

## 1 John 2: 18 - 29 (New International Version)

<sup>15</sup>Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. <sup>16</sup>For everything in the world—the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does—comes not from the Father but from the world. <sup>17</sup>The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.

<sup>18</sup>Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know it is the last hour. <sup>19</sup>They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us; but their going showed that none of them belonged to us.

<sup>20</sup>But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth. <sup>21</sup>I do not write to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it and because no lie comes from the truth. <sup>22</sup>Who is the liar? It is whoever denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a person is the antichrist—denying the Father and the Son. <sup>23</sup>No one who denies the Son has the Father; whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also.

<sup>24</sup>As for you, see that what you have heard from the beginning remains in you. If it does, you also will remain in the Son and in the Father. <sup>25</sup>And this is what he promised us—eternal life.

<sup>26</sup>I am writing these things to you about those who are trying to lead you astray. <sup>27</sup>As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit—just as it has taught you, remain in him.

<sup>28</sup>And now, dear children, continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming.

<sup>29</sup>If you know that he is righteous, you know that everyone who does what is right has been born of him.

## **OASIS: Living Deep: 1 John 2:18-29**

*Preface: Welcome to our I John “Living Deep” Bible studies, which are published twice a month, at the start of each LIFE Community week. These studies are available in the Sunday morning OASIS course or on the GC “Sermon” webpage by the following Monday.*

*This set of 8 studies proceeds sequentially through the entire book of I John. The studies complement the fallmessage series but are not sermon-centered. We hope you will get great transformational benefit from both.*

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Possible starter question: What are some of the ingredients that help us continue in our Christian walk, or keep us going in our faith. Let’s build a small list. What is something that helps you?

Transitional comment: Not surprisingly, helping people to continue strongly in their relationship with Jesus Christ is an important emphasis in John’s letter. Our last study concluded with a paragraph about influences that derail people’s spiritual life. Today’s passage picks up where we left off and deals with both influences that can derail us as well as those that can help us continue walking like Jesus walked.

**So let’s listen as several people read our passage aloud** (6 people since 6 paragraphs?).  
(Pray for the Holy Spirit to lead your study, if you haven’t already prayed.)

Read and Overview: Now take several minutes by yourself to study this passage. Look for repeated words and ideas. Note major contrasts. (Begin with v. 15-17, even though we did this the last time, as it is a transitional section.)

O What are a few of the repeated words and ideas you saw? (3-5 min.)

First Section (v. 18-23):

O What are some of the contrasting words and ideas in these two paragraphs?

O John used the words *antichrist* and *antichrists* many times here. What does John tell us about them?

I Based on these observations, how would you characterize “antichrist/s” in this context?

I Any hints or ideas of how v. 15 and 16 might contribute add to this understanding?

*(n.b. In I John, antichrist seems to be any person or influence who loves the world and denies or opposes Christ. If one is not aligned with Christ, then by default one is anti-Christ.)*

A What are the anti-Christian (antichrist) influences that we face in our everyday worlds or social contexts?

O What are several distinctives or characterizations of the “dear children” (John also uses “you” or “us” for the same group)?

I How might these comments help encourage or strengthen them?

Second Section (v. 24-27):

O In these brief two paragraphs, the central word is *remain* (used how many times?) What are some of the variations on how it is used in these verses?

I *(n.b. v. 25—how long we should expect to remain? How long is eternal life? ☺)*

O In this section, as well as once in vs. 20, John uses the term *anointing*. What do you observe or learn about this *anointing* and its role or activity?

I What seems to be the connection/s between the *anointing* and *remain*?

I What do you think John is referring to in his comments pertaining to teaching? Clearly John is teaching them in his very act of writing to them. What is he trying to convey?

Third Section (v. 28-29):

O John continues to give his fatherly instruction. What does he want the readers to do?

I Why? What inner attitudes does John expect them to develop?

O What does John want to make sure they know in vs. 29?

I What is the connection between his being righteous and us doing what is right? What is the special ingredient that John alludes to in the last phrase?

A What are some ways you can allow the Holy Spirit access to your thoughts and living, so that you live (*remain*) more closely and fully *in him*?

A In what practical ways can you help one another keep going on the Christian walk (the spiritual journey)?

Prayer together: for one another's spiritual reliance upon Christ, one's attitudes, decisions and behavior. Pray that we would each be vigilant and on guard against the anti-spiritual influences that surround us in this materialistic world. Pray that we would be welcoming and continuing in our personal and real connection with God through His invisible Holy Spirit.

Text notes (you can access biblical texts via [www.Biblegateway.com](http://www.Biblegateway.com))

- a. BIG idea: Despite the reality of anti-Christian influences, we do very well to continue in Him.
- b. Key verse/idea: I John 2: 28: "Dear children, continue in him..."
- c. KEY: O = Observation; I = Interpretation; A = Application (or C = Challenge)

Advice to study leaders:

- d. Complement your OIA questions with "process questions" (what else? What more? What do others of you see/think?).
- e. Determine the core questions you'll ask (know which ones to skip if pressed for time).
- f. Always reword questions in words that are comfortable for you (and, if the question doesn't make sense to you, then discard it.) You want to "own" each question.
- g. When you ask questions, give people ample time to think and respond. How long do you wait? Take your time; don't rush people but encourage their participation. And avoid answering your own questions!
- h. Timing/pacing: allocate your time and move forward gently, with a steady pace.
- i. Application: Pace the study to conclude with "difference making" application.
- j. Secondary texts—use other texts very sparingly, even if they are relevant. Otherwise, other texts will push you more into the "teacher role," rather than that of facilitator. It also can cause some people to feel distracted or de-powered.
- k. If you are utilizing this "on-line" study and not part of the OASIS course, I recommend that you get the 1-volume commentary entitled New Bible Commentary, Revised (21<sup>st</sup> Century Edition, IVP). It is well worth the \$40.