

1st, 2nd & 3rd JOHN

INTRODUCTION – PART VIII

{Sunday, July 26, 2020 A.D.}

Main Themes:

- ✓ **Eyewitness testimony** regarding the *The Gospel Message; The Word of Life* manifested in the incarnation, **Son of God/Son of Man** {the full deity and humanity of Jesus Christ, two complete natures, yet one person}.
 - ✓ Jesus Christ, our **Advocate** with the Father.
 - ✓ **Holiness** of God.
 - ✓ **Assurance of Salvation**; the practice of Righteousness.
 - ✓ **The love of God the Father as precedent** to our true biblical love of God and our brothers and sister in Christ.
 - ✓ **The New Commandment; Love one another. Self-sacrificial love**, to love as Jesus Christ loves (to love as God loves).
 - ✓ **Orthodoxy and Orthopraxy**; Right doctrine for the purpose of right practice {belief and behavior/good seed and good fruit/faith and works/walking worthily/faith and life/etc.}
 - ✓ The **discerning/testing/judging** of “the spirits.” Ever reforming one’s self and the church.
 - **Warning** against false teachers and their heretical teaching.
 - **True Believers** versus false converts/antichrists/deceivers/wolves/false teachers/goats/tares/etc.
 - **Antichrists**; Every spirit that does **not** confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh.
 - ✓ **Love and Propitiation**, {we do not normally think about these concepts as belonging together}.
 - **Born of God/Born Again/Born from Above** {regeneration/ passed out of death into life}.
 - **Overcoming the world** {the final triumph of The Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, **King of kings and Lord of lords, The Gospel, The Kingdom of God and The Church.**}
 - **The Exclusivity** of Jesus Christ.
 - The theological criteria conditioning the believer’s extension of **hospitality**.
 - **The Last Days**.
 - **Eternal Life** in Christ.
 - The importance of viewing these three short epistles as **the word of almighty God, breathed out by His Holy Spirit, and necessary for faith and life.**
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Warning against false teachers

True Believers versus false converts

Antichrists; Every spirit that does **not** confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh.

2 Peter 1:16-21

¹⁶ For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but **we were eyewitnesses** of His majesty. ¹⁷ For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such an utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory, "This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased"—¹⁸ and

we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.

¹⁹ So **we have the prophetic word made more sure**, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts. ²⁰ But **know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation,**

²¹ **for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.**

Matthew 7:15-16

¹⁵ "Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. ¹⁶ "You will know them by their fruits.
Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes nor figs from thistles, are they?

Matthew 24:24

²⁴ "For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect.

2 Peter 2:1-3

¹ But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves. ² Many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned; ³ and in their greed they will exploit you with false words; their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.

2 Timothy 4:1-5

¹ I solemnly charge *you* in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: ² preach the word; be ready in season *and* out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.

³ For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, ⁴ and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths. ⁵ But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

Romans 1:18-19

¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, ¹⁹ because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them.

1 John 4:1-4

¹ Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. ² By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God; ³ and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world. ⁴ You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.

Matthew 13:5-6

⁵ "Others fell on the rocky places, where they did not have much soil; and immediately they sprang up, because they had no depth of soil. ⁶ "But when the sun had risen, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away.

1 John 2:19

¹⁹ They went out from us, but they were not *really* of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but *they went out*, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us.

ALL SCRIPTURE REFERENCES ARE NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE, 1995 UPDATE, UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED.

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Characteristics of the Antichrists

1. Falsehood with premeditated intention to deceive
2. Rebellion against the Lordship of God/autonomous human reason -- humanism
3. Undermining the truth or authority of the word of God – “Indeed has God said . . . ?????”
4. “god manifest -- with us”/desire of worship
5. Speaking/writing irreverently about God/word of God
6. Failure to show God Holy by word or life
7. Disregard for the supreme worth of God – supreme self worth/pride
8. Evil essence
9. Hardened against God and His people (persecution of the people of God)
10. Human vengeful rage/wrathful anger
11. Encourager of apostasy/disloyalty/unfaithfulness
12. Work works against the end of God’s work (God works to make the profane holy)
13. Satanic