

"The Antichrist"

1 John 2.18-27

"It doesn't matter what you believe, as long as you are sincere"

RELIGION - woman raised in Xtian church - SON - Religious Science
Son to Mom "you probably don't agree with what we believe"

Mom:

it doesn't matter what you believe, as long as it makes you happy

DRIVER when driving down a highway you can drive with traffic, or
against the traffic, in any lane, as long as you are sincere

PHARMACIST when you feel sick, take any kind of medication, as
much as you feel you need, as long as you are sincere

BERRIES when you are camping, and your children find some
colorful berries, they can eat them, as long as they are sincere

IT IS POSSIBLE TO BE SINCERELY WRONG

1 John - "Signs of Christian Life" - 3 TESTS:

MORAL - "Walk in the Light" - God is Light

SOCIAL - "Walk in Love" - God is Love

DOCTRINAL - "Walk in the Truth" - God is True

1. Time of Antichrist

a. End Times v. 18a "this is the last hour"

SIMILAR TERMS USED IN SCRIPTURE:

"The Last Hour" / "the Day of the Lord" / "Age to Come"

2 Cor 6.2

2 Tim 3.1

THEOLOGICAL TRUTH NOT A CHRONOLOGICAL REFERENCE

ALL THE WORK OF REDEMPTION HAS BEEN COMPLETED- EXCEPT Return of X

§ Heb 1.1,2

Temporary Period / TRANSITION IN REDEMPTIVE HISTORY

NOT DAYS AND TIMES - BUT ALL IS READY, STAGE IS SET FOR FINAL ACT

STILL TRUE ALMOST 2,000 YEARS LATER

ETERNAL GOD IS NOT BOUND BY CLOCKS AND CALENDARS

JESUS SAID "I am coming soon" /i.e. ALL IS READY, IMMANENT RETURN

HOUR OF FINAL OPPOSITION TO CHRIST

b. Now/Later

v. 18b "antichrist is coming, many antichrists have come"

ONE INDIVIDUAL - SIGN OF THE SOON END OF HISTORY - COMING OF X

DANIEL "the abomination that causes desolation" 11.31,12.11

JESUS Mark 13.14,20,26,27

PAUL 2 Thess 2.3,4

MANY UNANSWERED QUESTIONS - NEED: PREPARTATION NOT SPECULATION

"even now many antichrists have come"

SPIRIT OF OPPOSITION TO GOD IS ALREADY AT WORK IN THE WORLD

4.3

2. Meaning of Antichrist

a. "Against Christ" DIRECT / INDIRECT OPPOSITION TO X & WORD

Matt 7.20

Vs. 19

2 Tim 4.10

RECENT ARTICLE "Dangerous Assumptions that Undermine Ministry"

Cited recent survey:

88% of US Adults describe themselves as Christians

only 40% of US Adults say they have made a personal commitment to
Jesus Christ that is still meaningful to them now and also
believe that they will spend eternity in heaven because they have
accepted Him

Another Figure - MOST CHURCH-GOERS ARE NOT BIBLICAL CHRISTIANS

in some Protestant churches -
75% of regular attenders do not know Christ as Savior

Phil 2.12,13

b. "Instead of Christ"

WOMAN ORDAINED A PASTOR IN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST IN NEW ENGLAND

NOT JUST A LESBIAN, ALSO A WITCH - "I found that some of the same
sense of empowerment that I got from the coven, I would get from
the church."

v. 22 2 John 7 Matthew 11.27

Recent Article - "The Many Faces of Jesus" in USA Weekend

DEFINE JESUS BY OUR SOCIETY

TELLS MORE ABOUT OURSELVES THAN ABOUT JESUS

MIDDLE AGES - Benevolent King

1960's - Long-haired dropout who overthrows the Establishment

Semi-annual "Jesus Seminar"
gathering of liberal religion scholars who vote on whether Jesus
really said and did what the Bible says He did

Recent Meeting - RECOGNIZED - passages which portray Jesus as a
COMPASSIONATE AND LOVING TEACHER

ŠREJECTED- passages which refer to Him as Messiah, Judge, Redeemer

Baptist Pastor in LA "the Jesus Seminar participants are fools.
The work they do is purely guesswork. How do they know 2,000
years later what Jesus said any better than the Bible? It's
really a matter of whether you believe in God or not."

c. Consequences v. 23 5.12 John 14.6 Acts 4.12

3. Signs of the Real Christ

a. Word vs. 21,22,24

"what you heard from the beginning" / OLD TIME GOSPEL

ITCHING EAR OF ATHENIANS

Acts 17.21

2 John 9

RECENT SURVEY OF CHURCH PEOPLE - 53 % SAID - ABSOLUTE TRUTH

i.e. something that is true all the time, no matter what

Matt 24.35

b. Spirit vs. 20,27 Jeremiah 31.34 John 14.16 1 Thess 4.9

AFTER SITTING THROUGH THIS WHOLE SERMON -

- NOW YOU TELL ME I DON'T NEED IT!!

CHRISTIAN COUNSELOR - Don't tell people about God or Scripture, □
don't want to offend them - LET THE HOLY SPIRIT WORK THROUGH ME

Rom 1.16

c. Endurance BELIEVE IN UNCHANGING GOD, STAND ON UNCHANGING WORD

vs. 24,25,27 John 10.27-29 Phil 1.6

PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS