

That It Might Be Made Manifest

1 John 2:18-22



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FOCAL 1 John 2:18-22 KJV Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time. (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. (20) But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things. (21) I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth. (22) Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.

The first two words of our text is comforting, but the next five words are frightening. The Apostle John says:

Little children

and then follows this with the statement,

it is the last time

If I were to hear the second set of words without hearing the first set I would be terribly frightened. The Church that John wrote to in his day was a Church under terrible persecution. Yet John encourages the persecuted believers by reminding them that they are **little children**.

1. Little Children Belong To The Family of God

FOCAL 1 John 2:18 KJV "Little children..."

We need to be reminded that we *are* little children if we are truly Christians. The words **little children** is actually a Greek word which means *an infant, a child unable to care for his or her self*.¹

We live in an *information age* where the Internet is king. We feel like we know so much. Some who profess to know Christ as Savior have begun to believe in godless evolution or theistic evolution. We watch so many things on television. We get in cars or on planes, read newspapers, and believe that we have a wonderful grasp on our world. Yet, in comparison to God our Father, we are **little children**, infants, crying babies who desperately need the Father.

We may believe ourselves to be self sufficient, but God is still God! We need to remember along with the Apostle Paul:

2 Corinthians 3:5 NIV "Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but **our competence comes from God."**

If your competence comes from any source, be it education, family, money, or any other thing, then your competence is coming from a *temporary source*.

¹ G3813 (Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries), παιδίον, paidion, pronounced *pahee-dee'-on*, Neuter diminutive of G3816; a *childling* (of either sex), that is, (properly) an infant, or (by extension) a half grown *boy* or girl; figuratively an *immature* Christian: - (little, young) child, damsel.

The early Church learned a lesson that we need to relearn in our modern day, Internet ready Church. God is still God, and He alone controls all things.

When you think of the title John gives to the believer, **little children**, I believe he was remembering back to the time when Jesus our Lord and Savior spoke about **little children**. On a certain day our Lord wanted to give us a wonderful illustration of God's Grace. The Bible says:

Matthew 18:2-4 KJV "And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, (3) And said, Verily I say unto you, **Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. (4) Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven."**

The Bible uses the *exact same Greek word* for **little child** in this text that it uses in our 1 John text. Jesus took a **little child** - and used that little child to illustrate our relationship to God. He said in **Matthew 18:3**

".. Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven .."

Think about those words.

When Jesus talked to His disciples He wanted them to understand the importance of the *surrendered life for the Christian*.

Robertson in his *Word Pictures In The Greek New Testament* said:

“His tone at this time is markedly severe, as much as when He denounces the Pharisaism in the bud He had to deal with” (Bruce). The strong double negative *ou mē eiselthēte* means that they will otherwise not get into the kingdom of heaven at all, let alone have big places in it.”

You entered into a state of salvation by *surrendering your life to Christ* if you entered at all. You did not work your way into God's good grace. A little child cannot work - a little child can only come forward and say *Father*. Entrance into salvation comes when you stop working to be saved and just trust the provision, believing on Him. If you entered into the Kingdom of Heaven by faith in Christ, you can only enjoy the provisions of the Kingdom by *sustained faith in Him*. It is Jesus Who is the Christ, the Messiah, the Provider of blessing. There is *absolutely no blessing* while we are trying to be God. We must be the **little children**, or we cannot enter the Kingdom of Heaven. We must be the **little children** or we cannot enjoy the blessings of the Kingdom of Heaven.

The Bible often uses what is called *a fortiori*

argument to explain God's relationship to us who call Him *Father*. An *a fortiori* argument goes from the lesser to the greater.

Matthew 7:9-11 NIV "Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? (10) Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? (11) **If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts** to those who ask him!"

Rather than worry about our lack, shouldn't we, like **little children**, take our concerns in prayer to our Father. If we, being lesser creatures, take care of our children's needs, then don't you think that our Perfect God, sinless and loving, would meet our needs?

Illustrate If I have a need, shall I go to anyone before I go to my Father first? Has He not supplied my salvation, and has He not promised that He has prepared a place for me? Why shall I go to a banker who neither loves nor knows me when I struggle financially? Why shall I go to a doctor who perhaps has no knowledge of my Savior, before I go to Him Who gave Himself for me? Get on your knees, and knock on the door of prayer, for the Master will hear. Knock on the door We often carry our problems to the other little children. This may make us feel better by sharing our problems, but do other children have the ability to fix our problems? Knock on the Father's door, not on your brother's door. The Master

never sleeps! If I am going to knock on the door of prayer I must first empty my hand. How can I knock on His door while clutching what I think is the solution. Empty thy hand, dear Christian - knock on the door! Jesus said:

Luke 11:9-13 KJV "... **Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.** (10) For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. (11) If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? (12) Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? (13) If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?"

If you are little children by faith in Christ, then *you belong to Christ*. You are **bought with a price (1 Corinthians 6:20; 7:23)**. You are His, not yours! You are **little children**, not independent agents!

"Ye are Christ's; and Christ is God's." (1 Corinthians 3:23)

Once the believer understands that he is Christ's, that he *belongs* to Christ, then we can begin to relax. God is in control, and God is our Father!

