

## Real Disciples (6): Anointing from God

---

### I. Introduction:

- A. John uses three words today that get a lot of press— **First** word is “*anointing*.”
1. This word is often used today of a *special spiritual empowerment*.
    - a. This ministry has been anointed; this is an anointed song or book.
    - b. Preacher “*apostolic anointing on his life...to bring an anointed word*”
  2. I once received an “*anointed prayer handkerchief*” in the mail.
    - a. This televangelist had prayed over it for it to be anointed by God
    - b. I was to pray holding it, and then wrap up a contribution and mail it!
  3. John has something else in mind when he speaks of the anointing!
- B. **Second** word that John uses that gets thrown around today is “*antichrist*.”
1. Mark Hitchcock wrote *Is Antichrist Alive Today?* See signs in global events
    - a. The European Union, Globalization, push for worldwide identification.
    - b. The end is near and the antichrist is among us, quiet and unknown.
  2. While Hitchcock doesn’t name the Antichrist, many others gladly will.
    - a. Best candidate is Javier Solana of EU (*Came to power in Resolution 666*)
    - b. Many people point to Prince Charles! (*Getting tired of waiting to be king*)
    - c. Others suggest George Bush, Osama bin Laden, Pope or Vladimir Putin
  3. John mentions antichrist, but surprisingly, he doesn’t mention those guys
- C. **Third** word (*or phrase*) that John uses is “*the last hour*” (or “*last days*”)
1. “*Soothsayers of second advent*” like to predict the time of last hour.
    - a. Every generation has had those who just knew the last days were on us
    - b. John, like the rest of the New Testament, uses this term differently too.
  2. In the NT, “*the last days*” are about first coming of Jesus (**Heb 1:1-2**)
    - a. Hebrews says that Jesus died at “*the end of the ages*” (**Heb 9:26**).
    - b. Peter says the Holy Spirit was poured out “*in the last days*” (**Acts 2:17**)
    - c. Peter contrasts the beginning of time with the last days (**1 Pet 1:20**)
    - d. Paul’s “*terrible times in last days*” (**1 Tim 3:1**) is already here (**1 Ti 3:5**)
- D. John brings all three words together in our text (**Reading: 1 John 2:18-27**)

## II. The Problem: The False Teacher (Antichrist)

- A. John's false teachers denied that Jesus came in the flesh
  - 1. That made the cross unimportant and cut the heart from the gospel
    - a. But this false doctrine also made spirituality esoteric and theoretical.
    - b. Ignored things like obedience to God and love of other believers
    - c. The emphasis was on self—knowledge and religious experience
  - 2. This is what John is talking about when he mentions the antichrist here
    - a. Antichrist wasn't a shadowy "*Future Fuhrer*" as Hal Lindsey called him
      - 1) Antichrist went out from them; denied Jesus in flesh (**1 Jn 2:18, 22**)
      - 2) Antichrist is not just a person but "*a spirit of antichrist*" (**1 Jn 4:3**)
      - 3) They were deceivers claiming Christ but rejecting coming (**2 Jn 7**)
    - b. Those 4 verses are all the New Testament says about the antichrist!
    - c. All point to a denial of Jesus **and** that antichrist was already in the world.
  - 3. However you interpret the end-time, John's antichrist was about the present
- B. We don't have to contend these precise Gnostic or Gnostic-like heresies
  - 1. Some challenges do come from Gnostics today—*The Da Vinci Code*
    - a. Gnosticism is trendy— books like *Gospel of Judas*, *Jesus Papers*, etc.
    - b. But then no one rings your doorbell offering a copy of *Gospel of Thomas*
    - c. So what do we do with these warning of the spirit of antichrist today?
  - 2. Some who claim to be Christian today make many of the same claims
    - a. Some say it doesn't *really* matter whether Jesus really came? Or died?
    - b. Some say it doesn't *really* matter whether we obey God's moral law?
      - 1) Churches that ordain homosexuals and bless homosexual unions
      - 2) Others justify hate (protest funerals) to homosexuals in Christ's name
  - 3. But what about those (us?) who just live like these false teachers in John?
    - a. Do we ever LIVE like we don't believe Jesus came or is coming again?
      - 1) Do we ever ACT like we don't think obeying God is important?
      - 2) Do we ever seem to BEHAVE as if loving others is only optional?
    - b. The spirit of antichrist can be alive and well in those who claim faith!
    - c. When we fail to live in keeping with Christ's truth—we live as antichrist

