

1 John 2:22-29 – Jesus is the Christ

John assured his “little children” that their sins were forgiven. They knew the Father. They had an anointing from the Holy One and they knew the truth. John warned them to love the Father and not the world. The world is passing away along with its desires. It is the last hour. The evidence is that many antichrists have already appeared. These antichrists had been in their fellowship but then left the church. The next section of 1 John explains further who these antichrists were. While some Christians are preoccupied with the coming antichrist, John tells us that we need to be vigilant against the antichrists who are already here.

Read 1 John 2:22-25.

The antichrists are liars. They deny the truth. What specific truth do the antichrists deny? (2:22)

When we think back to the Pharisees in the Gospel of John, they tried to affirm their belief in God the Father while they refused to believe that Jesus was the Christ. Why is that position impossible? Have you ever heard of someone who believed that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God but who did not believe in God the Father? (2:22-23)

When we confess that Jesus is the Christ, what does that mean? What are we saying about Jesus? Remember why John wrote the Gospel of John. “That you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.” John 20:31

In verse 24, John exhorted them to let what they heard from the beginning abide in them. What had they “heard from the beginning”? If they did this, what would be the result?

In verse 25, what is the promise to those who truly believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God? From verse 24, truly believing involves continuing in that belief. Who made the promise in verse 25?

Read 1 John 2:26-29.

A big reason why John was writing to them was to refute the false teachers who were deceiving them. What have we learned about these false teachers so far in 1 John? See 1 John 1:6, 8, 10, 2:4, 6, 9, 11, 19, 22.

In verse 24, John exhorted them to let what they heard from the beginning abide in them. In verse 27 John said that the anointing which they received remained in them. What does this mean?

As a result of the anointing abiding in them, John said that they did not need anyone to teach them? What was John saying? Was he telling them that they didn't need teachers in the church? Or did it mean that they should not be listening to the false teachers who were teaching them "new truths"? (2:27)

From verse 27, how did their anointing teach them? See John 6:45 and John 16:13-15.

Why are some people attracted to those who come along with "special truth"? They say, "I know special things which you don't know". "Forget what you have been taught and listen to me?" What was one of the attractions of eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil?

In verse 28, what should motivate us to abide in Christ?

In verse 29, John said "if you know that he is righteous". John already declared in 1:5 that God is righteous. We know that he is righteous! What is true of everyone who practices righteousness?

Just because some Christians are overly focused on the end times and the return of Christ doesn't mean that we should ignore it. Verse 28, 1 John 3:2-3, and other passages like 2 Peter 3:10-12 tell us that when we think of Christ's return, we are motivated to abide in him and to purify ourselves.