

Staying In The Light

(1 Jn.2:12-28)

I. The Writing, 2:12-14

2:12-14: “I write” (3x)

“I have written” (3x)

John reminds Christians, removes confidence from counterfeiters.

Threefold grouping describes spiritual maturity and experience

12 / 13c: little children: **newborn in Christ**

- Mk.10:24. Emphasizes kinship.
- Sins forgiven. Good grasp of basics.
- ‘His’ – no longer neuter.

2:12-14: “I write” (3x)

“I have written” (3x)

Threefold grouping describes
spiritual maturity and experience

13a / 14a: fathers: **possess depth and stability;**
spiritual adults

- Known Him Who is from the beginning (1:1)
- Knowledge ripens with years.
 - Mt.7:23; 25:12

2:12-14: “I write” (3x)

“I have written” (3x)

Threefold grouping describes
spiritual maturity and experience

13b: young men: **more developed than children.** [Placed at end of each group]

- Have overcome (6 times, 1 Jn.). 4:4
- Wicked one: busy in battle against world

14b: young men: **strong; word abides in you.**

Ps.119:9, 11; Mt.4... 1 Jn.5:18-19

War continues. John Mark

I. The Writing, 2:12-14

II. The World, 2:15-17

World: six times

The love that God hates

15: “**world**”: not universe; not earth

- **Evil society in opposition to God** (3:13; 5:19).
- **World is oriented against God.**
- **Command:** do not love world...
- **Consequence:** love of Father not in him...
Mt.6:24; Ja.4:4

Matter of will, not uncontrollable emotion.

16: all that is in the world...

(what world has to offer)

Three dangers –

1. **Lust of flesh:** desire for things not possessed. Carnal nature uses body as its instrument. Ep.2:3

Desire itself is not evil.

Ph.1:23, **good desire.**

God provides legitimate
delight for authorized desires.

16: all that is in the world...

(what world has to offer)

Three dangers –

2. **Lust of eyes:** temptation from without.

- Eve
- Achan
- David

Eyes are window between
flesh and outside world.

16: all that is in the world...

(what world has to offer)

Three dangers –

3. **Pride of life:** < 'boaster': pride in possessions; pretention; arrogance.

◆ Flesh and eyes lust for non-possessions

'But now you boast in your arrogance.
All such boasting is evil' – Ja.4:16

Is not of Father but of world. 2 Tim.4:10

17: world is passing away . . .

Followers of world share its death.

Children of God share His Life.

- And its lusts... 1 Co.7:31; Is.14:11
- He who does will of God abides forever

Passing
world

Abiding
believer

Abide With Me

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim; its glories pass away.
Change and decay in all around I see;
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.

I. The Writing, 2:12-14

II. The World, 2:15-17

III. The Warfare, 2:18-28

18: Little children

- *Last hour*: NT period. Jn.4:21
- You have heard: antichrist is coming
 - anti-Christ
 1. **adversary** (against Christ) – a foe
 2. **alternate** (instead of Christ) – a fake
- Gnostics claimed to believe in Christ, but not one of NT.

18: Antichrist

1. First reference to 'antichrist'
2. John alone (v.18, 22; 4:3; 2 Jn.7)
3. Do not assume these readers learn of danger unknown to previous saints (cf. 24)

New word; old idea

²² For false christs and false prophets will rise and show signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. ²³ But take heed; see, I have told you all things beforehand
– Mk.13. [2 Th.2]

18: Antichrist

1. First reference to 'antichrist'
2. John alone (v.18, 22; 4:3; 2 Jn.7)
3. Do not assume these readers learn of danger unknown to previous saints (cf. 24)
4. Many (4:1); 1 Co.11:19
5. Have come . . . it is the last hour

19: heresy invaded churches

Two possibilities –

1. They were false from the start. Gal.2:4
2. They apostatized. Gal.5:4

“US” five times

◆ Gideon

◆ Judas

Blessing

20-28: contrasts Christ's with antichrists

19, 'they'; 20, 'you'

