

Christ Reformation Church

Tillamook, Oregon

You Must be Born Again!

Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?”

(John 11:25-26)

www.sermonaudio.com/crc

www.unholycharade.com (blog)

www.lightfordarktimes.com (blog)

Christ Reformation Church – YouTube Channel (Light for Dark Times)

Don't be Deceived – The Spirit of Antichrist

(Part 2 – Antichrist Denies Jesus Christ)

September 21, 2025

Sermon Text: 1 John 2:18-20

Scripture Reading:

1Jn 2:18-27 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.

Last time we began this series of messages on the Antichrist by issuing a warning that the spirit of this evil one is at work right now with all wicked deception. And we looked at this sober warning from the Lord Jesus Himself:

Mat 12:43-45 “When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, but finds none. (44) Then it says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came.’ And when it comes, it finds the house empty, swept, and put in order.

(45) Then it goes and brings with it seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and dwell there, and the last state of that person is worse than the first. So also will it be with this evil generation.”

This is the very real danger of mere outward reform. A nominal (in name only) Christianity. Religion without Christ, devoid of His indwelling Spirit. Such people inevitably end in a much worse bondage than they had once been in. Their last state is worse than the first.

You can believe the facts of the gospel. You can live a life of morality and have a life that is swept and put in order, but if your heart is vacant of the Holy Spirit, if you are not born again and thus joined to Christ, dead to the Law, the enemy will move back in 7-fold and you will be worse off than before.

This deception is an age-old tactic of the devil, and it is very much at work in the world – and in the

visible church – right now. The spirit of antichrist. A “Christianity” without Christ. A “church” that denies the Lord Jesus Christ and the truth He taught – that you must be born again. The deception of a false gospel.

We are faced with this deception with even greater intensity now. With the wicked murder of Charlie Kirk, masses of people are being drawn into a movement which claims to be of Christ. Charlie, I hope, was a genuine Christian – the Lord knows. He did much good and was very bold for truths which we believe as well. Nevertheless, there is a troubling ecumenicity in the organization he founded and which is certainly going to increase.

As people embrace this movement, they are going to be deceived that it is Christianity. That its doctrine is biblical and a true gospel. But mixed together in it is that old nemesis and tool of antichrist, namely, the Roman Catholic “church.” ***Evangelicals, Protestants, Catholics, Jews, and perhaps even more drawn***

together not by Christ, but by a political movement whose goal is to usher in the kingdom of God by populating the nations with Christian children, placing professing Christians in government and other key positions – what we would call that postmillennial method working to turn the entire world and the nations into the kingdom of heaven.

Rome is already working in this. Charlie’s wife – and we certainly are very sorry for the terrible loss she and her children are experiencing – is a Roman Catholic. She is the new CEO of the organization. So it is a certainty that the “gospel” of Turning Point is going to be very accepting of Rome and you can be sure that Rome is going to use this movement to its own glory and growth.

But God’s Word pronounces the gospel of Rome to be a lie cursed by God:

Gal 1:8-9 But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. (9) As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.

There is a spirit behind all of this and it is not the Holy Spirit. Ultimately, antichrist always promotes the worship of man – and one day it will be the worship of one man, the Antichrist. We are seeing this man-worship now. People who claim to be Christians are announcing that they are leaving their church because the pastor did not take time last Sunday to honor Charlie Kirk.

Therefore it is vital that we give our time and attention now to what God's Word tells us about this man of lawlessness. Let's return to this second chapter of 1 John and look at it in closer detail:

1Jn 2:18-27 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.

Antichrist Comes Among Us

One of the fundamental facts about antichrist is not only that is his spirit (Satan) active now and all through the church age, but that he operates through human beings.

2Co 11:13-15 For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. (14) And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. (15) So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds.

These false teachers, false apostles, false Christians, are people who come in among us in the church wearing the disguise of righteousness. They look like Christians.

This tells us that the Antichrist is and will be *religious*. He will claim to speak for Christ. But it is all a disguise. Expect it. Just because someone looks like a Christian through their speech and behavior, does not mean they are.

Antichrist Comes Among Us and Introduces a False Gospel

2Co 11:4 For if someone comes and proclaims another Jesus than the one we proclaimed, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or if you accept a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it readily enough.

Satan is a liar, a deceiver. And that is exactly what those who are energized by the spirit of antichrist are. Liars. Deceivers. Wearers of disguise. The way that their true

nature is revealed – though very subtly – is by the lies they introduce. Specifically, lies about Christ.

(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.

What does this mean? After all, Rome confesses that Jesus is the Son of God. Does that make Rome Christian?

No.

