

“BEING CAREFUL OF WHO WE FOLLOW”

Children of God #3

INTRODUCTION

In the book of 1 John, the Apostle expresses his concern for the believers. In chapter 2 he specifically warns and advises them with regard to “antichrists.” These are adversaries, or opponents to the Messiah. John is the one who devised and used this term. It can specifically refer to the one who will rise to power during the last days, however here he uses it to refer to individuals who pose a threat to the faith. Today we find that there are those who would be a danger to follow, because they would lead us away from Jesus. If we are attentive to the warnings of 1 John we will be prepared to follow God faithfully and not be led astray.

Ice Breaker (Optional): Do you use social media to “follow” anyone? If so, who is top of your list?

STUDY QUESTIONS (45 MIN)

Be CAREFUL of how you live.

Q1. Read 1 John 2:18, 26; Matthew 24:44

In 1 John 2:18 John tells his readers that “these are the last days.” Even though they did not see Christ’s return during their lifetimes, why was it wise for them to live with the expectation of His imminent return? (see Matthew 24:44) If you absolutely knew that Jesus would return tomorrow, what is the first thing you would do? Is there any reason not to do that today?

Q2. Read Mark 13:22; Acts 20:29-30

What are the dangers to believers described in Mark 13:22 and Acts 20:29-30? From where do some of these threats arise? (Acts 20:29) If there are some among us who might be a threat to our faith, what can you do to identify who they are? What are some ways to prepare yourself to stand firm in your faith?

Be CONFIDENT of your calling.

Q3. Read 1 John 2:20, 25, 27; 2 Corinthians 1:21-22; John 14:26

1 John 2:27 tells us we are anointed by the Holy One, which indicates we are called and set apart for His purposes. As part of our anointing, what has God given us as a guarantee (2 Corinthians 1:22)? Rather than

relying on others to tell us what is true or not, how do we come to the knowledge of the truth? (John 14:26)

Be CLEAR about our adversary.

Q4. Read 1 John 2:18-19, 22; 1 John 4:3; 2 John 1:7

How does 1 John 2 define an antichrist? *To believe that “Jesus is the Christ” is to believe that he is the Anointed, the Messiah of the prophets, the Saviour sent of God, that he was, in a word, what he claimed to be.*¹ Have you personally ever confronted anyone who cast doubt on the claims of Jesus?

Q5. Read 1 John 2:24-25, 27

Finally, John appeals to his readers to “let what they had heard from the beginning abide in them.” To abide means to take up residence. What does it mean to have what we’ve heard abide in us or for us to abide in God? How do you think one influences the other?

WRAP-UP

John was concerned that the believers he wrote to were in danger of being led astray. He advised them to be careful of how they lived, and confident that God had indeed called them and given them the promise of eternal life. The Apostle wanted the believers to recognize that the threat to their faith could arise from within their midst but that they had been given the Holy Spirit both as a guarantee of His promise and as a guide to all truth, if only they would remain committed to Him.

Memory Verse

No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also.
1 John 2:23 ESV

PRAYER (20 MIN)

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life: _____
Pray for your group members’ needs:

Challenge:

This week, try asking some people this question “Do you believe Jesus was God come in the flesh?” But be prepared to defend your faith.

¹Dictionaries :: Christ. Retrieved from <http://www.blueletterbible.orghttps://www.blueletterbible.org/search/Dictionary/viewTopic.cfm>

