

Sermon Handout

The Spirit of Antichrist

I John 1:1-4

I. John's Summary of the Gospel Message

- a. The Divinity of Jesus is forefront in John's presentation v.1
 - i. In John 1:1 – “in the beginning” (*cf.* Gen 1:1)
 - ii. In I John 1:1 – “from the beginning”
- b. Echoing his Gospel, Jesus is “with the Father”
- c. Then he moves immediately to the incarnation
 - i. We heard
 - ii. We saw (“have seen” . . . “looked upon”)
 - iii. We handled v. 2 *cf.* Thomas in Jn 20:10-29
- d. Christ was made known to us v. 2 (2X in this verse) *cf.* Jn 1:14, 18
 - i. We saw it *cf.* v. 1
 - ii. We announced it to you
- e. Eyewitness testimony – “seen and heard”
 - i. We announced it to you (presentation of the gospel)
 - ii. The purpose: partnership and companionship
 1. With us (the Apostles)
 2. With the Father
 3. With the Son
 - iii. A further purpose – “That our joy may be full” *cf.* III Jn 4
“Our” includes, but is not limited to, John's readers.

II. Serving Christ vs. Belonging to Antichrist

- a. I John 2:18-19
 - i. It is the last time *cf.* Acts 2:16-21
 - ii. Many antichrists are in the world
- b. I John 2:22-24 – one who denies Jesus is the Christ
 - i. One cannot confess the Father & deny Jesus
 - ii. Solution: remember what you heard in the beginning
- c. I John 4:1-3 – test the spiritual messengers by their message
 - i. They are many (*cf.* 2:18) and they are false prophets
 - ii. The test: Is Jesus God in the Flesh? *cf.* Jn 1:14
 - iii. The spirit of antichrist is denial of the incarnation
- d. II John 6-7 – Love is living in obedience to Christ *cf.* I Jn 1:7
 - i. We are to “walk” after his commandments
 - ii. Beware of deceivers who deny Jesus is God in the flesh