



1 John 2:15-27
“Warnings/Know Your Enemy”
By Mike Clark

1 John 2:15-27

¹⁵ Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. ¹⁷ And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever. ¹⁸ Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore we know that it is the last hour. ¹⁹ They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us. ²⁰ But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and you all have knowledge. ²¹ I write to you, not because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and because no lie is of the truth. ²² Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son. ²³ No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also. ²⁴ Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father. ²⁵ And this is the promise that he made to us—eternal life. ²⁶ I write these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you. ²⁷ But the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie—just as it has taught you, abide in him.

Now as we begin, I want to remind you of the two themes that John is helping us to see – LIGHT and LOVE.

1st – Light – Truth that stems from Christ and is sustained in Fellowship with each other.

2nd – Love - Treasuring God and how we value each other.

So far in this letter, John has said that the Gospel will cause us to recognize and confess that JESUS is the only way to know God.

... He's said that the Gospel will cause us to recognize and confess our **SINS**...

...And the Gospel will cause us to LOVE other Christians from the heart.

True Christians are those who've had their sins FORGIVEN and have OVERCOME the evil one... through their faith in Jesus,



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AND BECAUSE they **KNOW GOD**, and the **WORD of God lives in them**, Christians LIVE DIFFERENTLY now.

You can tell a true Christian by the way they LIVE and by what they LOVE.

Through GOD'S LOVE for you, the Gospel changes your HEART, and that changes what YOU LOVE...

... Which changes the way you ACT IN this world, AND the way you RELATE TO this world.

In verses 7-11 of chapter 2, John instructed us to love one another. And then John directed attention to believers who were in different spiritual levels.

Pastor Jody told us last week that the main point of verses 12-14 was that we as those who have placed faith in Christ can be ASSURED no matter where we are in our spiritual status that we are SAVED.

As children we are ASSURED by our family's love. As young people we are ASSURED by God's discipline. And as grown-ups, we are ASSURED by relationship with God

And as Pastor Jody pointed out, John changed his wording to say “I WRITE,” meaning that he is indicating where his thoughts are going to go next.

As John begins this next section, he turns to another kind of love...THE LOVE GOD HATES. The love God hates is the love of the world.

The first idea John states here:

1. Don't love the world because you can't love God and the world.

1 John 2.15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

Love for the world is NOT COMPATIBLE with love for God.

Now what does he mean by "the world"?



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The Greek is (kosmos), and it has several meanings in the NT:

It can refer the PHYSICAL world of creation...

It can refer to all the PEOPLE in the world...

And it can refer to the SINFUL KINGDOM of Satan that controls so much of this physical world and so many of the people in it.

So, what's John referring to?

Well, he's NOT saying: Don't love the PEOPLE in the world.

If that were the case, then GOD would be wrong for loving the world and sending His Son to die for it.

NOR is John talking about an utter rejection of the PHYSICAL world that God made.

Because Genesis 1 says God made the world and the things in them, and called them "Good."

AND since that's true, we're free to ENJOY the good gifts of creation...

...BECAUSE every good gift comes from GOD...

...SO it's not wrong to USE the things God made and ENJOY them to His glory.

SO: What John's warning us against, is loving a world SYSTEM that is OPPOSED TO GOD...

...Against having the DESIRES of our HEART SET on worldly or sinful things.

1 John 5.19 We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.

That's another way we can know if we're a true Christian: What do we love?



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So let's think about what it means to "not love the world."

John's words "Do not love" are in the present tense imperative...

That means: This is a command to not love the world ONGOINGLY, continually.

He's not talking about NEVER falling into sin when we're tempted to love the world.

Now that's IDEAL, but in reality, we will ALL stumble into this sin...even true Christians.

He's talking about a **DOMINATING** CHARACTERISTIC of your life...

...An ongoing, controlling DESIRE for the world and the things it offers.

...Being characterized by a predominating ATTRACTION to the things of this world.

Don't let that be **NORMAL** in your life.

The way John puts it here in v. 15 is to say that if you ARE filled with love for the world and the things in it, then you're NOT filled with the love of the Father.

If your heart is NORMALLY DOMINATED by a love for this world, then you're NOT DOMINATED by the love of the Father.

One love crowds out the other.

Matt 6.24a - No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other.

Now what's he talking about when he refers to the "Love of the Father" not being in you?

Well, it probably carries a DOUBLE MEANING, referring both to the LOVE GOD HAS for His people AND the LOVE WE HAVE for Him.



