

NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH BIBLE INSTITUTE

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I JOHN 2 VS 18-29

“TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES”

**INTRO: “IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE WHAT YOU BELIEVE, JUST AS LONG AS YOU ARE SINCERE!”** THAT STATEMENT EXPRESSES THE PERSONAL PHILOSOPHY OF MANY PEOPLE TODAY, BUT IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT WEATHER MOST OF THOSE WHO MAKE HAVE REALLY THOUGHT IT THROUGH. IS “**SINCERITY**” THE MAGIC INGREDIENT THAT MAKES SOMETHING TRUE? IF SO THEN YOU OUGHT TO BE ABLE TO APPLY IT TO ANY AREA OF LIFE, AND NOT JUST RELIGION.

**EXAMPLE:** A NURSE IN A CITY HOSPITAL GIVES SOME MEDICINE TO A PATIENT, AND THE PATIENT BECOMES VERY ILL. THE NURSE WAS SINCERE, BUT THE MEDICINE IS WRONG, AND THE PATIENT ALMOST DIES.

IT TAKES MORE THAN “**SINCERITY**” TO MAKE SOMETHING TRUE. FAITH IN A LIE WILL ALWAYS CAUSE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES; FAITH IN THE TRUTH IS NEVER MISPLACED.

**EXAMPLE:** IT DOES NOT MAKE A DIFFERENCE WHAT A MAN BELIEVES! IF A MAN WANTS TO DRIVE FROM CHICAGO TO NEW YORK, NO AMOUNT OF SINCERITY WILL GET HIM THERE IF THE HIGHWAY IS TAKING HIM TO LOS ANGELES.

**NOTE:** A PERSON, WHO IS REAL, BUILDS A LIFE ON TRUTH, NOT SUPERSTITION OR LIES. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO LIVE A REAL LIFE BY BELIEVING LIES.

SO FAR IN THIS EPISTLE (LETTER) GOD HAS WARNED THE CHURCH FAMILY – “LITTLE CHILDREN” ABOUT:

- A. **CONFLICT BETWEEN LIGHT AND DARKNESS** ( I JOHN 1-2 VS 6)
- B. **CONFLICT BETWEEN LOVE AND HATE** (I JOHN 2 VS 7-17)

AS WE LOOK AT VERSE 18-29 WE IDENTIFY THE NEXT WARNING:

- C. **CONFLICT BETWEEN TRUTH AND ERROR** ( I JOHN 2 VS 18-29)

IT IS NOT ENOUGH FOR A BELIEVER TO WALK IN THE LIGHT AND TO WALK IN LOVE; BUT HE MUST ALSO WALK IN TRUTH THE ISSUES IS **TRUTH** OR CONSEQUENCES

BEFORE JOHN EXPLAINED THE TRAGIC CONSEQUENCES OF TURNING FROM THE TRUTH, HE EMPHASIZED THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE MATTER BY USING TWO SPECIAL TERMS:

1. **THE LAST TIME** (OR LAST HOUR) IS A TERM THAT REMINDS US THAT A NEW AGE HAS DEMANDED ON THE WORLD; (I JOHN 2 VS 8) SINCE THE DEATH AND THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST, GOD IS DOING A “NEW THING” IN THIS WORLD. ALL OF OLD TESTAMENT HISTORY PREPARED THE WAY FOR THE WORK OF CHRIST ON THE CROSS. ALL HISTORY SINCE THAT TIME IS MERELY PREPARATION FOR THE “END” WHEN JESUS COME AND ESTABLISHES HIS KINGDOM. THERE IS NOTHING MORE THAT GOD MUST DO FOR THE SALVATION OF SINNERS.

THE LAST HOUR OR THE LAST TIMES DESCRIBES: MULTIPLE CHOICE

- A. **A KIND OF TIME**
- B. **DURATION OF TIME**

IN OTHER WORDS CHRISTIANS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN LIVING IN “LAST TIME” – IN CRISIS DAYS. IT IS THEREFORE IMPORTANT THAT YOU KNOW WHAT YOU BELIEVE AND WHY YOU BELIEVE IT.

2. **ANTICHRIST** (I JOHN 1 VS 4) IT IS USED IN THE BIBLE ONLY BY JOHN ( I JOHN 2 VS 18,22;4VS 3,2 JOHN 7) IT DESCRIBES THREE THINGS
  - A. **A SPIRIT IN THE WORLD THAT OPPOSES OR DENIES CHRIST**
  - B. **FALSE TEACHERS WHO EMBODY THIS SPIRIT**
  - C. **PERSON WHO WILL HEAD UP THE FINAL WORLD REBELLION AGAINST CHRIST**

NOTE: THE “**SPIRIT OF ANTICHRIST**” (I JOHN 4 VS 3) SINCE SATAN DECLARED WAR ON GOD (GEN3 ). THE “**SPIRIT OF ANTI- CHRIST**” IS BEHIND EVERY.

- A. **FALSE DOCTRINE**
- B. **RELIGIOUS SUBSTITUTE FOR THE REALITIES CHRISTIANS HAVE IN CHRIST**

THE SPIRIT OF ANTI- CHRIST IS IN THE WORLD TODAY. IT WILL ADVENTUALLY LEAD TO THE APPEARANCE OF A “**SATANIC SUPERMAN**” WHOM THE BIBLE CALLS “ANTI-CHRIST” HE IS CALLED “THE MAN OF SIN “OR “LAWLESSNESS” (2 THESS 2 VS 1-12).