2. The Anti-Christ's Work To Rob You Of Your Birthright

FOCAL 1 John 2:18 KJV Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist² shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.

These are the last days. This is the *last dispensation of God's Grace*. This is what John tells us tonight .. **it is the last time³ ...**". This is **the last hour**, the final hour before the Lord returns. The early Church, under terrible persecution, had no problem believing that it was the **last hour**.

As this age of Grace winds down it is more and more evident that there is a great angelic conflict going on around us.

The Apostle mentions two overt attacks that come from Satan. Jesus Christ warned us that there would be The **Antichrist** or the **Man of Sin⁴** who would come, but perhaps even more destructive there would be **many antichrists**. What is an **antichrist**? An antichrist is

2 G500, (Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries), ἀντίχριστος, antichristos, pronounced *an-tee'-khris-tos*, From G473 and G5547; an *opponent of the Messiah*: - antichrist.

3 eschatē hōra estin, it is the last hour

4 **Matthew 24:15** "When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) " **1 John 4:3** "And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world."

anyone or anything that *stands against Christ*. There are several marks of those who are antichrists. First, those who are antichrists shall *claim to be Christ*, but unlike Jesus they exist only to deceive people. We read:

Mark 13:6 "For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many."

The antichrists who have attacked the Church from the beginning do what they do to draw people away from the True Jesus. These people may even do great works:

Mark 13:22 "For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall show signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect. " (also Matthew 24:24)

The antichrists who plague the Church teach a false gospel. Some of these false christs are seen on so called Christian television, smacking poor deluded people in the head while yelling out "be healed". Whether they be secular antichrists, or religious antichrists, these agents of Satan exist to confuse the believer and to confound the preaching of the Gospel.

When the believer turns on the television and watches a person who is *not Jesus Christ* being glorified, he is watching an antichrist. The power of the Christian is in Christ, not in the antichrist. The power of the believer is in the Father, not in the faker.

There are so called local churches in America today that have thousands of people in them, and yet they do not preach the Christ of Scripture. The early Church was no different.

FOCAL 1 John 2:18-19 KJV "Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time. (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. "

How do we know an antichrist from a true Christian? These people *use* the Church, but are never *part* of the Church. They come to the Church, but they are never part of the *us* of the Church. The Christian loves Christ, not an idol. The Christian loves the One who saved him, not his own popularity or power.

The Christian calls Jesus Christ "Lord", and points others to the Risen Savior. The Christian has Christ in his heart, and loves Christ, and loves other believers.

Those who come to the Church but who are not part of *the us* of the Church in time leave the Church. **If they were of us, they would no doubt have continued with us.** The true Christian does not make excuses about

serving Christ. The true Christian serves Christ. King David said:

Psalms 84:10-11 KJV "For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness. (11) For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly."

For the Christian the opportunity to serve Christ in union with his brothers and sisters is a great blessing. There are many who *profess* Christ as Savior and yet never care to serve Him. This in itself is antichrist!

FOCAL 1 John 2:20 KJV "But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things."

Verse 20 is particularly interesting, though hard to understand in the King James. Another version reads:

1 John 2:20 NIV "But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth."

The Christian - as opposed to the antichristian - has **an anointing from the Holy One**. Jesus promised us that - once we believed on Him - the **Holy One** - the Holy Spirit of God would come and be part of us. Jesus said:

John 14:16-17 KJV "And I will pray the Father, and

he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever; (17) Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you."

Though the Christian stands on the truths of the Word of God, we do not stand just on doctrine.

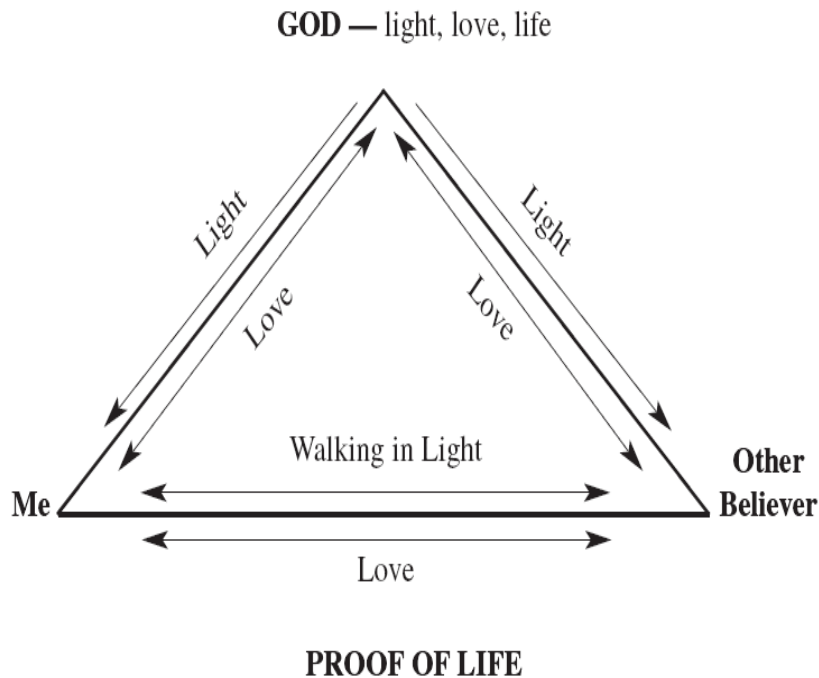
We do not have just a *doctrinal Christ* - we possess a *personal Christ*. From that moment of salvation the Lord comes and lives inside of His own. The Christian is *indwelt by Christ*.