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The FORMER generates the LATTER.
 We love Him because He first loved us.
 BUT it's OUR love for the Father that is mainly in view here.

THAT'S what's at stake in this whole love affair.

SEE: God loves us...that's CLEAR, and that's UNCHANGING.THE PROBLEM is our love for HIM.

... AND that's what John's contrasting: Our love for GOD versus our love for the WORLD.

SO: God and the world are OPPONENTS in this regard.

SEE: When we love the world, we make God a competitor in a war for our AFFECTIONS.

REMEMBER: It's NOT that the physical world itself is completely evil in every way possible and any contact with it is evil.

That's kind of what the Amish believe, but that's not true.

THE PROBLEM is how we TURN TO THE WORLD to find forbidden fulfillment for our affections and lusts...our passions and desires.

Our sinful flesh and our sinful eyes and our proud heart CRAVE MORE OR SOMETHING OTHER than what God gives us to be happy.

SEE: We love the world when we GIVE IT the DEVOTION that belongs only to God...

And we love the world when we LOOK to IT to GIVE US the things that only God can.That's what John's talking about here.

2. Don't love the world because its desires are not from God.

1 John 2.16 For all that is in the world-the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life-is not from the Father but is from the world.



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John says we must guard against THREE THINGS as we live in this world:

Desires of the flesh
 Desires of the eyes
 Pride of life

Those are the things IN US and IN the WORLD that are opposed to God.

Those are the THREE BASIC **WAYS** we love the world and fail to love God.

NOW just like the physical world, in themselves, DESIRES are not evil.

God made us and our bodies and put in us desires for all kinds of things: food, drink, air, heat, companionship, sex.

These are all GOD-GIVEN DESIRES that can be MET IN GOD-APPROVED **WAYS**.

But when our desires go beyond God's approved ways, they become sinful desires. AND THAT'S what John is talking about here:

DESIRES OF THE FLESH:

He's talking about SINFUL desires, IMMORAL passions of the BODY...

... PHYSICAL CRAVINGS... CARNAL LUSTS... HEATED PASSIONS...
SENSUALITY... DESIRES OF THE EYES:

It's those sinful DESIRES that are activated by what we SEE...
 COVETOUSNESS ... MATERIALISM.

PRIDE OF LIFE:

He's talking about being PUFFED UP IN PRIDE because of our POSSESSIONS or our ACHIEVEMENTS ...

...our MATERIAL possessions, our EDUCATIONAL achievements, our INTELLECTUAL capacity, our **COMMON SENSE**, our ABILITIES, our SUCCESS...



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These three things are basically three categories of sin.

Every sin we ever commit is motivated by one or more of these things:

Lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, or the pride of life.

In fact, when Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden, they did ALL THREE!

Gen 3.6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food [the lust of the flesh - She craved the taste of the fruit], and that it was a delight to the eyes [the lust of the eyes], and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise [there's the pride of life - wanting to become "like God"...so...], she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.

True Christians aren't DOMINATED by these kinds of desires.

We'll certainly be GUILTY of them sometimes, even after we become a Christian...

... BUT our lives won't be MARKED by those things, like they mark the rest of the world.

SOMETIMES our hearts become DIVIDED between loving the Lord and loving the things of this world...and that's what John's calling us **AWAY FROM**.

He's reminding us that as God's children, we live by a DISTINCT set of MOTIVATIONS and DESIRES than the rest of the world.

When you become a Christian, God gives you NEW desires...

...Desires shaped by the desires of GOD, and that seek the pleasures of the NEXT world.

True Christians live with ETERNITY in view...Because that's where our hopes are invested.

SO as Christians, our RELATIONSHIP to this world is DIFFERENT than everyone else's in the world.



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3. Don't love the world because it's going to be destroyed.

1 John 2.17 And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

SEE: John's appeal is to TURN **AWAY** from WORLDLINESS.

Once again, John says this in the present tense... MEANING: that the world's passing away IS AN ONGOING PROCESS.

History is NOT an endless cycle...it's SPEEDING TOWARD A CONCLUSION that has been determined by God.

Back in v. 8, John said that this darkness is passing away because Jesus Christ has COME and the LIGHT of the Gospel is **NOW SHINING** in the world...

...And because of it, the darkness is already passing away.

SO: Through the coming of Jesus Christ, God has set in motion the beginning of the end of the world.

Because of all that's been set in motion by God through the coming of Jesus, the world is **PASSING AWAY** and ITS DAYS ARE NUMBERED!

