

*v18 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.*

*v19 They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us; but their going showed that none of them belonged to us. v20 But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth. v21 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. v22 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. v23 No one who denies the Son has the Father; whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also. v24 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. v25 And this is what he promised us--even eternal life. v26 I am writing these things to you about those who are trying to lead you astray. v27 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.*

**1 John 2:7-11**

We are living in a time of a growing ANTI-CHRISTIAN WORLD. We not longer only face opposition from those traditionally against Christianity, we now even face opposition from people who in the past were tolerant toward Christianity.

The traditional opponents of Christianity are:

- Those from other World Religions like Islam.
- In recent years some World Religions like Hinduism and even some parts of Judaism are less and less tolerant of Christianity.
- The Sects out of Christianity, like Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses, continue to undermine the message of Jesus with their false teaching.

The more moderns opponents of Christianity are:

- Newer sects like "Christian" Scientists or The Church of Scientology.
- The fastest growing group of people who are opposed to Christianity are Neo(New) Liberals who proclaim themselves as Atheist, while in fact they have replaced God with their own ego(they have become god).

WE ARE FACING THESE OPPONENTS OF CHRISTIANITY MORE AND MORE AS THE YEARS PASS.

Let me say, this is nothing new. CHRISTIANS have faced opposition from their very foundation. From DAY ONE, the ULTIMATE ENEMY of the CHURCH has done his best to limit the progress of Christianity.

Today's passage speaks into these situations. What John wrote to the church almost 2000 years ago is still relevant for today. I have called today's message:

## **ARE YOU READY FOR SPIRITUAL WARFARE?**

**I FIRSTLY, YOU ARE READY FOR SPIRITUAL WARFARE IF:  
YOU KNOW THAT THE BATTLE HAS ALREADY BEGUN.**

*v18 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.*

Christians often say that we are “LIVING IN THE LAST DAYS”, as if this is something new. Many preachers want you to believe that they know more than others about “THE LAST DAYS” as if they have some new information or “prophecy” about when Jesus will return.

All I can say is, when I was a teenager, right here in King William’s Town, we watch a movie called “A Thief in the Night,” which was meant to be a visual reminder that Jesus was coming back in 1978. Because the then “False Prophets” taught that Jesus would return within 30 years (one generation) after Israel returned back to Jerusalem, and that happened in 1948. When he didn’t return in 1978, the same “false prophets” said they meant 1988, because maybe a generation was 40 years.

## HOWEVER

Just because there are many false preachers trying to predict when and where Jesus will return

## WE ARE LIVING IN THE LAST DAYS.

The “LASTS DAYS” are ALL THE DAYS BETWEEN CHRIST’S FIRST AND SECOND COMING

### WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

**Time to do the work of Jesus is LIMITED.** We are in a battle for the souls of people. We like to say, “MORE IS NOG N’ DAG” in South Africa, but actually, you don’t really know if still have tomorrow.

**Time to get READY is short.** Don’t forget, ‘A day is like a thousand years’ for the Lord.

## II **SECONDLY, YOU ARE READY FOR SPIRITUAL WARFARE IF: YOU KNOW DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THOSE AGAINST GOD AND THOSE FOR GOD.**

*v18 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. v19 They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us; but their going showed that none of them belonged to us. v20 But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth. v21 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.*

John mentions what the differences between those who are FOR Christ and those who are AGAINST CHRIST in this passage.

## CHARACTERISTICS OF THOSE AGAINST CHRIST.

1. **THEY ARE ANTI-CHRIST.** Anything that seeks to replace the SUPREMACY OF CHRIST is ANTI CHRIST.
2. **THERE IS MORE THAN ONE INDIVIDUAL.** Over the years, Christians have spent so much time and effort trying to identify "WHO" the Antichrist is, that they have lost focus on "WHAT" the "ANTICHRIST" is?
3. **THE ANTICHRIST MAY BE CLOSER THAN WE THINK.** Verse 19 says, "*They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us.*" We have been looking for this enemy outside the walls of the church, but meantime they may be sitting right among us. In WW2 there was a saying "loose lips sink ships", as a warning that sometimes the enemy is in our midst.
4. **ANTICHRIST'S WILL EVENTUALLY LEAVE IS THE FOCUS OF THE CHURCH IS JESUS.** Those against Christ don't feel comfortable when Jesus is at the CENTER.

## CHARACTERISTICS OF THOSE FOR CHRIST.

1. **BEING SPIRIT FILLED.** Verse 20 says, "*But you have an anointing from the Holy One*". They had a DEEP, PERSONAL encounter with Jesus and were filled with his "HOLINESS". Only a RIGHTEOUS PERSON can enter the presence of a HOLY GOD, and only those filled with the "RIGHTEOUSNESS" of Christ can do that.
2. **YOUNG MEN.** Verse 20-21 continues by saying, "*and all of you know the truth*" v21 *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.* Another defining characteristic of a true Christian is TRUTH. In v20 the Greek makes it clear that TRUE BELIEVERS know "ALL" truth. When you hear someone talk about Jesus, make sure they preach everything about Jesus.

### **III THIRDLY, YOU ARE READY FOR SPIRITUAL WARFARE IF: YOU KNOW THE TACTICS THE ENEMY USES.**

*v22 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. v23 No one who denies the Son has the Father; whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also. v24 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. v25 And this is what he promised us--even eternal life. v26 I am writing these things to you about those who are trying to lead you astray.*

#### **THERE ARE TWO MAIN TACTICS THE ENEMY USES:**

1. **THEY DENY THE PERSON AND WORK OF JESUS**
  1. They deny that JESUS IS THE CHRIST.
  2. They deny that JESUS IS DIVINE.
2. **THEY DENY THE PERSON AND WORK OF GOD**
  1. They deny the EXISTANCE OF GOD.
  2. They deny the CREATION.

**IF YOU DENY THEIR EXISTANCE YOU DON'T NEED TO BE ACCOUNTABLE TO THEM.**

## **IV FOURTHLY, YOU ARE READY FOR SPIRITUAL WARFARE IF: YOU ARE EQUIPED FOR BATTLE.**

*v24 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. v25 And this is what he promised us--even eternal life. v26 I am writing these things to you about those who are trying to lead you astray. v27 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.*

### **JOHN REMINDS US OF THREE WEAPONS WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN**

#### **1. THE ARMOUR PLATING OF JESUS.**

*v24 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.*

IF YOU ARE IN CHRIST'S HANDS, AND CHRIST IS IN THE FATHER'S HANDS, nothing, and I mean NOTHING, can harm you.

**YOU HAVE ALLLLLLLLLLL the PROTECTION YOU NEED.**

#### **2. THE ASSURANCE OF SALVATION.**

*v25 And this is what he promised us--even eternal life.*

One of the enemies most effective weapons he has used over the years is "DOUBT".

Jesus said, "NEVER WILL I LEAVE YOU OR FORSAKE YOU" and "I AM COMING TO FETCH YOU TO BE WHERE I AM ALSO".

**NOTHING CAN SEPARATE YOU FROM THE LOVE OF GOD**

#### **3. THE INNER CONVICTION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

*v27 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.*

Jesus has left each of us a powerful gift, THE HOLY SPIRIT. One of the signs of the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life is the INNER CONVICTION of TRUTH that he has given to you.

**THE TRUTH OF JESUS WILL SET YOU FREE.**

### **CONCLUSION**

**FRIENDS WE ARE IN A BATTLE**

**WHO ARE YOU TRUSTING TO GET YOU THROUGH  
TO THE END?**