



Part 4: Staying the Course in Dark Days 1 John 2:18-28

I am writing these things to you about those trying to lead you astray. 1 John 2:26

Four Characteristics of False Teaching:

• False teaching comes in _____

*Dear children, this is **the last hour**; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now **many antichrists** have come. This is how we know it is the last hour. 1 John 2:18 (See 2 Timothy 3:1-5a)*

• False teaching starts in the _____

*They went **out from us**, but they did not really belong to us. 1 John 2:19a*

• False teaching creates _____

For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us; but their going showed that none of them belonged to us. 1 John 2:19b

• False teaching redefines _____

*Who is the liar? It is the man who **denies that Jesus is the Christ**. Such a man is the antichrist --he denies the Father and the Son. No one who denies the Son has the Father; whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also. 1 John 2:22,23*

So How Do I Stay the Course in Dark Days?

1. Relax _____

*But you have an **anointing** from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth... As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit --just as it has taught you, remain in him. v. 20, 27*

2. Remind _____

I do not write to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it and because no lie comes from the truth... See that what you have heard from the beginning remains in you. If it does, you also will remain in the Son and in the Father. v. 21, 24

3. Remember _____

And this is what he promised us --even eternal life. 1 John 2:25

4. Refuse _____

And now, dear children, continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming. 1 John 2:28

Daily Meditations

Spend time each day this week meditating on today's topic!

This week's memory verse:

And now, dear children, continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming. 1 John 2:28

Monday

Look over the notes and verses from this past weekend. Write down two insights about false teaching and our response to it that particularly struck you.

Read 1 John 2:18-23. What do you think is the best defense against false spiritual teaching?

How can you tell if a "new teaching" is a helpful insight into biblical ideas, or a poison that will undermine your joy and faith?

Thank God today for His truth. Ask Him to help you stay in the truth always!

Tuesday

Read 1 John 2:24-28. Look over the final four points of the message from this past weekend. Which of these is most difficult for you?

Which comes most naturally?

How would you describe, in your own words, what John means in verses 20 and 27 when he teaches that you as a Christian have an "anointing" that teaches you through the Word?

How can you tell if an insight is the "anointing" of the Holy Spirit, or if it's your own wrong-headed idea?

Ask God to give you insight into the truth. Thank Him!

Wednesday

Read 2 Timothy 3:1-9. Like the passage we studied in First John, this is also a warning against false teachers within the church. Given the catalog of sins in verses 1-4, what “form of godliness” do you think these people could possibly exhibit?

Give examples of how leaders in Christian churches throughout the ages, and in our age, had a “form of godliness” but secretly practiced the vices Paul mentions:

In verse 7, Paul references “Jannes and Jambres”, who were Pharaoh’s court magicians (Exodus 7:11,12; 8:7,18). How do they help you understand what Paul means by a “form of godliness”?

Why are false teachers like this so dangerous?

Thursday

Read Matthew 23:1-12; 27,28. Jesus here is warning against the same kind of false teaching John warns about in First John. What seems to be the main evil of the Pharisees, according to Jesus?

In verses 8-12, why do you think Jesus does not want his followers to be called “rabbi” or “teacher”? In other words, what distinction was Jesus trying to make between his followers and the Pharisees?

How does this relate to John’s teaching about our “anointing from the Holy One” who “teaches you all things” in First John?

Do you rely too heavily on a human teacher, or do you rely primarily on the Word of God as explained by the Holy Spirit?

Today, thank God that the Holy Spirit leads you into truth as you study God’s Word.

Friday

Read 1 John 2:29-3:10 in preparation for this weekend’s messages. Is it easy or difficult for you to really believe what John says about God’s relationship to you in verse 1?

John said in chapter 1 that we lie to ourselves if we say we do not sin; yet here he says we do not “keep on sinning”. What do you think John means when he says in verse 6 that Christians do not “keep sinning”?

Ask God to bless the services this weekend. Ask Him to help you really believe the truth in 1 John 3:1 that the Father lavishes His love on you, and calls you His child!

Saturday

Take the time today to go over any devotions you may have missed and to complete your memorization of this week’s verse. Pray for the ministry this weekend! Thanks!