

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF ERIE

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Calling All Christians to Hear and Heed

Series from 1 John on – Genuine and Confident Christianity

1 JOHN 2:18-23

It makes no difference what you believe, just as long as you are “sincere!” That statement expresses the personal philosophy of many people today, but it is doubtful whether most of those who make it have really thought it through. Is “sincerity” the magic ingredient that makes something *true*? If so, then you ought to be able to apply it to any area of life, and not only to religion.

It takes more than "sincerity" to make something true. Faith in a lie will always cause serious consequences; faith in the truth is never misplaced. *It does make a difference what a man believes!* God has warned the church family (“little children”) about the conflict between light and darkness (1 John 1:1-2:6) and between love and hatred (1 John 2:7-17). Now He warns them about a third conflict: the conflict between truth and error. It is not enough for a believer to walk in the light and to walk in love; he must also walk in truth. **The issue is truth-or consequences!**

This passage of Scripture reveals some needs that all Christians are called **HEAR** and **HEED**.

I. WE NEED TO RECEIVE THE WARNING TO THE CHURCH. (Vs. 18-19)

A. Concerning the Time. (Vs. 18)

Before John explains the tragic consequences of turning from the truth, he emphasizes the seriousness of the matter. He does so by using two special terms: "the last time" and "antichrist." Both terms make it clear that Christians are living in an hour of crisis and must guard against the errors of the enemy.

“The last hour” began back in John's day *and has been growing in intensity ever since*. “The last hour” or “the last times” are phrases

that describe a *kind* of time, not a *duration* of time. “The latter times” are described in **1 Timothy 4**. In other words, Christians have *always* been living in “the last time”- in crisis days. It is therefore important that you know what you believe and why you believe it.

Next, we see in **verse 19**:

B. Concerning Their Turning. (Vs. 19)

John moves from warning the church about the time of the day to warning us about the turning of the deceivers. John reminds the church about those... This is a sad commentary, but a sobering truth. Folks can be within the church but not be a part of the church.

II. WE NEED TO REMEMBER THE WEALTH OF THE CHURCH. (Vs. 20-21)

A. They Have Received the Truth. (Vs. 20)

The church has true wealth because of our standing in the truth and our understanding of the truth. **John 8:32. Anointing: (KJV: unction)** the word signifies the anointing prepared from oil and herbs. It is used metaphorically of the **Holy Spirit**.

B. They Recognize the Truth. (Vs. 21)

John's purpose for writing this section of scripture was to encourage the saints to keep believing the truth that they already know. John recognized that the church knew the truth.

III. WE NEED TO REALIZE THE WITNESS AGAINST THE CHURCH. (Vs. 22-23)

A. They Deny the Church's Founder. (Vs. 22a)

John uses strong language in calling them a liar who denies that Jesus is the Christ. **Denies:** means “*to disavow, reject, refuse*”. The word signifies ‘to say ... not’ It literally means to disown a person.

B. They Deny the Church's Father. (Vs. 22b-23)

John says that the spirit of the Antichrist dwells in all those who deny the Father and the Son.

God has not called us to go along and get along with everyone. Not everyone is going to heaven. Not everyone is going the same direction. God has called us to travel the narrow road and not turn aside from the truth and the true doctrine of the Christian faith.