

Daily Bible Study

“Us & Them”

1 John 2:19-23

July 21– July 25, 2025

MONDAY – 1 John 2:19-23, *“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. But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things. 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. Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son. Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who acknowledges the Son has the Father also.”* This week we look at a portion of Scripture where John points out that there are two groups of people in the world and in the church visible; Christ’s and antichrist’s. As Spurgeon put it, “There is always a separating process going on in the professing church, and the most effectual winnowing fan of all is a faithful ministry. After a while some of our hearers do not like what we say; it is too personal, too cutting, too searching. They want to listen to that kind of preaching that will allow them to go on comfortably in their sins and to have the reputation of living even while they are dead”. He then goes on to speak about the Lord Jesus often sifted out His followers as He declared the truth to them (**John 6:66**). Not everybody who professes to know Jesus truly does and remains faithful. Spurgeon then closes his thoughts on this by saying, “It is always so, and so must it be, under the faithful preaching of the Word. You must not be astonished or grieved when it is so”. John the Apostle is addressing this very thing in our text this week as he will show us who and why people leave the church and who are the people that stay. This text emphasizes the doctrine of the perseverance of the saints which we will see marks them that are truly in Christ.

(Meditate, Apply & Pray) Is your desire to remain faithful to Christ and His church till death? Why do some people fall away from the church? Father, I pray You would keep me faithful and work in my heart by Your Spirit & Word.

TUESDAY – 1 John 2:19: *“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.”* John uses the word *us* 5 times in this verse. In the Greek John writes “from us” four times and “with us” once. He wants us to understand that those he calls *antichrists* have left the church because they really did not belong to the church. The antichrists leave but the true Christians remain. C. H. Dodd puts it, “Membership of the Church is no guarantee that a man belongs to Christ and not to Antichrist”. The Apostle Paul put it this way in **Romans 9:6**, *“For they are not all Israel who are of Israel”*. John continues, *They went out from us...* There were and are people who walk away from the church. And the reason they leave is ultimately, *they were not of us*. They were not true Christians because they did not belong to the only source, namely, Christ. They attended for some time, but they were never really in Christ (**John 15:1–6**). Next he says, *for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us*. This is a SECOND CLASS CONDITIONAL SENTENCE which is called contrary to fact. It could be translated, “If they had belonged to us, which they did not, then they would have stayed with us, which they did not.” The departure of some from the Christian community demonstrates they were never a part of it. This text teaches the doctrine of perseverance of the saints. Genuine born again Christians endure. They persevere in faith, and with the fellowship of believers (**1 Corinthians 11:19, Mark 13:13, Hebrews 3:14, 2 Timothy 2:12**).

*(Meditate, Apply & Pray) Ask yourself, “Am I in this for the long haul”? Do you want and desire to remain faithful to Christ and His church? Have you seen people who have fallen away? Lord, Again I ask for endurance that is made possible ultimately by You working in me and keeping me (**Jude 1:24**). May I love and be in Your Word and may it fuel my desire to look to Jesus.*

WEDNESDAY – 1 John 2:20-21: *“But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things. 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.”* We will see in the coming verses that the antichrists deny that Jesus is the Christ, whose name in translated form means “the Anointed One.” As Christians we look to Jesus, the Christ, because from Him we have received our *anointing*. We not only bear the name of Jesus Christ but share in His anointing. The Heidelberg

Catechism question and answer #32 say, “But why are you called a Christian?” ~ “Because by faith I am a member of Christ and so share in his anointing. I am anointed to confess his name, to present myself to him as a living sacrifice of thanks, to strive with a free conscience against sin and the devil in this life, and afterwards to reign with Christ over all creation for all eternity.” In these two verses John teaches his readers about their *anointing*. John says we as true believers have “*an anointing from the Holy One*.” Who is it that anoints us? Paul tells us that God anoints believers as He did Jesus (**2 Corinthians 1:21, Acts 10:38**). Scripture teaches us that God the Father works through the Son as Jesus imparts the Holy Spirit to His children. He, our *anointing* Holy Spirit guards us from deception and also instructs us to *know all things* (**John 14:26, 16:13**). John reminds us that if we are true believers we have the very Holy Spirit of God within us. He protects us from error giving us pause, a “check in our spirit” when we hear lies and false doctrine as well as He helps us persevere as He illuminates the truth of God’s Word to our minds and hearts.

(Meditate, Apply & Pray) Have I experienced The Holy Spirit work in my heart and life when I have heard lies and error? Do I see Him illuminate the truth to me and help me understand the Scripture when I read, listen and hear it taught and preached? Father, thank You for The Holy Spirit who guards me from error and teaches me the truth of Your Word. Help me to walk closely with Him.

THURSDAY – **1 John 2:20-21**: “But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things. 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.” Today we will look a bit more on this matter of the *anointing*. In Old Testament times, priests, kings, and even prophets were anointed with oil to mark the beginning of their respective duties. The oil symbolized consecration. Here in our text we see the *anointing* refers not to oil but to the person of the *anointing*, The Holy Spirit. As we saw yesterday, the believer anointed with the Holy Spirit is able to discern truth from error, which helps us hear and mark false teaching and as we learn and grow in truth we are equipped to withstand the attacks of Satan. The Greek verb used here in these two verses is *oida* (to know) which relates not to acquired knowledge but to innate knowledge. John is saying he is not teaching his readers new truths but is reminding them of what they already know. The readers know the truth and they are able to detect the lies that antichrist false

teachers were saying; namely as we will see tomorrow, *that Jesus is the Christ*. We see so many false *antichrists* in the world today who make a lie of the person and work of Jesus. An example would be the Jehovah’s Witnesses and other cults who deny the deity and person of Jesus Christ contrary to what Scripture plainly has revealed. John’s disciple Polycarp, the bishop of the church in Smyrna, sent a letter to the Christians in Philippi and said: “For everyone who does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is an anti-Christ”; and whosoever does not confess the testimony of the Cross is of the devil: and whosoever perverts the oracles of the Lord for his own lusts, and says that there is neither resurrection nor judgment—this man is the first-born of Satan.” The Apostles and early church fathers were aggressive and straight to the point concerning false teachers and teaching.

(Meditate, Apply & Pray) Beware of anyone who comes to you with teaching that either adds or tries to take the place of the Bible. John warns us in his second letter, “If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching [of Christ], do not take him into your house or welcome him. Anyone who welcomes him shares in his wicked work” (2 John 10–11). Father, help us to be serious about the person and work of Your Son, Jesus The Christ.

FRIDAY– **1 John 2:22-23**, “Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son. Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who acknowledges the Son has the Father also.” John without fear or hesitation asks, *Who is the liar* and gives the answer *he who denies that Jesus is the Christ*. He is confronting the person bent on misrepresenting Jesus, that He is perfect God and perfect man. *He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son*. The one who denies that the Son of God has become man also denies the Father-Son relationship. *Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either*. If a person rejects Jesus Christ, he also rejects God the Father. Such a person according to John is the *antichrist*. In every century men refuse to acknowledge the Christ of Scripture. They deny the virgin birth, the resurrection, the ascension, the promise of Jesus’ return, etc. Others reject His divinity or humanity. Everyone who denies the biblical teaching deceives himself and, according to John, is a *liar*.

(Meditate, Apply & Pray) Father, Help me hold to the truth of Sacred Scripture.