### III. The Solution: An Anointing From God

- A. John's solution to spirit of antichrist was to remember anointing ([2:20, 26-27](#))
1. The word "*Christ*" (or the Hebrew "*Messiah*") means "*the anointed one.*"
    - a. Israel's kings had oil rubbed on them to symbolize that ordained them
    - b. David refused to "*lay a hand on the LORD's anointed*" ([1 Sam 26:11](#))
    - c. The ultimate king was "...*Jesus, whom you anointed*" ([Acts 4:27](#))
  2. If Christ means "*anointed*" then "*antichrist*" must mean "*anti-anointed*"
    - a. These false teachers denied to coming of Christ and thus the anointing.
    - b. By contrast, John's disciples were the ones who were anointed by God.
- B. We have an anointing from God, but what exactly does that mean?
1. Jesus Christ ("*Anointed One*") was anointed by God's Spirit ([Acts 10:38](#))
    - a. John's point here is that we also have this anointing from God.
      - 1) Some (C.H. Dodd, William Barclay) see this as reference to baptism
      - 2) So anointing refers to their initial baptismal commitment to Christ
    - b. I don't want to discourage people from stressing high view of baptism
      - 1) Most commentators see this anointing as that of God's Spirit
      - 2) Jesus was anointed by "*the Spirit of the Lord*" ([Lk 4:18](#)). *So are we*
      - 3) John will refer to the Spirit later in the book ([1 John 3:24, 4:13](#))
  2. This anointing is both a reminder and empowerment to live for God
    - a. The Spirit's anointing **REMINDS** us to live holy lives ([1 Cor 6:19-20](#))
      - 1) Our bodies are the temple of the Spirit; we must use them for Him
      - 2) Corinthians couldn't use their bodies for prostitutes—not their own
      - 3) They were filled with the Spirit and had to live spirit-led lives.
    - b. Spirit's anointing also **EMPOWERS** us to live for God ([2 Cor 1:21-22](#))
      - 1) What allows us to stand firm in Christ? *We have been anointed!*
      - 2) I want to be able to explain this definitively... or at least understand
        - a) In some way, the presence of the Living God takes up residence in us
        - b) That Spirit of God anointing marks us as God's (John's point in 1 John)
        - c) While never overruling free-will, he empowers us bear His fruit ([Gal 5](#))
  3. We are to resist world's siren song because we have an anointing of God

## IV. Conclusion

- A. Years ago, a preacher friend of mine had a visitor stop by his office
  - 1. He ask, “I just want to know one thing; is this a faithful church?”
    - a. How do you answer that? *“No, not really, but we're friendly?”*
    - b. Of course, my friend replied that Yes, this is indeed a faithful church”
      - 1) *“So why the kitchen? Faithful churches don't have kitchens!”*
      - 2) As visitor left in a huff, my friend offered, *“It's a small kitchen.”*
  - 2. Who are real disciples? What is a real church? What makes one faithful?
    - a. We've all probably heard lessons on *“Marks of the True Church”*
    - b. The problem is, the list always varies depending on who makes the list
- B. John's disciples really needed to know, *“Who is really a real disciple?”*
  - 1. False teachers were confusing them with theories and philosophies.
    - a. How do you tell a real disciple? John says that God knows his own.
    - b. God anoints those disciples who are his own with His own Spirit.
  - 2. John's list is actually pretty short, and it says nothing about kitchens—
    - a. Disciples believe in that Christ came in the flesh and died for our sins
    - b. Disciples obey God and therefore repent and turn from sins
    - c. Disciples love other disciples and give their lives in service
  - 3. That is what discipleship is all about. Is that what you are about?