Romans 8:8-10 NIV "Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God. (9) You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. (10) But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness."

The Christian is indwelt by God the Holy Spirit, given the written Word of God, and is a part of the larger family of God. We have a fantastic heritage that Satan - through his network of antichrists - seeks to destroy.

Stand fast, My Beloved, in Jesus Christ your Lord! Stand fast, not in mere knowledge. The antichristian group called *Gnostics* taught that knowledge was god. Gnostic thought is being resurrected today through novels like the *Da Vinci Code* and *Holy Blood, Holy Grail*. Gnostic thought tells us that Christ was mere man. Gnostic thought tells us that theistic evolution is truth. Gnostic thought teaches us knowledge is god, and the same Gnostic thought that attacked the early Church attacks the Church today.

J. Vernon McGee drew the following diagram to show the relationship between believers and Christ:



The Christian is bound to God - Who indwells him - and to other believers. As Christians bond closer to God they

draw closer to one another. The antichristian presents concepts, doctrines, and disciplines that are intended - not to honor God - but to honor his or her self. **Dr. McGee** lists the following antichrists that have attacked the Church since Christ formed it:

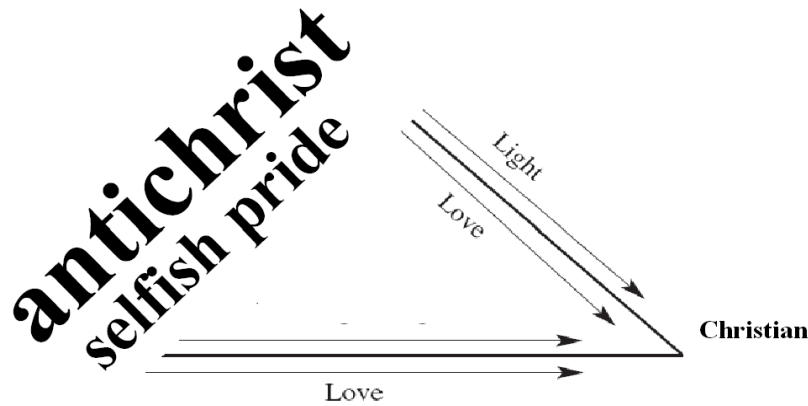
Gnostics — “They [the followers of Carpocrates] say that Jesus was the son of Joseph and born after the manner of other men.” (Irenaeus. Only human.) “In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, God came down to Capernaum [not born of any mother], and taught.” (Opening of Marcion’s Gospel.)

Muslims — “Verily Christ Jesus the son of Mary is the apostle of God... Say not, There are three Gods... God is but one God. Far be it from Him that He should have a son.” (Koran, ch. iv. Sale, p. 80.)

Communists — “Here is a new mystery — that of Divinity dividing itself into two halves... God the Father, seeing from the height of His eternal splendor, that the poor God the Son, flattened out and astounded by His fall, is so plunged and lost in matter, that having reached the human state, He has not yet recovered Himself, decides to come to His aid.” (Bakunin, God and the State, p. 31.)

Theosophists — “To identify the Lord with the historical Jesus, maintaining the latter to be very Deity, Jehovah in person, who assumed a fleshly body, and manifested Himself as a man, in order to save men from Hell, and commanded His disciples to call Him Lord, is to fall into a common error.” (The Perfect Way, p. 257.)

Atheists — “Jesus was some fine sort of man perhaps, but our Saviour of the Trinity is a dressed-up inconsistent effigy of amiability, a monstrous hybrid of men, an infinity making significant promises of helpful miracles for the cheating of simple souls, an ever absent help in times of trouble.” (H. G. Wells, Outline of History.)



The danger of the antichrist is that he or she are focused on themselves and not on Christ. They join with the Christian Church and, professing Christ, they live their lives *apart* from Christ. This is dangerous and deceptive. As believers we *must* keep our eyes on Christ. If we love our Church then we *must* keep our eyes on Jesus. Jesus Christ told us:

Matthew 16:18 KJV "And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock **I will build my church**; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

1 Peter 2:5-7 NIV **you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood**, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. (6) For in Scripture it says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame." (7) Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, "The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone"

The Church belongs to Christ, the Christian belongs to Christ. The antichrist - those who profess Christ but are not indwelt by Him - can never be a part of that living structure that we call the Church.

Beloved, the Church is *not* the building - it is *in* the building. The Church is a God indwelt, called out assembly of *new creatures*, saved by faith in Christ.

To follow anyone *but* Christ is disturbing, destructive, damaging, deceiving - and brings damnation to those who know not Christ.

Stand fast in Christ! This is our blessing!