

July 3, 2022

The Bridge Bible Fellowship

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1 John 2:18-27

Doctrinal Test #1 – Abiding in the Truth – Part 1

Discussion and Application:

1. The Apostle John uses the word “**abide**” (remain; dwell; stay) frequently in his writings (i.e., Jn. 1:32f, 38f; 2:12; 3:36; 4:40; 5:38; 6:27, 56; 7:9; 8:35; 9:41; 10:40; 11:6, 54; 12:24, 34, 46; 14:10, 17, 25; 15:4-7, 9f, 16; 19:31; 21:22f; 1 Jn. 2:6, 10, 14, 17, 19, 24, 27f; 3:6, 9, 14f, 17, 24; 4:12f, 15f; 2 Jn 2, 9). What does the word mean? In what or whom are we to abide? Do we abide so we can do something for it / Him or so it / He can do something for us? How does abiding relate to our assurance of salvation? Does abiding earn salvation or does abiding demonstrate that we have salvation?
2. In 1 John 2:18, John says “it is the **last hour**.” The “last days” are associated with the Day of Pentecost and the birth of the church (Acts 2:17). The Last Days have last days characterized by people abandoning God and the truth (2 Pet. 3:3ff; 2 Tim. 3:1). Ultimately there will be a last day of the last days of the Last Days (Jn. 6:39ff) when Jesus will return and raise His people up. All of this reminds us that God has a timeline for human history and there is a specific time when Jesus will return. How can realizing it is the last hour help believers in their fight with the world and the things of the world (2:15-17)? How can it motivate believers to stand for the truth when so many people around them are pursuing their own “truth”?
3. Who is The **Antichrist**? What does the Bible teach about him? What are the characteristics that we see in the many antichrists who come before him? What are the two main definitions for the prefix “anti”? How does each help us understand the different ways an antichrist could present himself? What are some modern examples of antichrists that are secular? What are some modern examples of antichrists that are religious?
4. These antichrists (and their followers) at one time were in local churches. John Stott wrote, “**Some may share our earthly company but not our heavenly birth.**” Churches often have a large percentage of people in attendance who are not born-again believers in Jesus. What can we do to find out if people have a saving faith? What questions can we ask as we get to know people? How might you use your personal testimony to impact unbelievers who are attending true churches?
5. The false teachers (antichrists) didn’t remain (abide) in the true churches. What was it about the true churches (their beliefs, commitments, and leadership) that made them leave? Some people say that “doctrine divides,” but doctrine is essential to divide true believers from false believers. How important is it that we **know what we believe and why we believe it**? What are some resources available to us (all ages) to help us have stronger convictions as to what we believe and why we believe it?
6. John knew that specific people left the local churches because he knew who was in the local churches. How important is **active participation** in a local church? How important is **membership** in a local church? What are the benefits and protections of belonging to a local church that is committed to the true Jesus and the true Gospel?
7. What does it mean to “abide” in a local church? Do we go for what we can do for the church or what we can receive from the church or both? According to 1 John 2:19, what concerns should we have for people who leave local churches and say they will just seek God on their own?
8. **Do you believe we are in the last hour?** How does that impact your concern for and active pursuit of people who don’t know the true Gospel and/or aren’t actively involved in a biblical church? **List 5 people** you know who fit that description and **pray** for them daily. Ask the Lord to give you opportunities and boldness to share with them the good news of Jesus Christ.
9. **Memorize 1 John 2:19-20.**