- Three emphases:

- 1 Anointing

- 2 You heard from beginning

- 3 Abide

- Anoint: Mt.6:17; Mk.14:8; 16:1; Lk.7:46;
Jn.9:6; 12:3; Rv.3:18

Anoint

“But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face...” – Mt.6:17

“She has done what she could. She has come beforehand to anoint My body for burial” – Mk.14:8

“Now when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him” – Mk.16:1

“You did not anoint My head with oil, but this woman has anointed My feet with fragrant oil”
– Lk.7:46

Anoint

“When He had said these things, He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay”

– Jn.9:6

“Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil” – Jn.12:3

“I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see” – Rv.3:18

20-28: contrasts Christ's with antichrists

19, 'they'; 20, 'you'

- Christ = Messiah (Jn.1:41; 4:25)
- Messiah = anointed one

Sacred oil poured on head giving one special authority and function.

20: a reminder

But you (protection) – have anointing from
'Holy One,' anointed One (wordplay)

1. *You know all things | -or- | you all know?*

[Main thought: **anointing gave them knowledge**]

2. *Anointing abides in you...no need that one
teach you; anointing teaches you...all things*

- **Hippolytus**, gnostic sect initiated by anointing...
- **Ignatius**, *Letter to Ephesians*
- **John**, you have true anointing

John: anointing

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me,

Because He has anointed Me

To preach the gospel to the poor;

He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,

To proclaim liberty to the *captives*

And recovery of sight to the *blind...*” – Lk.4:18

John: anointing

“For truly against Your holy Servant **Jesus**,
whom You anointed, both Herod and
Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the
people of Israel, were gathered together”

– Ac.4:27

John: anointing

“...how **God anointed Jesus** of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him” – Ac.10:38

John: anointing

“But you shall receive **power** when the **Holy Spirit** has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth” – Ac.1:8 [Ac.8 – Samaritans...]

John: anointing

“...to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another **discerning of spirits**” – 1 Co.12:10

1 Co.14:29...

...other prophets **‘judge’** (discern, pass judgment, weigh, evaluate)

21: a reminder (2 Pt.1:12-15)

You know truth (gnostics do not)

[You know difference between truth and error]

Let what you heard abide in you... (24)

[Use what you have]

Gnostics would have disparaged their 'ignorance of advanced grades of knowledge.'

Mt.11:25

22: liar (antichrist) denies Jesus is Christ

- Cerinthus: liar par excellence

23: if no Son, no Father...

- Gnostics wanted 'Father' without Son
 - 'Words have value only in accordance with their meaning'
 - 'Church'

'...that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him'

– Jn.5:23

24: we remain in Him by remaining in His doctrine

- 2 Jn.9
- Point: Hold fast what you learned first

25: conditional promise: eternal life

- Unlike evil world that passes away, God's promises last forever

26: these things I have written...

- Their safeguard: the Word
- Deceive you: 'cause to go astray from a specific way' – BDAG
 - 1:8, self-deception bad enough; being led astray is even worse

27: you do not need...

Cf. Jesus, Jn.2:25

1. Those who listened to men with spiritual gifts had to test spirits by inspired message (4:1; 1 Th.5:21; Rv.2:2)
2. Trickle-down effect (as effects of this epistle)

We have what they had ... in writing

We need no one to guide us into new 'depths'

28: summary of chap.2

- V.28 ends previous section, begins next
 1. Abide in Him. V.19 ... 27 – we abide in Him by abiding in His teaching (2 Jn.9)
 2. He will appear (He is coming)
 3. Confidence at His appearing (3:21)
 4. Not ashamed – be disappointed in a hope

Three characteristics of antichrists –

1. They separate from the faithful, 19
2. They deny the faith, 22-23
3. They try to deceive the faithful, 26