And John says at the end of **v.17**: "the one who does the will of God will live forever."

There's coming a day when ALL THAT NOW IS will pass away, but those that do God's will, WILL NOT **PASS AWAY** WITH IT...they will live on forever.

SO: What does it mean to do the will of God?

It means **AVOIDING** the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.

It means **LOVING** the Creator more than the creation. It means **BELIEVING** in His Son Jesus Christ.

And that's how we gain assurance of our salvation.



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True Christians...the ones who will live forever...are the ones who follow Jesus...they want to do God's will.

They're not dominated by a pattern of desires for the things of this world OR pride in their lives.

They may stumble, but the DOMINANT PATTERN of their lives is to want to AVOID such things, and do the will of God instead.

NOW in verse 18-27 John issues a warning... AND he's warning us to try to keep us safe. Here's what he's going to say:

ALLOW the message you heard at the beginning...allow the message of the Gospel...to **REMAIN** in you...

.And BEWARE that false Christians...antichristian people that were ONCE IN the Christian community ... BEWARE that they will try to DECEIVE you.

Surprisingly, these antichrists were once in the church... but have left it.

What protection do we have against being deceived by them?

John gives us three ways to protect ourselves:

4. Realize that antichrists are those that deceive.

John reminds us of the time in which we live...We live in the last days... "the last hour", as he puts it here.

1 John 2.18 Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore we know that it is the last hour.

The last days are THE WHOLE PERIOD OF TIME that began at the FIRST **COMING** of Jesus, and runs all the way through to His SECOND COMING.

And one of the key characteristics of the last days is:

There are "many antichrists."



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SO BEWARE: There are **MANY** deceivers in the world today! Jesus very clearly told us that there would be false Christians.

Matt 24.24 For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect.

Mark 13.23 But be on guard; I have told you all things beforehand.

A FALSE CHRIST is an antichrist...because both are opposed to the true Christ.

And a FALSE CHRISTIAN is also an antichrist...BECAUSE as Jesus explained in Matt 12.30... since they're not truly WITH Christ, they're AGAINST Him.

Now today, we're used to hearing Christians talk about THE Antichrist...the coming of a powerful world ruler that will exalt Himself against God and lead many astray.

But that's NOT the ONLY Antichrist...there have been **MANY, LESSER** antichrists inworld HISTORY...

And there are **MANY** of them TODAY... whose INFLUENCE is ALREADY being felt.

They speak in Jesus' name, but are actually DECEIVING people and LEADING people **AWAY** from Jesus by their false teaching... They're false prophets.

And John says BEWARE, because:

Many antichrists attend church!

1 John 2.19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us.

There are antichrists that CLAIM to be Christians, and are a PART of the Christiancommunity...

...But they're NOT true Christians.



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They might be members of the CHURCH but they're not truly members of CHRIST.

And John says you can tell for SURE that they're antichrists when they end up forsaking the church.

If they'd been TRUE Christians, they would've REMAINED in Christian fellowship and worship, and NOT have abandoned it.

But their leaving it REVEALS the truth about them... that they are NOT OF us. And as this passage unfolds, John reveals what they do after they leave.

v. 22 says they DENY that Jesus is the Christ

v. 26 says that they try to lead true Christians ASTRAY by DECEIVING them.

AND John is telling us this TO **WARN US**: There are **MANY** antichrists...who are in the church...

...BUT they're not true Christians, they're non-Christians.

In fact, they're actually ANTI-Christians, because inside, they're antiCHRIST.

They don't truly BELIEVE on Christ, they only PROFESS Him.

They TALK about Him but don't TRUST Him.

They PROFESS Him, but don't POSSESS Him.

They've learned to MIMIC Christian behavior and speech, BUT INTERNALLY they're filled with SATAN...NOT the Spirit of God.

They're COUNTERFEITS ... Really good counterfeits ... ACTORS.

We could call them GOSPEL HYPOCRITES.

They know the Gospel, but their salvation isn't real.

SO: How do you know who they are?



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Well, you CAN'T always know at first.

You often have to just **WAIT AND SEE**... see if they ENDURE in the faith.

Jesus said you will know a tree by it's fruits...you'll know a true Christian by their fruits...AND you'll know a false convert by their fruits.

It may take a while, but usually the truth will eventually come out.False converts are sometimes very hard to detect for a long time.

Because they LEARN how to TALK like Christians and ACT like Christians, and even THINK that they themselves ARE a Christian, when they're really not.

Outwardly they LOOK real, but not inwardly they AREN'T real.

