

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching Out to Leaders Who Can Change the World.

May 2016

True Christianity

INTRODUCTION

Why do you think so many people try to predict timing of the second coming?

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

Read 1 John 2:18-27 (28 -29 in next lesson along with initial verses of chapter 3)

*Note: "Though the term **antichrist** occurs only in John's letters, the concept it expresses appears repeatedly throughout Scripture. It is a compound word that transliterates the Greek word *antichristos*, from *christos* ("Christ") and *anti* ("against," or "in the place of"). The term denotes anyone who opposes Christ, seeks to supplant Him, or falsely represents Him. Such opposition always offers distorted and aberrant views about the nature of Christ." ¹ "His **last hour**, viewed as a theologically technical term, denotes a period of time, whether long or short, that will usher in the termination of all time and the revealing of the final salvation promised by God."² In Christianity the consummation of the kingdom of God, inaugurated in the cross and resurrection of Jesus, will take place at the *parousia* (the return of the resurrected Lord Jesus Christ). The establishment of the kingdom will be opposed by the coming of the antichrist. That the antichrist can come paradoxically affirms that the Christ has come, for he cannot oppose that which has no reality. Since Jesus has inaugurated the kingdom, John can say with assurance that it is the last hour." ² The timing of the *parousia* is unknown.*

1. To whom is John speaking? Vs 18
2. Who infiltrated the church and then left? Vs 19 Why did they originally join?
3. Why would an all-powerful God allow deceivers to come into the church and lure people away?
4. If one characteristic of antichrists is that they leave the fellowship, how can you tell if people leave for the proper reason? What would be some good reasons to leave?
5. If another characteristic of antichrists is that they deny the faith (that Jesus is the Christ) then how could a fellowship make sure that everyone in their group is a true believer? **1 Cor 15:1-4**
6. How does the scriptural view of Jesus become distorted? **John 1:14; Jn 1:1; Heb 4:14; Gal 3:13**
7. If antichrists' nature is to confuse the faithful, what is to prevent you from improperly labeling someone just because you are temporarily confused? **Matt 24:24; Jn 10:4-5; Jn 10:27-29**
8. If all true Christians have an anointing from the Holy One, what is it? Vv 20, 27
9. How does one get it? **2 Cor 1:21-22; Rom 8:9**
10. If John asserts that believers can know the truth by themselves, what is the value and purpose of pastors and teachers? **Eph 4:11-12; 1 Cor 12:28**
11. What does a healthy skepticism of teaching look like? **Col 2:8; Acts 17:11**
12. What modern movements, denominations, religions and organizations fit John's descriptions of antichrists?

APPLICATION

How can you make sure you are learning truth?

¹ MacArthur, J. (2007). *1, 2, 3 John : MacArthur NT Commentary* (94). Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers.

²⁶² Smalley, *1, 2, 3 John*, 95; Bruce, *The Epistles of John*, 64.

² Akin, D. L. (2001). *Vol. 38: 1, 2, 3 John* (electronic ed.). Logos Library System; The New American Commentary (114). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.