

THE SPIRIT OF ANTICHRIST

Text: I John 4:1-6

I. **Many today are busy setting out their ideas about the last days**

Prophecy is one of the hottest topics going

Everybody wants to know about the future-When will Jesus return

I have got off the planning committee and am now on the welcoming committee

THINK THERE ARE SOME THINGS GOD DID NOT INTEND FOR US TO KNOW

Acts 1:6 "When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?"

THAT IS A VERY IMPORTANT QUESTION-JESUS ANSWER TO THEM WAS EQUALLY IMPORTANT

Acts 1:7 "And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power." He was basically saying, "that is none of your business"

Then he tells them what their business was to be

Acts 1:8 "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

There is nothing wrong with studying prophecy as long as we do not get so wrapped up in future events we forget what we are to be doing now

II. **While there are many different ideas about how the last day will play out there is no denying that we are in the last days.**

A simple study of that phrase will help us understand this.

2 Timothy 3:1 "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come."

THEN HE LIST 19 CHARACTERISTICS THAT WILL MARK THESE TIMES

2 Timothy 3:2-5 "For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away."

This list reads like the headlines of our news papers. Many say, "This is the way it has always been." But we have never seen the scope and severity like in our days.

Another reference is given to us:

2 Peter 3:3,4 "Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation."

How often do we hear people mocking the idea of the Second coming of Christ? Each time you hear the scoffers you know we are that much closer.

I would like to share with you one more if you with you one more reference because it introduces what I want to consider for our time together

1 Timothy 4:1 "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking

lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth."

NOTICE THE PHRASE SEDUCING SPIRITS.

Paul tells us there will be a rise in spiritual activity and not all of it will be good

III. **This is the idea carried on by John**

John writing to first century believers saw much that troubled him in the area of spiritual activity.

HERE HE IS TALKING ABOUT SPIRITS-AND HE EVEN GIVES ONE A NAME

For a few moment I want to talk about it for a little while

The Spirit Of Antichrist

I want to share with you five things about this spirit. I Pray we will be instructed and warned through the Word of God. Notice first of all that the spirit of Antichrist is a:

I. Present Spirit

A. **Bible speaks about a man that will one day come**

1 John 2:18 "Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time."

He lurks in the shadows of many passages in the Bible. There is a lot of talk today about the antichrist.

He is the focus and subject of a lot of discussion and debate. Sadly many seem to be more interested in him that in the true Christ

B. **I not know if he is currently on the world scene or not. But His spirit is**

Notice what John says:

1 John 4:3 And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.

No doubt this is what Paul had in mind as well when he pinned:

Ephesians 2:2 "Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:"

One would have to be a fool not to see the influence of this spirit in our world today

Notice also that the spirit of antichrist is a:

II. **Perverting Spirit**

What is it we think of when we think of the word antichrist? It is a compound word, Christ meaning anointed (The true one of course is Jesus). This word is preceded by the prefix "anti". This prefix can have two meanings-both of them are applicable. The Prefix can mean

1. **Against**

If you are antigun-you are against guns. An anti-inflammatory drug is one that is against inflammation So the antichrist-following this line of thinking would be the spirit that works against Christ. The prefix “anti” can also mean:

2. **In the Place of**

Matthew 2:22 "But when he heard that Archelaus did reign in Judaea in the room of his father Herod, he was afraid to go thither: notwithstanding, being warned of God in a dream, he turned aside into the parts of Galilee:"

This is especially dangerous today. There are many who are working not only against Jesus, but they are also placing themselves in the place of Jesus

2 Corinthians 11:13-15 "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works."

They are not really apostles but that is how they appear. There is so much today that is being accepted in the place of what is true that has its roots under this “substituting spirit”.

Hosea 4:12 "My people ask counsel at their stocks, and their staff declareth unto them: for the spirit of whoredoms hath caused them to err, and they have gone a whoring from under their God."

REMEMBER JESUS SPOKE ABOUT AN UNPARDONABLE SIN

Matthew 12:31, 32 "Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men. And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come."

When people talk about this verse they often say it deals with a person who refuses salvation but it goes much deeper than that. The Warning was given because people had attributed work of Spirit of God to devil.

Matthew 12:24 "But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, This fellow doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils."

This is a dangerous thing to do. But it is also dangerous to attribute the working of the Spirit of antichrist to the true Spirit of Christ. Tragically that is being done today.

We can also say that the Spirit of antichrist is a:

- III. **Powerful Spirit** We live in a world that is obsessed with the miraculous-want see something amazing. There are some miraculous things taking place that are genuine. I did not say they was good and godly. Many fail to realize the power of the wicked one.
2 Thessalonians 2:9 "Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,"

While the antichrist may not be on the scene the spirit of antichrist is empowering today. How strong is this spirit? Passages in the Old Testament give us insight:

0. False Prophets Deuteronomy 13:1-2 "If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder, And the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them;"
1. Magicians in Pharaoh's Court
They were able to reproduce some of the miracles that Moses did
WE SHOULD NOT BE SURPRISES WHEN MIRACULOUS THINGS HAPPEN TODAY EVEN WHEN FALSE DOCTRINES ARE BEING PROMOTED THROUGH THEM.

Also we see that this spirit is a:

IV. **Perilous Spirit**

Many people are playing with this spirit to their own detriment. They view it as a game, thinking nothing of things which glamorize those things that God clearly condemns in His Word. Truly those that treat this spirit so lightly are playing games with their eternal destiny.

2 Thessalonians 2:10 "And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved."

This Spirit works through deceit. This is why God warns people to stay away from these things.

Deuteronomy 12:30 "Take heed to thyself that thou be not snared by following them, after that they be destroyed from before thee; and that thou inquire not after their gods, saying, How did these nations serve their gods? even so will I do likewise."

Finally let me say this spirit is a:

V. **Perceivable Spirit**

You can know what kind of spirit you are dealing with.

NOTICE WE ARE CALLED TO "TRY" THE SPIRIT I John 4:1

NOT MEAN WE ARE TO EXPERIMENT WITH THEM AND "TRY THEM OUT"

1 Corinthians 11:28 "But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. "

As you read through this passage you see that there is one great question you should ask to discern what kind of spirit you are dealing with: Where does the spirit place Jesus?

I John 4:3

1 Corinthians 12:3 "Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost."

THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL NOT SAY THAT YOU NEED JESUS AND SOMETHING ELSE TO MAKE YOU WHOLE. The Spirit of God will not magnify Himself-He always points to Jesus.

John 16:13 "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come."

There are those that think we need to close the Bible and get the "spirit" Those who would give this advice know not what spirit they are of. We live in a day where we better have our Bibles open.

You will never be able to study all falsehoods. They are always changing. What we need is the Word of God.

We need to teach our children to discern and avoid those things of the spirit of antichrist like the plague.

1 Corinthians 2:11, 12 "For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God."

1 Corinthians 2:14-15 "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man."