To *deny that Jesus is the Christ* entails far more than merely confessing that Jesus is the Son of God. Even Satan acknowledges that. To *confess the Son* is to confess His Person AND His work. It is to confess HIM and His truth. Who He is, and what He taught. We know this because of the rest of the New Testament. Paul, as we have seen, pronounces anathema

anyone who adds works to faith alone in Christ alone.

Rome fails this test. Rome does not confess the truth that Jesus declared. Rome teaches another justification, another sanctification, another church, another priesthood, another sacrament, another righteousness. There is, in fact, very little about Rome that confesses Jesus as the Christ.

Lying and Deception

It is the essence of Satan's nature to lie and deceive.

2Jn 1:7 For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. Such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist.

Rev 12:9 And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

If we become more concerned with being accused of “narrowness” than truth, we are going to travel down that path of deception. We see it forming up right now. Masses of people who claim to be Christians are gathering together, bonded by a common politic, a common conservative view, by agreement on certain subjects such as sexual identity, sanctity of life, the form of government, marriage, and yet who do not want to be bothered by too “narrow” of a view of sound, biblical truth. To maintain that Rome is a false gospel would not be a popular position in this movement. Rome, like the deceiver antichrist, is willing to present herself under a variety of disguises.

Lying and deception. The devil’s tactics. And if we do not give ourselves faithfully to God’s Word and examine carefully what claims to be of Christ, we are going to be led astray. I have great reservations, as you can tell, about this recent widespread embracing of Turning Point as a supposed God-ordained and Christ-led movement. Rome is right in the

middle of it. The mega churches and various “Christian” celebrities are in the middle of it.

They Are Not of Us

(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.

Light and darkness cannot co-exist. John explained to the church he wrote to that the people who had left them, people who had appeared to be brothers and sisters in Christ, were not. And the fact that they left was evidence of this. Why did they leave? Because they were of antichrist. They were liars and deceivers. They did not confess Jesus as the Christ.

Think on this carefully. *This is what is to be expected in the true church. Deceivers will creep in. They will try to deceive the saints with a false Jesus, a false spirit, and a false gospel. When Christ’s*

true people remain steadfast in truth, the deceivers will leave.

Notice still another very important truth here:

When a local church or some professing ‘christian’ entity experiences the opposite movement, something is very wrong. That is, when numerical growth is the norm, when large numbers of people come and remain, when massive amounts of money is being amassed, when the movement is popular with worldlings, antichrist and his servants have found a comfortable home.

(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.

Where do we see, over and over again, Christ’s name being reproached? Is it not where these elements prevail? –

A genuine Christian, the person who is truly in Christ, born again, led by the Holy Spirit, *has been anointed by the Holy One*. This simply means that the Spirit of Christ is in the Christian, giving him the ability to discern Christ of antichrist. No one has to teach the believer this. It is part of his new nature to know Christ’s voice. We DO know the truth. We can discern Christ’s truth from the deception of the evil one.

- Wealth – millions of dollars
- Fame – leaders who are celebrities
- Preaching and doctrine that the masses of people find pleasing

John says it again:

My Sheep Hear My Voice

(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.

When we see someone who claims to be a Christian, and who perhaps we even thought was a Christian, being drawn away after some antichrist, we can know that they were not of us. The Holy Spirit is, well, listen to Jesus:

John 14:17 even **the Spirit of truth**, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

John 15:26 “But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, **the Spirit of truth**, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me.

John 16:13 When **the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth**, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.

And John uses the very same title for the Holy Spirit here:

1Jn 4:6 We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this **we know the Spirit of truth** and the spirit of error.

Whoever knows God listens to us. This remains true today. Whenever and wherever God’s Word is truthfully and faithfully proclaimed, Christ’s true people will recognize it as such and believe it.

But those who are counterfeits will not listen. They will dislike what they hear and eventually they will depart if they cannot silence the truth.

Now, you can see this playing out with increased intensity. As this current newly-energized movement of thousands of people embracing political and cultural conservatism presented in a wrapping of Christianity increases, it is going to be increasingly

unpopular to refuse to accept it as being of Christ. Ecumenism and the acceptance of Rome or of anything claiming to be of judeo-Christian origin, will be the order of the day. Local, visible churches are already jumping into this and insisting that it is a real revival, a movement of the Spirit. To regard it as anything else will be taboo and costly.

But this is exactly how antichrist works now, and how he will work when THE Antichrist is revealed. He will present himself as Christ's vicar and eventually as God.

Next time we will plan to examine what this means:

2Th 2:3 Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction,

What is this "rebellion," or as the word is variously translated, "falling away," or "apostasy"? This is something which Paul tells us is a precursor to Christ's return, and a sober warning to us that we not be caught up in the greatest deception in history.

2Th 2:9-12 The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, (10) and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. (11) Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, (12) in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.