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SALVATION

If you are not a believer in Jesus Christ, or aren't sure and would like to become one, then you need to believe that Jesus Christ was and is the Son of God, that he was God who became a man, that he lived a sinless and perfect life, keeping the Law of God perfect in every way, that he kept faith perfectly, and that he was crucified on that cruel cross for your sins, mine and the entire world - he died for our sins! His death on the cross paid the penalty fully, one time for all sins that we have ever committed and that we will ever commit. He died; he went down into the bowels of the earth, even into Hell, and was raised from the dead on the third day in a resurrected, eternal body. He ascended back into heaven, was seated at the right hand of God, and is now Lord over heaven and earth. He is coming again to judge the world, to raise the dead, where he will give an eternal, resurrected, glorified body to everyone that has believed on him as their Lord and Savior, and to establish his kingdom one earth.

You come become a Christian right now as you read this, by personally placing your faith and trust in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior; believing that he is God's only begotten Son, that he died on the cross for you and that he was raised from the dead and is now seated in heaven at the right hand of God the Father. *“Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved..” Acts 16:31a* And when you do trust Christ, and Christ alone, as your Lord and Savior, then go to God the Father in heaven in prayer and tell him so. Tell him that you have believed on his Son, thank him for his Son, and thank him for forgiving your sins and saving you! *“That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord”, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.” Romans 10:9,10* *“For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” Romans 10:13* *“Therefore, being justified by faith (declared righteous), we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” Romans 5:1*

Departing from Bible Doctrine

"They went out from us, but they were not of us;"

A. *"They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us."* 1 John 2:19 - εξ 'ημων εξηλθον αλλ' ουκ ησαν εξ 'ημων ει γαρ ησαν εξ 'ημων μεμενηκεισαν αν μεθ' 'ημων αλλ' ινα φανερωθωσιν 'οτι ουκ εισιν παντες εξ 'ημων.

We have to go back to verse 18 to put this in perspective. *"Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time."* There were people who were coming to their churches; people who claimed that they were Christians. Some of these people were undermining the doctrinal teachings of the Pastors and Apostles while they were there and other people just left. So John is writing them to put everything into true perspective.

So who is an antichrist?

*"Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ, that [**Jesus is the Messiah of Israel**]? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son."* 1 John 2:22 - τις εστιν 'ο ψευστης ει μη 'ο αρνουμενος 'οτι ησους ουκ εστιν 'ο χριστος 'ουτος εστιν 'ο αντιχριστος 'ο αρνουμενος τον πατερα και τον 'υιον.

The definition of an *antichrist* is **anyone, or any teaching, that denies that Jesus is the Messiah!** Now to understand this properly we need to put things in perspective. And it all begins with the name of Jesus Christ and the nation of Israel. The name, Jesus Christ, in the Greek is *Iesou Christou*, which is transliterated into the English, Jesus Christ. But taken back into the Hebrew we have *Yeshua Meshiah*. The word *Yeshua* comes from two words *Yah* and *Shua*. *Yah* being the proper name of God derived from *Yahweh* and *Shua* meaning salvation.

So *Yeshua* means *Yah's Salvation* and *Meshiah* means the Messiah, the Anointed One showing that God anointed him with his Spirit; a reference to the Redeemer and Deliverer of Israel, the Promised One, the Coming One. When you take the Hebrew word, *Meshiah*, up into the Greek language you end up with the word *Christos*, which simply meant the Anointed One.

So the name Jesus Christ means Jesus the Messiah, or Jesus the Anointed One. Jesus Christ isn't the Lord's name. Jesus is his name and Christ, or the Messiah, is what he is. So what it all means is that Jesus Christ is really to be rendered, "***Jesus the Messiah of Israel***". **All this is to be taken in the context of the nation of Israel.**

Now Israel was the covenant nation of God on earth and for centuries he had promised them a Messiah, a Deliverer, a Redeemer, the Messenger of the Covenant, the One who would free them from their sins by dying for them. And this would be evidenced, among many other things, by the Eternal One placing his Spirit on him. And then one day, in the fullness of times, a man was born into Israel, a righteous branch from David's line, through the virgin Mary. And he was given the name Jesus, and later on when he began his public ministry, after John's baptism and being anointed by God with the Holy Spirit, he was now called Jesus the Messiah, or, as he was referred to then and today, Jesus the Anointed One, or, Jesus Christ. The "Jews" still today deny that Jesus is the Messiah, so they are antichrists!

