

THE ANOINTING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

{By Clint Gill}

1 John 2:19-29

A. The antichrists and the anointed ones ... v. 19

1 John 2:19 They went out from us, but they were not really of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out, in order that it might be shown that they all are not of us.

The Gnostics, with their claim to superior enlightenment, were not really Christians. No one *can* be who denies Jesus as Christ.

The antichrists left the Christian's fellowship because they were not all to be found in the ranks of the church. John's statement is that even those who had been in the fellowship had left, which was proof that "all of them were not of us." (We would have said "none of them are of us.") Neither the Gnostic in the church nor the Gnostic outside the church is really of us. The physical presence of a false teacher in the assembly does not make him a Christian! The proof is that those who have been in the fellowship are leaving.

How timely this is for our day! We live in times which are historically the most significant for the church since the beginning of the Reformation. Old denominational lines are fading. Cutting across them all is the modern "spirit of antichrist," which denies the inspiration of scripture, the deity of Christ and His Lordship.

It is not necessary to "excommunicate" these radicals of the left. It takes but little serious thought to recognize that "they are not of us." Perhaps it is time for those who do believe the Gospel to simply acknowledge the situation which exists. Some who claim to be Christians, simply aren't!

B. The anointed ones know they are anointed ... v. 20

1 John 2:20 But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you all know.

The most prominent concept of the church presented in the New Testament is that it is the continuing presence of Christ, the Anointed One, on earth. The church is "His body, the fullness of Him that filleth all in all. (*Eph. 1:23*) As such, it is to continue that which "Jesus began, both to do and to teach." (*Acts 1:1*)

Individually, what we church members endure for His sake is to "fill up that which is lacking of the afflictions of Christ . . . for His body's sake, which is the church." (*Col. 1:24*) It is the church "to whom God was pleased to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of Glory." (*Col. 1:27*) All that God has revealed or hopes to accomplish in Human history is now the stewardship of the church which John considers as the fellowship of anointed ones.

This conviction is in John's reminder: "You have an anointing." The word *Christos*, translated Christ, means "Anointed One." It is not strange that those who are in fellowship with Him, who are the full-filling fellowship (*Eph. 1:23*) called His body, should also share the anointing! Christians also are "anointed ones!" The word *christma* (anointed) has the same root as *Christos* (Christ).

Peter recognized this truth when, on Pentecost, he applied the prophecy of Joel 2:28-ff to the church. *"And it shall be in the last days, saith God, I will pour forth my Spirit upon all flesh . . . ,"* is fulfilled in *"... ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For to you is the promise, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call unto Him."* (**Acts 2:17-ff**) As A. T. Robertson puts it, "This anointing is open to all Christians, not just a select few." Antichrists are against those anointed, both Jesus and His disciples! Saul of Tarsus learned this on the Damascus road.

The English version is misleading when it says *"ye know all things."* The preferred reading is *"you all know it."* That is, you all know (and this is the knowledge of experience) that you have the anointing. It is impossible to persuade one, who shares the anointing, that Jesus is not the Anointed One!

C. The anointing is associated with truth ... v. 21.

1 John 2:21 I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it, and because no lie is of the truth.

John is not writing because his readers do *not* know the truth but because they *do* know it. No matter that self-acclaimed intellectuals make lofty claims to special knowledge. Those who share the anointing of Christ through the gift of the Holy Spirit have done so because they first accepted the truth. They have known it from the beginning. The most unlettered Christian need not shrink before the self-proclaimed scholarship of anyone who denies the deity of Jesus! The knowledge of experience is more reliable than that gained by philosophical deduction.

D. The decisive proof of falsehood... vs. 22-23

1 John 2:22-23 Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son. (23) Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also.

He has not stooped to name calling. The question is vastly more profound than that! Whoever denies the deity of the man, Jesus, has denied the fundamental reality of the universe. (Cf. John 1:1-4)

Anyone making this denial is antichrist! (See on verses 18 and 19 above) Whoever denies the deity of Jesus denies the Father also! Jesus said as much Himself, as John records in His Gospel. (John 5:19-5)

There are those today, as there were in John's day, who believe they can share the Christian belief in God as Father without acknowledging that Jesus is His Son . . . not just a Son but the Only Begotten Son. John's contention is that this is impossible.

Men know God, as Father, only through Jesus (John 14:6-9). If Jesus is no more than a sort of super-philosopher, then men do not really *know* that God is Father at all. The idea that God even wanted to be Father came from Him.

Take away the divine Sonship of Jesus and you have destroyed Christianity at its base. The entire concept of brotherhood between men begins with the Fatherhood of God. If God is not the *"Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,"* He is not the Father of anyone!

E. The test of eternal life... vs. 24-25

1 John 2:24-25 As for you, let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father. (25) And this is the promise which He Himself made to us: eternal life.

What you heard from the beginning . . . The author calls us back beyond the rise of false teachers. He entreats us to set aside the confusion introduced by falsehood. We are to allow that to remain in us which was the original message. God is Light (See above on I John 1:5).

Since God is light, and all truth comes from Him, darkness and falsehood are dispelled from the one who holds firm this message. The messenger was the Son. We cannot hold fast the message without holding fast the messenger. *Luke 9:48* and said to them, "Whoever receives this child in My name receives Me; and whoever receives Me receives Him who sent Me; for he who is least among you, this is the one who is great." These are Jesus' words, and they are part of "that which we have heard". (1 John 1:1) This is the standard by which truth is determined. Anyone denying it denies truth, and so is a liar.

To know God is to have eternal life. (John 17:3) The promise is conditioned by the knowledge of Him whom the Son revealed. To deny Jesus is God's Son is to forfeit all claim to the promise.

F. Reminder of the anointing... vs. 26-27

1 John 2:26-27 These things I have written to you concerning those who are trying to deceive you. (27) And as for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as **IT** has taught you, you abide in Him.

Notice the word **IT** in verse 27. It is in the neuter gender (the message). Those who hold fast the message which they heard before the rise of the antichrists still have the anointing of the Holy Spirit. They are still the continuing presence of the Christ (the Anointed One) in the world of men. If this real presence of the Holy Spirit is kept in mind, it is "the earnest of our inheritance" (*Eph. 1:14*) It is the down payment. In receiving this anointing we have already received the "first installment" of the eternal life which God has promised. With this in mind it becomes extremely difficult to reject the promise itself. So the anointing becomes a point of appeal by John for his readers to hold fast the truth that Jesus is the Christ.

Again, parenthetically, John underscores his claim that the consciousness of what they have already experienced is theirs. They have no real need to be reminded.

G. Recurrent plea for persistence... v. 28

1 John 2:28 And now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming.

John's convictions about Jesus are real. He *is* God's Son. He *is* alive. He *is* coming again. Soon or late, "and every eye shall see Him . . ." (*Rev. 1:7*)

There will be no greater shame at His coming than that of those who once knew Him and then denied Him. There will be no greater joy than experienced by the faithful at his coming.