

**11.01.20 ~ 1John 2:18-27,
Those Who Stay and Those Who Go...**

Last week we studied a certain type of love that God hates (cf. **2:15-17**); that being, to love any ideology that rejects God's Son or any behavior that offends Him.

A major characteristic of those who do not belong to God, is that, not only do they not believe in God's One and Only Son, but they try to deceive others into denying Him as well..

Read 1John 2:18-19... John addresses us as "dear children," and tells us that the Antichrist is coming. John is speaking of a future time when Satan will raise up the final world ruler who will seek to oppose and replace Christ (during the Tribulation Period).

John warns that there are already many antichrists present in the world; these are false teachers who promote doctrine that is hostile toward God's Son and contradictory to God's Word.

John says these false teachers come from within the so-called church, but they never belonged to God, and have departed from fellowship with the true church and now attempt to lead people out of Christianity into false religious belief systems and apostate doctrine.

Most cults and world religions teach something about a person named Jesus; but their teachings deny that He is the One True God and that He alone provides forgiveness for sins and eternal life to everyone who will repent, believe in, and follow Him.

False teachers promote a false Jesus, a false Christ, for they are antiChrists [anti = opposed to, or against] the true Jesus Christ, God's Son, Lord and Savior: Crucified, Resurrected, and Coming Again!

Listen to an overview of some of the most infamous false teachers and anti-christ's in the past 40 Years...

In 1978, **Jim Jones** convinced his followers of the People's Temple in Jonestown, Guyana, to drink Kool-aid laced with cyanide that killed over 900 men, women, and children. Jones, who claimed he was the re-incarnated Christ, was found dead, a gunshot wound to the head.

In 1981, **Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh**: came to the US, after being run out of India, establishing a commune on a 64,000 acre property (purchased for \$5.75 million), known as the Big Muddy Ranch, near Antelope, Oregon. Here he promoted sex to be the first step toward achieving "superconsciousness," and "dynamic meditation," as the path to experience divinity. The village of Rajneeshpuram (as it was named) grew to 3,000 followers (called Rajneeshees),

and eventually, using drastic measures that included wiretapping, voter fraud, arson, salmonella poisoning, and even murder, took over the town of Antelope, renaming it the "City of Rajneeshand." Eventually a criminal investigation was opened, and in 1985 Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh was deported, the city of Antelope reclaimed its name, and the property containing the commune reverted back to the state of Oregon because of past due taxes.

In 1993, in Waco, Texas, **David Koresh** (who said he was the Christ, the Son of God, the Anointed One to Whom the Seven Seals in the Book of Revelation was given) led 85 people, including 20 children and two miscarried babies, to their death (after a 51-day siege, by FBI and ATF, that was ended by fatal gunshots, a raging fire and collapsing buildings). Koresh died of a gunshot wound to the front of the head.

In 1997, **Marshall Applewhite**, a self-proclaimed descendant of Jesus Christ, led 39 members of his Heaven's Gate cult to commit suicide, believing their souls would be transported to a spaceship that was trailing the Hale-Bopp comet.

In 1954, **Sun Myung Moon** a Korean industrialist and religious leader founded the Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity, which became known as the Unification Church. His Disciples, called "Moonies," believed him to be the Messiah. His movement came to the US in the 1970's, with mass weddings and times of blessings for hundreds and even thousands. Moon and his wife were respectively addressed as "Father" and "Mother" by followers, for they epitomized God's ideal family. In 2008 Moon appointed his son Hyung Jin Moon to be leader, and in 2012 Sun Myung Moon died at the age of 92.

In 1994 **Harold Camping** (the President of Family Radio Station since 1958) predicted the world would end on September 6, it didn't; he then predicted it would happen May 21, 2011, it didn't; afterward Camping said God stopped saving people after May 21, 2011 and would end the world on October 21, 2011, Many of his followers gave away their properties and had their pets euthanized, since the world was ending and they were going to heaven. In 2012 Camping died, after a stroke, prolonged health issues, and a bad fall.

There is no lack of those who claim to be Christ and teach false doctrines, or are followers of these anti-christ's and anti-biblical teachings.

Just as John warns us in today's text, Paul warns us in **1Timothy 6:3-5**, and Peter in **2Peter 2:1-3**.