They're like JUDAS...

Judas Iscariot was a COUNTERFEIT CHRISTIAN, who deceived the very Apostles themselves... UNTIL the very end, when the TRUTH came out.

He FELL **AWAY**... He fell prey to materialism, greed... to the lust of the eyes. It finally consumed him and drove him **AWAY** from Jesus and His disciples.

And often that's when you finally figure out the truth about Gospel hypocrites ... about counterfeit Christians...

... In the END they eventually fall away.

What John is teaching us here in v. 19 is that: False converts don't last.

True Christians do... True Christians will endure to the end.

Phil 1.6 And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

That's a really reassuring verse for a true believer!



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If you are truly born again, then God will complete the work of salvation he's begun in you.

Rom 8.30 *And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.*

That's the unbreakable chain of salvation... if you've been justified by faith in Jesus, then you're going to be glorified in the end... that's a Gospel guarantee.

1 Cor 1.7-9 *Jesus Christ ... will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.*

That's a huge relief! And a powerful assurance to our faith!

...Which is no doubt why Jude closes his little letter with this expression of praise:

Jude 1.24-25 *Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, 25 to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord,*

True Christians will endure to the end... God will see to it Himself!

This is the powerful doctrine called the PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS.

God causes all true believers to endure to the end.

HE is faithful to complete what he's begun in us and carry us home to Heaven.

He PRESERVES us and he causes us to keep PERSEVERING in the faith.

So when we endure to the end, HE gets the credit for it, not us.

BUT!...counterfeit Christians will eventually be discovered.

God OFTEN uncovers them BEFORE the judgment day... so that we can see them and be warned by them.



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BUT there will also be some that will deceive everyone but God, even until the end.

Jesus said:

***Matt 7.22-23** On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' 23 And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'*

So, in the end, God will expose the truth about them.

BUT oftentimes, they expose THEMSELVES by not enduring in the faith to the end.

John is telling us that that is a key evidence that a person never had saving faith.

Because saving faith is enduring faith.

SO: That's one of the evidences that you are a true Christian: you endure to the end... You don't fall away.

You may STRUGGLE and SIN and SUFFER and **WANT TO GIVE** up at times...

...BUT those who belong to the Lord Jesus possess persevering grace. Those that truly belong to Jesus DON'T DENY Jesus in the end.

Have you ever known someone who YOU THOUGHT was a Christian, but then they turned away from the Lord?

What do you make of that?

You say to yourself, "*I really thought they were a Christian*".... "*How could they not be a Christian?.... I knew them so well.*"

I've seen that happen in people I've known. I went to seminary with a friend who I thought was a Christian. After he graduated he converted to Catholicism and then went on to do another 3 years of Catholic seminary and is now an ordained priest!



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These are people we love...It's absolutely heartbreaking...and sometimes confusing.

We really thought they were Christians.What do we make of that?

Well, this verse is VERY CLARIFYING.

This verse, and the many verses about enduring to the end are really helpful in clarifying the truth about people like that.

It says the REASON they went out FROM us is because they were never OF us.

They never knew the Lord, and the Lord never knew them...
 ...SO they were NEVER really one of us... They were never true Christians.

They were COUNTERFEITS like Judas.

Sometimes this can be really hard to come to grips with...

...The painful realization that the person you love is NOT SAVED.

Your LOVE for them and your FEAR for their eternal destiny can be a really hardthing to face.

And it can even shake your own faith.

"How can all this be true if even THEY fell away?...They used to be so STRONG!"

But remember: The LORD didn't fail them...And the TRUTH didn't fail them.

They've FORSAKEN the Lord and His truth.

In spite of all their EXPOSURE to the truth, they grew SKEPTICAL of it and TURNED **AWAY** from it for lies.

And we can PRAY for them, and we can still LOVE them. And we SHOULD!



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But we can't go on being deceived ABOUT them...or BY them.

They need true saving faith in the Gospel of Jesus Christ...So pray for that for them.

And try to PERSUADE them of it when you're able. The Lord may grant them MERCY and REPENTANCE.

1 Tim 2.24-26 And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, 25 correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, 26 and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.

So pray for that for them...that God would grant them repentance and a knowledge of the truth.

But what about you? What's going to happen to you? What's your story going to be? Are you going to last?

If you belong to Jesus Christ you WILL last forever.. You will LIVE forever. Rest in that promise...He has promised that he will NEVER lose one of His own.