And this is what the Apostle John is bringing out in this passage. He says, who is the liar? **Anyone who denies that Jesus is the Messiah!** And he says that he not only is a liar, but that he is an *antichrist!* This passage is very Jewish in its context for the term Messiah belonged uniquely to the nation of Israel. It is also reinforced by the Apostle John being Jewish himself. Any religion, any teaching, or any individual that states that Jesus is not the Messiah of Israel is *antichrist* and an *antichrist*.

Some believers have a tendency to blame themselves, or blame the Pastor when people leave their church. They either tend to think that they're doing something wrong, or that there could be something else that we can do as a church to keep other people from leaving. Maybe more singing, having better programs, or more relative groups that meet these people's needs. Or fault the Pastor because he's not friendly enough, not outgoing enough, doesn't visit them in their homes, or greet them at the door, etc..

By the way, in the Greek it is not that antichrist will come, it's 'ὁ ἀντιχριστὸς ἐρχεται, but the antichrist will come. Then he goes on to say **now** there are many antichrists, νῦν ἀντιχριστοὶ πολλοί. We see in the first clause there is the definite article the concerning the antichrist. So when we get down to verse 19 we see that the word they refers to these **many antichrists, plural**, who had been in their midst. It's also interesting to note the use of the word *nun*, **now**, saying that there are already so many antichrists!

"*They went out from us*", *ex hemon exelthon*, it is the aoist active indicative 3 person plural of exerchomai, which meant to come or go out of something, to depart. The aoist tense looks at an action in time; the active voice stresses the idea that they did this of their own free will, negative volition in action; and the indicative mood brings out the reality of it. The 3 person plural, they, must refer back to the preceding verse where John is talking about the many antichrists.

The word **us**, *hemon*, refers to believers in Christ who are assembled in a local church under the teaching of Bible Doctrine. When we have the preposition ek used with something where there is an action involved, which here is to come or go out of something, then it shows that the person was in a church, or in a group, or in a house, etc., and **then he came out of it.** So it shows that he was in something, a church group in this case, then he came out of it. **Ek** also has the idea of separation where **he was in it, came out of it, and separated himself from it!**

We must look at the idea of **us** here as to who it is referring to. **Us** refers to those born again believers in Christ. These are those who have been truly saved and not to be confused with those who just go to church, or call themselves Christians. It was not long after the Church Age began that Satan started a counterfeit Christianity. It had certain earmarks associated with Christianity, but it wasn't the same. It had false apostles, false pastors and false teachers, along with false doctrine. 2 Corinthians 11:14, "*For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.*"

It was the Roman Catholic Church that eventually sprung from this counterfeit Christianity in the 4th century and has become the behemoth that rules the world today. It would be understandable that some of these false Christians in those days would wander into genuine churches claiming that they were Christians too! But it wouldn't be too long until they took off, as John brings out here.

It became such a problem that the Apostle John brings out later on that some of the churches started putting these people to the test to determine if they were really born again believers, and as he points out, they weren't. Revelation 2:2, "*I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou*

canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:"

"*But they were not of us;*" - *all' ouk esan ex hemon*. The word **were** is in the imperfect active indicative 3 person plural of *eimi* the verb of status quo, which denotes one's existence. It states that **they were not of us**. The imperfect tense looks back at a continuous action in the past denoting the time that these people were with this group of Christians, which came to an end when they left.

Now we have the preposition *ek* being used again, not with an action of a verb, but to denote **origin**. It says that they were **not of us**, that is, these people's origins did not come from the same person that the these Christian's came from. When we studied our last series "The New Man" we saw that the origin of believers in Christ and the origin of Jesus Christ himself came from God the Father.

Christ is not ashamed to call these believers **brothers** because we are all of the same spiritual "DNA"! Just like the rest of the children of the parents had the same DNA in them as the firstborn child did. Hebrews 2:11, "*For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are **all of one**: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them **brethren**,*" - 'ο τε γαρ 'αγιαζων και 'οι 'αγιαζομενοι εξ' 'ενος παντες δι' 'ην αιτιαν ουκ επαισχυνεται αδελφους αυτους καλειν. We note that Christ and his Church are **all of one origin**! They were **not of us**, that is, they were not of the same origin as we are.

