



RED SKY 1 JOHN 2:18-27

Background

Date: 80's Author/Reader: Apostle John/Circular Letter
Occasion: Firm faith against seductive false teaching
Theme: Live in the Light. Christ is the Light.
Tone: A father's heart to clarify, assure, gird, and guide

⁸ Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore 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 it might become plain that they all are not of us. ²⁰ But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and you all have knowledge. ²¹ I write to you, not because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and because no lie is of the truth. ²² Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son. ²³ No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also. ²⁴ Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father. ²⁵ And this is the promise that he made to us-- eternal life. ²⁶ I write these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you. ²⁷ But the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie-- just as it has taught you, abide in him. (1Jo 2:18-27 ESV)

Explanation: Discerning the Dangers (vv.18-23,26)

These are dangerous times

There are dangerous people

There is reason for your confidence

Exhortation: Counteracting The Dangers (vv.24-27)

The primary danger

A secondary danger

Counteraction 1:

Counteraction 2:

“Holy Trinity,
continue to teach me
that Christ's righteousness
satisfies justice
and evidences Thy love;
help me to make use of it
by faith
as the ground of my peace
and of Thy favour
and acceptance,
so that I may live always
near the cross.”
(The Valley of Vision)*
*A Puritan Prayer

Going Deeper

(For individual or small groups to go deeper with the passage)

1. Read 1 John 2:18-27. Also, read Matthew 24:3-28. What are two parallel ideas between these two passages? How is 1 John 2:18-27 different?
2. How does John describe the “antichrists”? How would they relate to the false teachers Paul warns the Ephesian church about? (c.f. Acts 20:29-31)
3. What is “the truth” that the recipients already know and “anointing” they already have so that no one need teach them about this truth? What does this indicate the “antichrists” were trying to do? What strategies were they perhaps trying to use?
4. Consider this passage from the perspective of someone who is not a Christian. What do you think they would most struggle with—the “last hour” teaching or the exclusivity of the Christian faith? How would you respond?
5. Spiritual Exercise: Paul tells the readers in Corinth, like John here, that the gospel is of “first importance”. Paul also tells the Christians in Rome he is excited to visit them and “preach the gospel to you”. As Christians, we must preach the gospel to ourselves. This week, begin each morning preaching the gospel to yourself, meditating on one of these passages (Rom. 3:21-26; 6:5-11; Gal. 2:20-21; Titus 3:3-7; Heb. 10:12-14), and reciting the prayer from *The Valley of Vision* quoted above.