THIS PASSAGE EXPLAINS THAT THERE ARE TWO FORCES AT WORK IN TODAY'S WORLD

1. **TRUTH**- IS WORKING THROUGH THE CHURCH BY THE HOLY SPIRIT
2. **EVIL**- IS WORKING BY THE ENERGY OF SATAN

**NOTE:** THE HOLY SPIRIT IN CHRISTIANS ARE HOLDING BACK LAWLESSNESS; BUT WHEN THE CHURCH IS REMOVED AT THE:

**RAPTURE** – (I THESS4 VS 13-18) SATAN WILL BE ABLE TO COMPLETE HIS TEMPORARY VICTORY AND TAKE OVER THE WORLD.

DOES IT MAKE A DIFFERENCE WHAT YOU BELIEVE? IT MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD! WE ARE LIVING IN- CRISIS DAYS- THE LAST HOUR- AND THE SPIRIT OF ANTI- CHRIST IS WORKING IN THE WORLD! IT IS VITALLY IMPORTANT THAT YOU KNOW AND BELIEVE THE TRUTH AND BE ABLE TO DETECT LIES WHEN THEY COME YOUR WAY.

JOHN GIVES THREE OUTSTANDING MARKS OF THE FALSE TEACHER WHO IS CONTROLLED BY “**THE SPIRIT OF ANTICHRIST**”:

- I. **HE DEPARTS FROM THE FELLOWSHIP**- (18-19) “THEY WENT OUT FROM US, BUT THEY WERE NOT OF US; FOR IF THEY HAD BEEN OF US, THEY WOULD HAVE REMAINED WITH US (19) THE WORD US REFERS TO “THE FELLOWSHIP OF BELIEVERS, THE CHURCH” NOT EVERYONE WHO IS A PART OF AN ASSEMBLY OF BELIEVERS IS NECESSARILY A MEMBER OF THE FAMILY OF GOD!

#### **THE NEW TESTAMENT PRESENTS THE CHURCH IN TWO WAYS**

1. **ONE WORLDWIDE FAMILY (UNIVERSAL)** –PAUL COMPARES THIS EXAMPLE WITH

- A. **THE BODY** ( I COR 12)
- B. **A BUILDING** (EPH 2 VS 19-22)

WHEN A SINNER TRUST CHRIST AS SAVIOR, HE RECEIVES ETERNAL LIFE AND IMMEDIATELY BECOMES A MEMBER OF GOD'S FAMILY AND A PART OF CHRIST'S SPIRITUAL BODY

2. **LOCAL UNITS OR ASSEMBLIES** (LOCAL) - AFTER BECOMING A PART OF THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH HE SHOULD THEN IDENTIFY HIMSELF WITH A LOCAL GROUP OF CHRISTIANS (A CHURCH) AND START SERVING CHRIST (ACTS 2 VS 41-42). BUT THE POINT HERE IS THAT A PERSON CAN BELONG

TO A LOCAL CHURCH AND NOT BE A PART OF THE TRUE SPIRITUAL BODY OF CHRIST.

### **EVIDENCES OF TRUE SCRIPTURES**

**DESIRE TO BE WITH PEOPLE OF GOD**- CONSIDER THESE SCRIPTURES

I JOHN 3 VS 14- **“LOVE FOR THE BRETHREN”**

2 PETER 1 VS 4- **SHARE SAME DIVINE NATURE**

ROMANS 8 VS 14- **INDWELT BY THE SAME HOLY SPIRIT**

FELLOWSHIP MEANS- **“TO HAVE IN COMMON”**- WHEN PEOPLE HAVE SPIRITUAL REALITIES IN COMMON, THEY WANT TO BE TOGETHER

**NOTE:** BUT THE COUNTERFEITS CHRISTIANS- MENTIONED IN I JOHN 2 DID NOT REMAIN IN THE FELLOWSHIP THEY WENT OUT. IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT THIS DOES NOT IMPLY THAT STAYING IN THE CHURCH “SAVES A PERSON” RATHER IT INDICATES THAT REMAINING IN THE FELLOWSHIP IS ONE EVIDENCE THAT A PERSON IS TRULY A CHRISTIAN.

**EXAMPLE** (MAT 13 VS 1-9; 18-23) PARABLE OF THE SOWER- JESUS MAKES IT CLEAR THAT ONLY THOSE WHO:

**PRODUCE FRUIT ARE TRULY BORN AGAIN**- IT IS POSSIBLE TO CLOSE TO AN EXPERIENCE OF SALVATION, AND EVEN HAS SOME CHARACTERISTICS THAT MIGHT PASS FOR “CHRISTIAN” AND YET NOT BE A CHILD OF GOD. THE PEOPLE IN VIEW IN I JOHN 2- LEFT THE FELLOWSHIP BECAUSE THEY DID NOT:

1. **POSSESS THE TRUE LIFE**
2. **THE LOVE OF CHRIST WAS NOT IN THEIR HEARTS**

ALL TRUE CHRISTIANS HAVE THESE THINGS IN COMMON

1. **BELIEVE THAT THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD**
2. **JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD**
3. **THEY CONFESS THAT THEY ARE SINNERS AND THE ONLY WAY THEY CAN BE SAVED IS THROUGH FAITH IN CHRIST**
4. **THEY BELIEVE THAT CHRIST DIED AS MAN’S SUBSTITUTE ON THE CROSS AND THAT HE ROSE AGAIN FROM THE DEAD**
5. **THEY BELIEVE THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT INDWELLS TRUE BELIEVES**
6. **THEY BELIEVE THAT JESUS WILL COME AGAIN**

