

Going Deeper: Antichrists 1 John 2:18-29

January 31, 2010

We are at war. I'm not talking about Iraq, Iran or Afghanistan. Read Ephesians 6:10-12. It indicates that our fight isn't against flesh and blood but against the spiritual forces of evil. Christians are the hands and feet of Jesus. We are charged with carrying out his mission here on earth. Matthew 28:19-20 is the mission that Jesus himself gave to his followers before departing for Heaven. Jesus also told his disciples in Mark 9:39-40 that anyone who isn't against us is for us. Some will be against us.

Satan has followers too. Some are openly hostile to Christians and our Savior Jesus. Others don't even realize they are serving him just by being agnostic. Satan's followers also have a mission. They want to draw people away from Jesus. 1 Peter 5:8-9 refers to Satan as a roaring lion. Peter says that Satan prowls around looking for people to devour. He uses weapons such as doubts, distractions, temptations and lies to get us off our mission. Do not ignore the fact that some will try to deceive you into believing lies.

One of the greatest lies taught to children today is that we are not created beings made in the image of God by His loving hand. Instead we are taught in school to believe that we are evolved beings that crawled out of primordial sludge to become the dominant species on earth. This lie called evolution is taught as truth. But it denies the truth told to us by God in Genesis. If the creation story isn't true then it causes doubt about Jesus. Anything that denies Jesus is a lie. Those that perpetuate it are liars.

You must become adept at knowing who to trust. John warned the first century church that the antichrist would come 1 John 2:18. Other references to the antichrist are 2 Thessalonians 2:3 and Rev. 13:1-10. But, John also warned that many antichrists have already come. **Read 1 John 2:18-27.**

Group Discussion

- 1) Why does John say that this is the last hour?
- 2) To whom is John referring when he talks about many antichrists?
- 3) What does an antichrist look like?
- 4) John refers to the truth in v.21. What is the truth?
- 5) Referring to Jesus' teaching in Mark 9:39-40, how do we recognize those who are against us in light of John's teachings?

- 6) Obviously, we are **not** talking about a physical and violent confrontation with those who are against us so what weapons do we use against them?
- 7) What anointing is John referring to in v.20? Why isn't that enough? What responsibility do we have as followers?

Life Application

- 8) What are you doing in your life to insure that you don't become deceived by lies?
- 9) What weapons are you using in your battle? If it was a physical war would you feel that you were doing enough to ensure your preparedness?
- 10) Do you have the anointing that John described?
- 11) How could you better equip yourself?
- 12) What spiritual disciplines do you need to begin working on? Name them.