

1 John

Dr. Charles "Buddy" Parrish

April 28, 2021



1 John 2:22-24

Vs. 22

- It is possible that a person may misunderstand the gifts of Spirit or the questions concerning a woman's hair and still be welcomed within the church. But if you get Christ wrong, there's a big problem. Indeed, the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ, the Anointed One, the Messiah, the Son of God is a liar. And not just A liar, but THE liar. And not just THE liar, but the very anti-Christ himself! Everything starts with Jesus and if we start in the wrong place about who He is then we either adjust our thinking or every other answer we are going to look for is the wrong answer, every step we take is the wrong step, and nothing we know or attempt is ever going to be totally right.
- Jesus did not come to give us a bunch of facts about God, some new insight, or some new teaching. Jesus came to show us who God is and restore our relationship with God that our sin had broken. Jesus came that we might truly know the Father and have a real and genuine relationship with Him.
- Remember from our study of Vs. 18 that one meaning of "the antichrist" is "one who stands in opposition to Christ." Here then, John is saying that that anyone who denies the Sonship of Christ is in fact standing in opposition to Christ's own claims about Himself and as such is "the antichrist." Given that what Christ says about Himself is true, then this is not a case of someone being simply mistaken but in fact is being intentional in his opposition and is thus a liar and is in fact denying both the Son and the Father.

Vs. 23

- This is the message John's churches "have heard from the beginning" and to which they called to be faithful, that Jesus Christ and the Father in Heaven are One. Jesus says in Matthew 11:27, "All things have been handed over to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, nor does anyone know the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him." Further in John 12:44-45 Jesus says, "He who believes in Me, does not believe in Me but in Him who sent Me. He who sees Me sees the One who sent Me." In the Upper Room, the disciple Philip asked Jesus directly to "show us the Father" and in His reply Jesus says plainly "He who has seen has seen the Father." It is through Jesus that we can come to God and come to know God. It is in Christ that we can have a real relationship with God. Apart from Christ we have no "secure" knowledge of God, says William Barclay.

Vs. 24

- There was "new" teaching that had infected the church. Acts 17, in its telling of Paul's first time in Athens, says that the Greeks there found Paul interesting because he had a new teaching and Luke goes on to add in Acts 17:21 that all the Athenians "used to spend their time in nothing other than telling or hearing something new." John's churches had fallen into the same trap of being enthralled with a new teaching. Now that this new teaching had caused them great pain and the new teachings' proponents had left, John admonishes his churches to remember the old, old story. Moreover, John's people were to let that which they had heard from the beginning "abide" in them, live and grow in them.
- In vs. 20 John has told them that they have "an anointing" from God that gives them all the understanding they will ever need. So as God has given them a divine understanding, if they will allow the Truth they have heard from the beginning to abide in them, they will abide in the Son and the Father.

- For over 50 years now, going back to the 1960's, our Youth-driven culture has worked hard to throw away the ways and means of previous generations. Most of us know the words to Bob Dylan's "The Times They Are A-Changing". Music, fashion, entertainment all continues to change at lightening speeds. And truth? When the truths of previous generations cannot be argued the purveyors of that truth are personally attacked. Some perceived flaw in their character, some perceived transgression can be enough to disqualify the truth a person of previous generation supported. In their own time, because they were champions of truth, these people were honored by have cities, streets, schools, buildings, and the like named for them. Today we are rapidly renaming as many as we can. Statues are falling. And new truths are being taught in classrooms, in the courts, and through the media as fast as possible. But there is one truth that will never fall, no matter what people may do: That God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, and whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life.