

# First John: The Word of Life

## Words of Warning



### ***Don't Be Deceived***

John knows that our mind and heart are susceptible to deception and outlines the nature of the deception and how to safeguard against it.

#### **A. Watch What You Love** 1 John 2:15-17

1. Love that **LOSES** [:15] The 'world' [kosmos] is the 'moral order,' the life of human society organized under the power of evil. This 'kosmos' is bankrupt of 'real' lasting value.
2. Love that **LEAVES** [:16]  
*These three characteristics of the world are based in a misguided need to achieve a sense of lasting value.*
  - (a) **Lust of the flesh**: A life driven by the physical senses to satisfy them apart from God's will. *Jam 4:3*
  - (b) **Lust of eyes**: I see it, I like it, I want. Values that are anchored in tangible things.
  - (c) **Pride of life**: Literally, to trumpet my own non-existent importance because of accomplishment or possessions that are NOT rightly mine.
3. Love that **LASTS** [:17] John contrasts the temporary with the eternal. The world is passing away but that which is done in and for the kingdom lasts forever.

#### **B. Watch What You Trust** 1 John 2:18-27

1. Why do we need to watch
  - (a) **It is the last hour** [:18] This phrase is ONLY used by John in the NT. In one sense every hour is the 'last hour' for somebody someplace. It is best to see this reference to the time period between the first and second coming of the Messiah.
2. Who do we need to watch
  - (a) **The antichrists** [:18-19] John is the only NT author to use the term 'antichrist.' The term means opposing, denying or even counterfeiting Christ. This can apply to many anti-Christian teachings or movements that teach things that become a 'Christ substitute,' or denial of His rightful identity.
    - (1) **In 1 John 4:3** John indicates that 'the spirit of antichrist...is already in the world. The meaning is that 'antichrist' is often a principle or philosophy in the world rather than a person.
3. How do we watch  
*John reveals two safeguards to protect us!*
  - (a) **Abide in Him** [:24] "Abide in Him" in this verse is referring to the message of the gospel and by extension the entire word of God. To abide in God's Word is the ultimate safeguard against 'antichrists.'
  - (b) **Live in the anointing** [:20; 27] Anointing or 'unction' here is referring to the work of the Holy Spirit in

#### 1 John 2:15-27 (NKJV)

**:15** Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

**:16** For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.

**:17** And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

**:18** Little children, it is the **last hour**; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour.

**:19** 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 they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us.

**:20** But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things.

**:21** I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and that no lie is of the truth.

**:22** Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son.

**:23** Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who acknowledges the Son has the Father also.

**:24** Therefore let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father.

**:25** And this is the promise that He has promised us—eternal life.

**:26** These things I have written to you concerning those who try to deceive you.

**:27** But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.