

Proof of Life: Living True in Light of the False

1 John 2:18-27

Introduction

- PRAY
- John in his letter has been dealing with tests of assurance of salvation while engaging the false teachers that are (essentially) among those bringing doubts due to false teaching
- There have been tests of acknowledgement & confession of sin; tests of broken patterns of sinful practice; tests of obedience to the Scriptures; tests of loving the body of Christ; and tests of deepest affection (loving the world or Christ)
- Today, there is a test, but it is more implicit. What John deals with explicitly are the antichrist / false teachers, their description and the encouragement of the church to continue on
- It is in that exhortation / reminder to carry on that we find our implicit test. In light of acknowledging your own sin, seeing patterns of sin broken and loving the body, do you persevere in your faith by persevering with the body of Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit?

The Truth About Antichrists

- **A Sign that it's the Last Hour**
 - Antichrist's have been here and are here...
 - Many and the One
 - In the broadest sense, a denier of Christ (and consequently His church)
 - This bears a warning of pending judgment for those who have denied that Jesus is the Christ
- **They are among the church...but not for long**
- **They are markedly different than true believers (vv.20-21)**

- **They are marked by deceit - the Johannine mark of all sinfulness (vv.22-23,26)**
 - Haters of the truth that Jesus is the Christ (John 20:30-31)
 - Consequently deny the Father and the Son – leaving themselves as the final authority
 - Unbelievers altogether (exclusivity of Jesus Christ)
 - Promote their deceit – capture others in their sin

The Truth About Christians

- **Children aware of their condition**
 - There is a sense in John's statement in v.18 that nothing else needs to happen prior to Christ's second coming.
 - Stop looking for signs...long for Christ!
 - This is a statement of great hope for the true believer – an expectation of the second coming has a way of centering the believer on the Gospel and his / her affections & longings
 - Christians persevere both in Christ and the church
 - This is a type of encouragement as well for those who persevere. It's a part of assurance that one is indeed saved.
- **Depend on the indwelling of the Holy Spirit...evidenced (vv.20-21)**
 - True believers have the Holy Spirit
 - Charisma
 - Truth revealed and confirmed – the truth is the person, nature, identity of Jesus Christ
 - True believers love the truth and want others to know this truth
 - In word
 - In deed (deeds carried out in God)
- **Distinctly about the Truth, and no mixture thereof (vv.22-23)**
 - As opposed to the teaching of these antichrist / secessionists, the true believer loves the truth
 - Can identify the false (liar), rejecting their teaching in total

- **Persevere beginning with the Gospel heard (v.24)**
 - What they heard is what John's been talking about: The message is the gospel – this is our only message worth giving (it is the only hope to the unbeliever and the believer)
 - The Gospel is to be remembered and before us regularly
 - The Gospel is to be lived in - abiding

- **Persevere to the Blessed End...A Promise (v.25)**
 - Promise that Gospel abiding means true conversion
 - Promise of eternal life (now and then)
 - Massively important to the believer
 - 1 John.....
 - No cause to fear even that primary antichrist when he comes – even if your eschatology turns out to be wrong and you do go through the tribulation. There is no fear, for we hope in an eternal God, Son, and Holy Spirit

- **Understand the dangers in the journey in between (v.26)**
 - Know the truth of the gospel
 - Know that there are those “antichrists” who are seeking to destroy the church with falsehood

- **Depend on the sufficient work of the Holy Spirit through the Sword of the Spirit (v.27)**
 - The fact that the Holy Spirit abides in you will bear the fruit of the Holy Spirit, confirming that you are His and He is yours
 - The truth you hear and know is sufficient and should drive us to dependence upon the working of the Holy Spirit
 - The Spirit anoints the believer to abide in Christ. The Spirit's work always exalts Christ and the gospel!

- It is the last hour (antichrists have come, are here and will come)
- Yields eternal perspective

- **Discern the Body of Christ**

- Rely on the Holy Spirit (Anointed by the Holy Spirit)
- Biblicize your view of church membership
- Abiding in Christ by mutually abiding together
- Why are we here?

- **Know what you know**

- Remember First Things
- Know the Gospel
 - God, Man, Christ, Response
- Abide in Truth (with the promise of eternal life)
 - God the Son
 - God the Father
 - God the Holy Spirit (v.20 – all true believers have the Holy Spirit and He leads them into all truth)
 - Depend on the inner working of the Holy Spirit through the Word of God
 - Basic question – are you depending more on the Spirit (in the Word) or on the flesh (outside of the Word)

How to Live True in Light of the False...
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- **Understand the times**