in Him.

28 And now, little children, remain in Him so that when Jesus appears we can have confidence and not be ashamed as we stand before Him when He arrives.

We Must Carefully Follow What He Commanded Us

3:22 And what we ask God for, we will receive from Him because are carefully keeping His commandments, and are doing the things that are pleasing in His sight.

23 And these are things He has commanded us: That we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and that we should love one another.

24 And those who keep His commands will remain in Him, and He will remain in them. And in this we can know that He remains in us through the Spirit which He gave us.

Warnings About False Prophets Who Speak From the World, Not From God

4:1 Beloved, don't believe every spirit, but test and examine the spirits to see if they are truly of God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

2 Now this is a way you can know if it's the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ came in the flesh is from God.

3 And every spirit that does not confess that Jesus came in the flesh is not from God. This is antichrist (one who is against the true Christ, who says and does things opposite from Christ's teaching, and puts themselves in His place). You've heard that this would come, and now it is already in the world.

4 You, little children, are of God and have won a victory over him because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

5 Some who speak of Jesus may appear religious, but because they speak false things about Him, they, in reality, are of the world. And they speak ideas that have come from the world, and the world listens to them.

6 We are of God. All those who truly know God will listen to us, but those who don't know God aren't willing to listen to us. This is how we know and see the difference between those who are following the spirit of truth and those who are following the spirit of error.

4:14 And we have seen and are witnesses to the truth that the Father sent the Son as the Savior of the world.

15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwells in them and they dwell in God.