

# The Epistles of John

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Week 30: 1 John 2:18-21

It has been the last hour since the Son of God invaded the evil one's domain and dealt him a death blow in the cross and resurrection.

## 1 John 2:18-21

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There are two sort of themes to this section. One has to do with antichrists, who have actually been members of these congregations and have gone out from them and are seen as in opposition to true Christology and true Christian ethics. And then secondly, the antithetical teachings that these antichrist teacher figures have offered. — Dr. Ben Witherington

## 1 John 2:18-21

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### ***1 John 2:18–19 (ESV)***

*Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore we know that it is the last hour.*

*They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us.*

## 1 John 2:18-21

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The word ἀντιχρίστος

*(antichristos, “antichrist,” i.e. one standing in opposition or competition to Christ)*

is found only in John’s epistles. 1 John 2:18, 22; 4:3; 2 John 7.

## 1 John 2:18-21

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The author operates with a belief that we are in the last hour. That is, we are in the eschatological age. We're already in the end times—not the end of the end times, but at least the beginning of the end times, and so end-times kinds of things, like the appearance of anti-Christian figures, have already begun in his day.

## 1 John 2:18-21

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The apostle Paul warns of departures from the truth:

*“The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron” (1 Tim 4:1)*

## 1 John 2:18-21

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### *1 John 2:20–21 (ESV)*

*But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and **you all have knowledge.***

*I write to you, not because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and because/that no lie is of the truth.*



# 1 John 2:18-21

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(1) What exactly is the meaning and significance of the term, chrisma (“anointing”)? and (2) To whom does the term Holy One refer?

- The term chrisma (anointing) appears in the New Testament only here in vs 20 and in verse 27.
- In the Old Testament anointing was usually done for the purpose of consecration or the setting aside of an individual or object for a particular sacred purpose

# 1 John 2:18-21

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- What Paul calls the baptism (1 Cor 12:13), John refers to as the anointing.

*1 Corinthians 12:13 (ESV)*

*For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.*

- The view that the Holy One refers to Jesus is held by a majority of scholars, but this is not a critical thing as either the Father or the Son could be implied here.

## 1 John 2:18-21

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### John 14:25–26 (ESV) **Jesus' words**

*These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you.*

*But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, **he will teach you all things** and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.*

## 1 John 2:18-21

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In verse 20 John provides an emphatic word of encouragement to the members of the community by proclaiming that they were obviously standing firm in the truth and for good reason. The difference between the secessionists and the true believers is grounded in the fact that the faithful have received an anointing from the Holy One.

## 1 John 2:18-21

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Note that in verse 21 we see John's use of the positive/negative rhetorical device. We'll see it again in verse 23.

In vs 21 we are back to the issue of using because or that. The greek word hoti is used 3 times in vs 21

## Application for This Week

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John wants us to be encouraged by knowing that by the appearance of antichrists, we can know that the kingdom has begun and that a battle is raging, but that the end is known.

We have received an anointing asked for by Jesus, granted by the Father, and which results in the Holy Spirit dwelling in us, teaching us and empowering us for all we encounter, even the deceivers.

John seems to think this anointing of the Holy Spirit is a pretty big deal, and something we often forget or undervalue.

# Homework

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*My blog with past lessons is:*

[www.UnapologeticallyJohn.com](http://www.UnapologeticallyJohn.com)

Thank you for coming!

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See you back next week