As much as you may STUMBLE and FALL into sin, and HATE it, the fact is...HE STILL LOVES YOU AS HIS CHILD.

And as his child, you still LOVE Him and stand in AWE of Him don't you? You still BELIEVE His Word, don't you?

And you still HATE it when you sin against Him, don't you?

That's REALLY GOOD EVIDENCE that you're a true Christian...that you will LAST and you will LIVE forever. [

YET if your MIND...your THOUGHTS and IDEAS about God and the Bible...

...If they keep DRIFTING FURTHER AND FURTHER FROM the teachings of the whole Bible, and AWAY FROM the historic teachings of the Christian Gospel...



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...OR if your LIFE keeps FILLING MORE AND MORE WITH SINS and BEHAVIORS that you FEEL NO REAL DESIRE TO TURN FROM...

Then you need to be put on ALERT that you may be a COUNTERFEIT CHRISTIAN.

And that should really SCARE you...and **WAKE** you up...and MOTIVATE you to turn and follow Jesus as His true disciple.

But if that's the thing that SCARES YOU THE MOST... to FALL **AWAY** from the Lord and His Word like that...THEN BE ENCOURAGED!...

.. .Because that's EVIDENCE that His grace IS at work in you...that you ARE a true believer.

Those are GOD'S DESIRES at work you CAUSING you to want to do His will...
 ...That's GOD'S HEART **AND MIND** at work in your heart and mind. SO GIVE HIM THANKS if that's true of you.

"Thank you Lord for changing my heart....please change it some more..."

"I love you and I want to please you...Help me be faithful to you to the end."

That's how a true Christian feels. True Christians STUMBLE and FALL into sin, but they DON'T FALL **AWAY**.

True Christians sometimes STAGNATE spiritually, and will even SLIDE **BACKWARDS** at times, but they **WON'T FALL AWAY**.

That's a KEY WAY to tell a real Christian from a false one.

AND, that's the FIRST WAY to be protected: Recognize deceivers and false Christians for what they are so YOU won't be deceived.

And you and I have a POWERFUL RESOURCE to help us against deception:



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5. Keep in mind that you have an anointing from God that teaches you the truth.

1 John 2.20 But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and you all have knowledge.

This anointing is a reference to the HOLY SPIRIT.

When we believe on Jesus Christ, God endows every believer with the Holy Spirit.

And the Holy Spirit confirms to us the truth of Scripture.

John 16.13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth,

And every Christian has been endowed... anointed...with the Spirit of truth.

The ministry of the Holy Spirit within us is to LEAD us into the truth...

... He CONFIRMS the truth to us when we hear it, and ALERTS us to deceptions.

And He does that by helping us see how something we hear DOES or DOES NOT lineup with the message of the Scriptures.

This is a great help to having assurance!

Believers have been given the Holy Spirit...living within us...whose job is to HELP US **KNOW** the truth about Jesus and RECOGNIZE deceptive ideas about Him.

John says that *BECAUSE* you have this anointing, "you have knowledge."

WHAT knowledge do true Christians have?

In context, John is talking about the confession or denial that Jesus is the Christ...that Jesus is God's Son come in the flesh.

NOTHING YOU NEED TO **KNOW** about who Jesus is needs to be learned from people who LEAVE Christianity.



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Everything you need to know about Jesus YOU UNDERSTOOD when the Holy Spirit OPENED your heart and mind to BELIEVE the Gospel.

When you heard the Gospel, and when you hear it now, you hear the truth...and you **KNOW** INSIDE that you're hearing the truth.

That's the work of the Holy Spirit inside of you giving you the knowledge of the truth.

SO **NOW**, you're DIFFERENT... you're different from those who are deceived and fall away.

You KNOW the truth...by the power of the Holy Spirit, you've been GIVEN the knowledge of the truth.

Your eyes have been OPENED, your mind has UNDERSTOOD, and your heart has BELIEVED the eternal truth of God.

And that's a TREMENDOUS ENCOURAGEMENT to have ASSURANCE that you truly know God!

When you can see the Holy Spirit at work in your mind and heart SHOWING you the truth about Jesus Christ...

...When He CONFIRMS the truth about Him inside you again and again when you hear the truth about Him proclaimed...

...When you keep being HELPED to BELIEVE it...and to KEEP BELIEVING in HIM...

... That's the EVIDENCE of the work of the Holy Spirit inside you...

...And that's what it means to be ANOINTED by God.

And only true Christians experience that.

