

1 John 2

First, read the last verse – 1 John 2:28, as a summary statement for this chapter.

Abide in him, because Christ will be revealed – he is coming back. They all assumed he was coming back soon.

I once saw a bumper sticker that read, “Jesus Is Coming Soon - Look Busy!”

It seems that 20 centuries later, the church has lost this sense of urgency.

Read 1 John 2: 1-6

My little children – a term of endearment, not demeaning or condescension. (Dad - daddy; Bill - Billy)

v.1 Christ, the Advocate – cf John 14:16-17, where the HS is called “another Advocate.”

¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷ This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

It’s the word, paraclete – called to come alongside of - a mediator, a helper. This word appears several times, always by John, either in his gospel or his letters. It’s translated either as “counselor” (RSV) or “comforter” (KJV). A paraclete is one who comes alongside as a helper. (Thus, another connection between John’s gospel & this letter.)

v.2 Christ, the Atoning Sacrifice (RSV: expiation, KJV: propitiation)

From Leviticus, the life of an animal is sacrificed in behalf of the people

X, the atoning sacrifice for our sins (shortcomings, miss the mark)

And for the sins of the whole world (to make it possible for anyone in the world to be forgiven?)

One difference is that we know the Lord of our atonement (unlike the priests & the sheep).

v.3 We are sure we have come to know him, if we obey his commandments.

Words are not enough – it’s the actions that count – obeying him.

If you obey X, then “the love of God has reached perfection” in you (not that you are perfect).

Read 1 John 2: 7-17

An old commandment & a new one – LOVE, agape, not so common in Greek, but very common in the NT.

Beloved = a form of agape. Darkness & light Love & hate

Here, the word world is used in a negative sense (vs. “God so loved the world)

Do not follow a worldly perspective toward life. Do not have these worldly values:

The desire (lust) of the flesh

The desire (lust) of the eyes

The pride in riches

These things don’t come from God. Don’t crave them.

These desires are passing away as the world passes away.

Read 1 John 2: 18-28

The last days (eschaton) began with the coming of Christ. John writes this in AD 70... & we’re still in them now.

Same word used in Revelation - Jesus X, the first and the last - a boundary word that points to the future.

Antichrist The only place in the NT where this word appears is in 1 John & 3 John

Anti usually means “against” or “opposite.” But it can also mean “instead of” or “in the place of.”

Thus, there are adversaries of X and also pseudo-Xs, or counterfeit Xs (which are, in fact, more dangerous because it is more easily masked).

They went out from us – once a part of the fellowship, or at least it appeared that way.

False teachers who claim a connection to the church, but are fraudulent.

The false teachers denied that Jesus is the Christ.

Then John interrupts himself to assure his readers of their own relationship to God:

v.20 you have been anointed by the Holy One

v.27a his anointing abides in you

v.27b his anointing teaches you

anoint is the Greek word, *Chrisma*, meaning to smear or spread, or rub over, hence, anoint.

Think of being anointed by oil – the oil is smeared over us.

We are God's anointed ones, having his Spirit covering us.

Jesus' title, the *Christos*, uses the root of the same word, *Chris*, meaning the Anointed One.

We are anointed by God, and that is enough.

Current Greek-Roman mystery cults offered many special anointings and special teachings (Gnosticism).

John is saying positively that our anointing comes from The Anointed One himself, and that is enough.

The best defense against counterfeits is a healthy dose of the real thing.

CS Lewis: "The best safeguard against bad literature is a full experience of good; just as a real and affectionate acquaintance with honest people gives a better protection against rogues than a habitual distrust of everyone." (*An Experiment in Criticism*, 1961)

The best protection against false cults is first of all a healthy relationship with God and his people.

The important question always comes down to – who is Jesus of Nazareth and what do you think of him?

Finally, abide in Christ – the same thing Jesus said at the Last Supper – abide in me and I in you (Jn 15).