Paul doesn't just warn about them, he names them (cf. **1Timothy 1:18-20; 2Timothy 2:15-19**), Hymenaeus, Alexander, Philetus, "men who strayed from the truth, jeopardizing the faith of some [people]."

You know, I feel obliged to name a few infamous false teachers myself, like: Robert Schuller, Oral Roberts, Paul & Jan Crouch, Jim & Tammy Bakker, Kenneth Hagin, Joyce Meyer, Benny Hinn, Marilyn Hickey, Kenneth & Gloria Copeland, Joel Osteen, Sarah Young, Fred Price, Paula White, T.D. Jakes, Beth Moore, etc.

Those genuinely born again through belief in Jesus Christ will remain true to God's Word. Biblical integrity and spiritual endurance are the ultimate test and mark of all those who eternally belong to God.

Read 1John 2:20-21... The "anointing" we have received is the Holy Spirit (see **Ephesians 1:13-14; John 1:12-13; 3:5-8**). The Holy Spirit not only indwells us, but He guides, protects, and provides for all God's people through God's Word (see **John 14:16-17, 25-29**).

Those who fail to remain in the truth, falling away, believing Satan's lies, rejecting Christ, they never belonged to God in the first place. Salvation is eternal! **Romans 11:29** says it is irrevocable, meaning that it cannot be lost, taken away, or given back.

Read 1John 2:22-23... Antichrists (false teachers and deceivers), deny the One True Faith by rejecting what Scripture teaches about the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ; that He was fully God and fully man. Those who reject what God's Word says set themselves against God (see **John 3:16-18; 5:31-38; 6:28-29, 40; 8:18-19**).

False religions deny that Jesus is God, and that He alone has fulfilled God's sovereign requirements in order to provide, once and for all, forgiveness for sins and eternal life to all who call upon Him.

What do cults and false religions say about Jesus?

Jehovah's Witnesses teach that Jesus is not God; but instead, he is Michael the archangel, the very first creation of God.

Christian Science teaches that Jesus is the human man and Christ is the divine idea, and that Jesus is not eternal, sovereign, or one with the Father.

Mormonism teaches that Jesus was a spirit-child of Elohim (the God of planet earth), and through obedience and devotion Jesus was able to attain Godhood. They believe there are many God's, all of whom were once mortals like us, until they attained Godhood, like Jesus.

Judaism believes in One God, the Creator of the Heavens and the Earth, but it rejects Jesus Christ as God's Son and is still waiting for the Messiah to come.

Islam rejects the idea of redemption, for Muslims believe and teach that salvation depends solely upon man's actions and attitudes, not on the work of God.

Hinduism seeks escape from the endless cycle of birth, death, and rebirth through many incarnations (reincarnations) to final salvation. The path to salvation depends upon and is expedited by acquired spiritual knowledge through meditation, or sacrificial works.

Buddhism declares that ignorance, rather than sin, is the roadblock to salvation, the highest state of being, and the end to the continual rebirth-death-rebirth (reincarnations), which is obtained through heightened levels of meditation that allow one to lose self, and to become spiritually enlightened, reaching Nirvana the highest state of being, which is the cessation of suffering, and the ultimate state of "salvation".

Read 1John 2:24-25... The gospel is God's eternal truth and only those who remain faithful to it will experience a personal, intimate and growing relationship with God, through Christ, on earth, culminating in a personal and eternal relationship in heaven with God, and with all those who genuinely believe in Him.

Read 1John 2:26-27... Antichrists are attempting to deceive God's children, but we have been given the Holy Spirit (The Spirit of Truth: the anointing we received from God at the moment of genuine belief), and we are therefore able to discern truth from falsehood, good from evil.

John is not saying here that we don't need gifted men of God to teach and lead us; but instead, he is affirming that we are not dependent upon human wisdom or the philosophies of godless men -- but on the very Word of God that has been once for all delivered to us by God Himself in the 66 Books of Old and New Testaments (see **2Timothy 3:16-17; 2Peter 1:20-22; Jude 1-4**).

God's Spirit guides and guards all true believers into the truth of God so that we will be able to endure and persevere in sound doctrine as we live out our lives for Christ, just as He gave up His life for us.

If you genuinely belong to God through Christ, God's Spirit will testify to that fact in your heart and through your life as you remain true to God's Word, continually and obediently serving Him on earth individually, but yet not separate from the Body of Christ, the Church, of which you are a member.

And all God's people said, Amen!

Pastor Mike
>'(((<