SO IF YOU believe the truth about Jesus, and YOU'RE not deceived about the fact.... that Jesus and Jesus alone is the Savior, the Christ sent from God...

...If you believe THAT GOSPEL TRUTH, then that's evidence of the Holy Spirit's anointing in your life...



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...It's evidence of the INTERNAL witness of the Holy Spirit.

SO, Since YOU have the Holy Spirit LIVING INSIDE YOU, TEACHING you the truth about Jesus... YOU HAVE a fundamental defense against DECEPTION.

1 John 2:26-27 ²⁶ I write these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you. ²⁷ But the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie—just as it has taught you, abide in him.

SO: Since the Holy Spirit is IN you showing you the truth, you have a divinely powerful DEFENSE against being led astray by lies.

As John says in:

1 John 4.4b ...for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

Sometimes people claim that they have some special insight or some new interpretation that they try to persuade you of...

...OR they say they've had a special revelation from God that you need to listen to and believe...

...And they try to INFLUENCE YOU to adopt some idea, SOME FALSE IDEA, about God or Jesus or the Bible.

And John is saying: REMEMBER that *YOU YOURSELF* have an anointing from God and don't need anyone else to reveal the truth to you.

God has revealed it to you HIMSELF!...Through His Word! You already know the truth about Jesus!

That's why John says:

1 John 2.21 I write to you, not because you do not know the truth, but because you[DO] know it, and because no lie is of the truth.

SO BECAUSE you already know the truth, BEWARE of those who claim to have access to some truth that you don't have....



1 John 2:15-27
“Warnings/Know Your Enemy”
By Mike Clark

BEWARE of those who try to lead you **AWAY** from the truth you already **KNOW** to be true...from the Spirit's inner witness to you about God's Word and God's Son.

LISTEN: Satan will use deceived people to TARGET you...to DECEIVE you...to LEAD you away from the truth.

People today have all kinds of false ideas about God and Jesus:

*"Jesus was a good **MAN**, a good **TEACHER**, a good **EXAMPLE**...*

*"**BUT** He **WASN'T** GOD... He's not **GOD'S SON**, He's not the **MESSIAH**, He's not **COMING BACK**, He's not the **ONLY WAY** to Heaven... etc."*

AND if anyone denies that Jesus is the Christ...OR tries to convince YOU that Jesus isn't the Christ, then they're an **ANTICHRIST**.

And THEIR DENIAL that Jesus is the Son of God and the Messiah IS NOT ONLY a denial of the TRUE IDENTITY of Jesus...

...But is also a DENIAL OF GOD THE FATHER:

***1 John 2.22-23** Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son. 23 No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also.*

It was GOD who SENT the Son!

It was GOD the Father who bore TESTIMONY that Jesus WAS His Son. At Jesus' baptism:

***Matt 3.17** ... a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."*

SO: all who deny the SON deny the FATHER... AND those that do can no longer be regarded as true believers.

Their CLAIMS to know God and to know the truth are EMPTY when they deny that Jesus is God's Son.

Their denials show that they DO NOT **KNOW** the Father.



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BUT whoever DOES confess the Son shows that they DO know the Father.

SO that's a confession that GIVES US ASSURANCE of our salvation.

True Christians DO know the truth about Jesus.

And that gives GOOD ASSURANCE that you know the Lord.

SO: Do you want to have ONGOING assurance?

Then STAY in the truth you know!

To avoid being deceived:

6. Remember the truth that you heard from the beginning of your Christian life.

1 John 2.24--25 Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father. 25 And this is the promise that he made to us-eternal life.

In light of the lies that are spreading in the world.....STAY IN THE TRUTH!

Those who stay in the truth are those who live forever.

FALSE converts don't last, but TRUE converts last forever.

SO stay in the truth that you acknowledged when you first believed the Gospel...

...When you acknowledged that Jesus is Lord.

Hold on to the message of the Gospel. Never stop believing it!

Never let someone talk you out of it!

And that will be GOOD EVIDENCE that you're a true Christian.

Beware of subtle ideas that undermine the Gospel!

Beware of lies that cause you to question it! This is the message that converted you! It's the message that gave you forgiveness of your sins, and reconciled you to God!

This is the message that gave you eternal life...so don't let anybody ever talk you out of it!



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DON'T FORSAKE the truth that **SAVES!**

If this Gospel remains in you to the end, then you will remain in Him to the end.

STAYING in the TRUTH...is the LONG-TERM PROOF ...that you live in Him and He lives in you.

This is the promise He's made to those who believe the truth...ETERNAL LIFE