

Remember that John is writing to the churches of Asia-minor. Heresies are always trying to creep into the church and to destroy the faith of the people. They do this by tearing down the doctrines of the Bible. Some examples are: denying Father, Son, and Holy Ghost are One; denying the eternal security of the believer; denying a literal and eternal lake of fire for all unbelievers; and denying the infallibility of the Word of God. These of course are just a few. Whichever heresy is brought in, all have the same goal; to destroy anything that God hath done and to cause us to doubt God and His Word.

Verse 18- Little children- paidon- spiritual infants.

This is the same Greek word used in verse 13. The word Teknion is used in verse 12 and is a term of affection and given to the whole family of God. Used of believers of all ages and degrees of growth.

We who are saved are all part of the family of God, but we are in different stages of growth. A healthy church will have people in all stages of growth.

A spiritual infant knows that he is saved, but that is about all he knows. He may know the names of doctrines, but he doesn't know the doctrines. He isn't able to teach them in depth because he has no depth.

Predators, villains, heretic's, which all these are antichrist, all these feed upon little children of the faith. This is another reason it is so important that we take the time to disciple people.

People must also take the time to be disciplined.

Disciplined- Taught, trained; brought up; made a disciple.

Disciple- A follower; an adherent to the doctrines of another.

Verse 18- it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrist; whereby we know that it is the last time.

Antichrist- antichristos- an opponent of the Messiah: -- antichrist.

This also gives the meaning of instead of. Instead of would of course be an opponent of Christ.

Quick example- John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Jesus is simply telling us He is the only way to the Father. There is no other way to be saved. If someone adds to or takes away from Christ, then they are an opponent of Christ. This means they are antichrist.

John is reminding the little children that antichrist shall come and that they are even now, presently, here. Time will tell. We look on the outward, but what is on the inside will come out in time. We must give it time to come out. If you are concerned with what you and your family are being taught you will know who it is that is teaching and what they are teaching.

I Timothy 5:22 Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure.

No one should be put into a leadership or teaching role in the church until they have been proven faithful. Faithful to the Scriptures and faithful to the local assembly they have joined up with. This protects everyone. This takes time, and time is revealing. Time will tell.

No one should lead or teach until they have been proven. A novice shouldn't lead or teach either.

I Timothy 3:1-7

novice- newly sprung up; newly planted; a young convert.

Notice it said a young convert.

being lifted up with pride- to be conceited, proud, arrogant; to envelop with smoke; to inflate with self-conceit:-- high-minded, be lifted up with pride, be proud.

condemnation of the devil- a sentence of punishment or condemnation, implying also the punishment itself as a certain consequence.

A babe in Christ as a pastor is dangerous. Understand, more than likely the church will go the direction he goes. A babe can be flattered. When he is flattered his defenses are eased up. He may show favouritism and if the one flattering him is a heretic, then he will also embrace the heresy being taught. Once he embraces it he will lead the church in that direction. He has become antichrist by teaching a heresy. He is an opponent of Christ.

Jude 1:3-4

verse 4- crept in unawares- to settle alongside, lodge stealthily:-- creep in unawares.

This person will blend in very well. They will be a likeable person. They will company with certain in the church that will allow them to get a leadership position. They will take their time, therefore we must also take our time; for time will tell. They may start a movement. Youth are often swept away with "new" movements. They will do all this in the name of religion. But they are really opposed to Christ.

I Corinthians 11:12-15

These Scriptures show us that satan will come to us as an angel of light. Time will tell, and his true colors will come out. The word satan means adversary, and that is what satan is.

I John 2:19 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.

verse 19- they would no doubt have continued with us- the existing result is from an action that was completed in the past.

There is a reason why they went out: that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.

Over time what they were came to light. What was on the inside came out. They were truly opponents to Christ. Their actions proclaimed to all that they are antichrist. Time will tell on antichrist.

A healthy church has fathers, young men, and little children in the faith. Each has a role. Little children can be swept away by wolves in sheep clothing. The church is to work together as a body of believers. A strong church is grounded in the doctrines of the Bible. It is a church on the lookout for those who oppose Christ. And when they are spotted they mark those which cause division among the church, and have no fellowship with them. A weak church is one that may be a mile wide with doctrines, but are only an inch deep. They may be in the same pool, but they stay in the shallow end.

Little children are needed to grow; young men are needed to grow; fathers are needed to grow. Time will tell on antichrist, but if we don't know the Word of God, we won't know the difference. Next week Lord willing we will pick up in verse 20. We are thankful to be caught by His grace. To God be the glory.