

Lakeview Christian Center  
School of the Word  
1<sup>st</sup> John  
Nick Missios

**April 17, 2022**

## Lesson 13 – 1 John 2:18-23

### Recap

The “three-legged stool” of faith: ***the moral test, the relational test, and the doctrinal test***

These evidences of faith are non-fungible – We can’t compensate for a shortcoming of one stool-leg by lengthening another.

We are becoming familiar with John’s use of language and his style of writing

- Dense writing with little or no “fluff”
- Frequently repeated words packed with meaning
  - Children, life, light, know, love, truth, etc.
- Structured, tight, logical passages

v. 18:

Children, it is the last hour  
And as you have heard that antichrist is coming  
even now many antichrists have come.  
By this we know it is the last hour

v. 19:

They went out from us  
But they did not belong to us  
For if they had belonged to us  
They would have remained with us

### Those who have departed

**What John *is not* talking about:**

1. This is *not* believers who have departed to move to another church, perhaps in another city
2. This is *not* a case of genuine believers having lost their faith

## The Doctrine of the Preservation/Perseverance of the Saints

*The perseverance of the saints means that all those who are truly born again will be kept by God's power and will persevere as Christians until the end of their lives, and that only those who persevere until the end have been truly born again. – Wayne Grudem, Systematic Theology*

- 1 John 2:19a – They went out from us, but they did not belong to us; for **if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us**. However, they went out so that it might be made clear that none of them belongs to us.
- Matthew 7:23 – Then I will announce to them, ‘I **never** knew you. Depart from me, you lawbreakers!’
- Romans 8:29-30 – For those he **foreknew** he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, so that he would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those he **predestined**, he also **called**; and those he called, he also **justified**; and those he justified, he also **glorified**.
- Philippians 2:12b-13 – **work out** your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is **God who is working** in you both to will and to work according to his good purpose.

### What this *is* talking about:

John describes these as “the antichrist” and “antichrists”

- They “do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh” (2 John 7)
- He is “the liar” who “denies that Jesus is the Christ” (1 John 2:22)
- He “denies the Father and the Son” (1 John 2:22)

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- They embody a “spirit that does not confess Jesus” (1 John 4:3)
- "What they say is from the world and the world listens to them." (1 John 4:5)
- They are people who apparently were part of the body of believers, but “went out” from that body (1 John 2:19)

## Those who remain faithful

This is the focus of the passage and, indeed, the whole book

John is writing so that their faith may not be shaken

1 John 5:13 – I have written these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God **so that you may know** that you have eternal life

John uses his description of an antichrist to provide a relief against which he describes of a true disciple

- They have an anointing from the Holy One (1 John 2:20)
  - Luke 4:18-19 (from Is. 61:1-2) – The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has **anointed** me to **preach good news to the poor**. He has sent me to proclaim **release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor**.
  - Acts 10:37-38 You know the events that took place throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John preached: how God **anointed** Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, and **how he went about doing good and healing all** who were under the tyranny of the devil, because God was with him.

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- The anointing of God is not a vague thing; it is the empowering of the Holy Spirit for the accomplishment of a mission
- This mission may be “big” or “small”; **any** obedience to God requires the power of the Holy Spirit
  - Matthew 5:21,23 – “Well done, **good and faithful servant**”
- They know the truth (1 John 2:20)
  - John 15:26 - “When the Counselor comes, the one I will send to you from the Father—the **Spirit of truth** who proceeds from the Father—he **will testify about me.**”
  - The Holy Spirit opens the eyes of the blind to know the truth about the person and work of Jesus Christ
- They confess the Son (1 John 2:23)
  - The specific truth referenced (in contrast with the “liar” in v. 2:22) is the truth that Christ has come as God incarnate to live a perfect life, take on man’s sin, die a brutal death, and rise again on the third day
  - The antichrists denied the Son because they placed their personal philosophies and worldviews in authority over their theology – their narrow docetic worldview wouldn’t allow room for an infinite God to take on finite human flesh
  - Without the bodily incarnation of the Son, there is no sacrificial atonement for sins and no resurrection of the dead!

**APPLICATION: Let’s go worship the risen Son!**