



I John 2:18-29

Scripture Memory

I John 1:5

“This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.”

Scripture reveals two fundamental principles that flow from the foundational truth that God is light. First, light represents the truth of God, as embodied in His Word [Ps. 119:105]...Second, Scripture also links light with virtue and moral conduct [Eph. 5:8-9]. These two essential properties of divine light and life are crucial in distinguishing genuine faith from a counterfeit claim.

John MacArthur, *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary: 1-3 John*, pp. 24-25

Sunday School Lesson Notes

Key Thoughts on I John 2:24

“Let that therefore abide in you, which ye have heard from the beginning. If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall continue in the Son, and in the Father.”

Scripture teaches that abiding in God’s Word is a critical, spiritual discipline. The Apostle John accentuates this teaching by stating that believers must abide in the truth of God’s Word so that they avoid the errors of false teachers. Our stand for truth and personal faithfulness to the truth is vital. Allow God’s Word to “dwell in you richly in all wisdom,” for when you do, you will experience God’s grace both in affirming the faith and obeying its commands. Persevere in the truth!

Questions to Consider

As you answer the questions and prepare for Sunday school, carefully read I John 2:18-29

1. I John 2:18-29 provides three characteristics of false teachers/deceivers referred to as the “many antichrists” in verse 18. According to the verses below, what are these distinguishing marks?
 - 2:18-19
 - 2:22-23
 - 2:26
2. According to our passage (I John 2:18-29), what specific aspect of our faith are the false teachers, the “antichrists,” attacking?
3. Faced with the reality of deceivers (“antichrists”) lurking to seduce believers, John explains that believers have a Resource. Scriptures reassure believers that the Holy Spirit plays a critical part in assisting them in discerning truth from error (I John 2:20, 27). When did the anointing (“unction,” v. 20a) of the Holy Spirit occur, and what are the practical results of His continual ministry to believers (I John 2:20b-27, see also John 14:17, 15:26 and 16:13)?

Does I John 2:27 eliminate the need for pastors and teachers? Why or why not (Support your answer with Scripture)?

4. What message does John give to believers on how to avoid being led astray by the lies of false teachers (I John 2:24, 28)?

Truth to Ponder

Regarding I John 2:19: *The New Testament presents the church in a twofold way: as one worldwide family and as local units or assemblies of believers. There is a “universal: as well as “local” aspect of the church. The whole worldwide company of believers is compared with a body (I Cor. 12) and with a building (Eph. 2:19-22). When a sinner trusts Christ as Savior, he receives eternal life and immediately becomes a member of God’s family and a part of Christ’s spiritual body. He should then identify himself with a local group of Christians (a church) and start serving Christ (Acts 2:41-42). But the point here [I John 2:19] is that a person can belong to a local church and not be part of the true spiritual body of Christ.*

One of the evidences of true Christian life is a desire to be with the people of God...When people share the same divine nature (II Peter 1:4) and are indwelt by the same Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:14-16), they want to enjoy fellowship and to share with one another.

Warren Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary: New Testament, Volume II* (Colorado Springs, David C. Cook Publishers, 1989), p. 498.