

Wednesday in the Word  
Digging Deeper  
November 3, 2021  
Battle Lines

1 John 2:18-23 KJVS

[18] Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time. [19] They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us. [20] But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things. [21] I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth. [22] Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son. [23] Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: *(but) he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also.*

Battle lines are being drawn. John's first letter declares that his initial readers were already in the 'last days'. He also states that the spirit of antichrist was already present and busy among the fellowship. This, almost 2000 years ago. The church was under persecution from without and false teaching from within. This section of scripture seeks to secure us in our faith and to separate us from the influence of the world. This spiritual battle has grown steadily since the writing of this epistle and has manifested itself horribly over the centuries. Often, our war is best waged when we simply know and follow the Truth. God will defend His own. Romans 12:17-21. We here in the good ol' USA have lived in peace thanks to the wisdom of our Founding Fathers and the vigilance of our military strength. Things are changing. The persecuted Christian community suffers now more than ever worldwide and new evils are propagating daily here in America. Our rights are under threat and our message is being squashed. Some believe that The Antichrist of the prophecy of Revelation is already alive and being groomed to rise to the world stage. Revelation 13:3-9, Daniel 9:27, Matthew 24:15. In verse 19, John adds an interesting side note to our understanding. The antichrist spirit spoken of here and elsewhere (1 John 4:3) actually develops from the ranks of the elect. False teachers arise from within the church or from the fringe of our teaching. 2 Peter 2:1. The unction in verse 20 is described by Thayer as anything smeared on, unguent, ointment, usually prepared by the Hebrews from oil and aromatic herbs. Anointing was the inaugural ceremony for priests. An anointing is to ceremonially confer divine or holy office upon a priest or monarch. Using this model as referring to us as is implied in our text, we have been anointed, not ceremonially with oil but in a very real spiritual transaction by the Holy Spirit's work in us, due to the salvation of our souls by Jesus' work on the cross. We are anointed or chosen by God to know what He determines for us to know to do His work. We can step out in faith. John's statement that we "know all things" is based on the Indwelling Holy Spirit imparting the Mind of Christ on us. 1 Corinthians 2:10-16. We are eternally blessed to share in the Mind of Christ. We know the truth because we know Truth. We recognize and discern truth and we perceive deception and lies because we can think with His Mind. 1 Corinthians 12:10, Hebrews 4:12, 5:12-14.

If we walk in His Spirit and in His Light, we cannot be deceived by the spirit of antichrist and we will not be deceived by The Antichrist. In verse 22, the use of the word Christ is quite deliberate. Christ means 'Anointed One'. Our unction or anointing unites us with Christ, The Anointed One. The power of understanding in our anointing is in the Holy One Who is Truth and exposes lies and thereby we recognize the preaching of false teachers. Is Jesus Christ the One Anointed to pay for the sins of the world? Is Jesus Christ the One Anointed to save sinners from hell? Is Jesus Christ the One and only way to eternal life with the Father? (V23). Is any other message being preached from the pulpit of the church you attend? Hence, the battle. There is one God and one Savior. All else is lie. 1 Corinthians 8:6. We battle all who try to tell us otherwise. Revelation 16:14.