So who is the **us** again? The **us** refers to the Apostle John and all the other Apostles; it refers to all the Pastor-Teachers who ministered under the authority of the Apostles; and it refers to all the truly born again believers in Jesus Christ who sat under the doctrinal teaching of these men's ministries. These churches all centered around the doctrinal teaching of God's Word.

These people were nominal members of the community of born again believers, but they, like Judas, really never had that faith in Jesus Christ as their Savior. Departing from the local assembly that had been established by Christ was a serious matter; it denoted a separating themselves from the local assembly of saints, a betrayal, a denial the faith or faith living and a rejection of grace. Departure signified a severing and separating themselves from doctrine and the faith community.

The local churches back then lost people, who could have been truly born again, due to a love for the world system, as Demas did. They lost them due to legalism where they now believed they had to do something in their Christian life. They lost them so they could further their financial agendas. And they lost them due to Satan deceiving them. But here these people of their own free will removed themselves from the true church where there was the teaching of Bible Doctrine. John, then, goes on to explain the reason why and that was because they were really not one of them.

"*For if they had been of us,*" - *ei gar esan ex hemon*. He begins with the explanation as to **why** they departed from the church with the word *gar*, **for**, which is used to explain the reason why something happens. He also uses the 1st class condition of **if** where if something is true, or assuming something is true, then you will see something else involved.

If they were one of us, that is, if they were of the same origin as the others in the church was, that is, being born again by a sovereign act of God's grace, then they would not have left them, but stayed with them and the doctrinal teaching of God's Word. They would have persevered on in their faith and in the church regardless of all the trials and sufferings they had to go through.

"They would no doubt have continued with us:" - *memenekeisan an meth' hemon*. **Continued** is the pluperfect active indicative 3 person plural of *meno*. The pluperfect is action being completed at some point in time in the past. Departure versus remaining sums the idea up. These people, whom John refers to as antichrists, left the local church. Now they could have stayed on with them, but instead they chose to leave, which speaks volumes about them. The word for **with** is *meta*, which denotes to be in one's company, so they would have remained with us.

Today there are thousand of groups that are called churches, and I'm sure they have applied this passage to themselves concerning people that leave. So what becomes the deciding factor? The issue today is one of the Word of God and the quality and quantity of teaching that one receives in any given church. If a Christian is attending a church that doesn't have the sound teaching of the Word of God and leaves it for one that does, this does not apply to them. Or if a Christian is in a church that teaches nothing but baby doctrine and he/she is not getting the level of teaching for their soul's needs and then leaves for a church that does, then they are not guilty of this either. Their leaving for better teaching shows that their allegiance is to the Word, not some local assembly.

There's an old saying, "Birds of a feather flock together", which certainly applies in Christianity. If one has placed his faith in Jesus Christ, who is the living truth; and has the Holy Spirit indwelling them, who is the Spirit of truth; and if their God is *Yahweh*, who is the God of truth. then it stands to reason that these people would be congregating at the places where truth is being taught. And if there are those out there who have the same experience, they would be in these places also. But what happened here is that these people were in these aforementioned congregations and left them!

"But they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us." - *all' hina phanerothosin hoti ouk eisin pantes ex hemon*. **Manifest** is the aoist passive subjunctive of *phaneroo* and the word **were** is the present active indicative of *eimi*. *Hina* plus the subjunctive mood introduces a purpose clause. If they belonged to us, that is, if they were one of us, then they would have remained with us. But in order that the true nature of the false teachers and "brothers" might be exposed, they went out from us so that the community of true believers might know that none of them belonged to us.

Phaneroo is to show, to make clear, open, evident, visible; that which is invisible is now visible, that which is unseen is seen, that which one does not know he now knows, that which is obscure is now clear what is visible to the sight, that which is hidden is now open publicly for all to see. If there was any doubt, or question about these people who were in their midst, and maybe some might have thought they were Christians, all doubt was removed when they left the church. Their leaving the doctrinal church made it clear that they were not all of us.

B. "But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things." - 1 John 2:20 - και 'υμεις χρισμα εχετε απο του 'αγιου και οιδατε παντα. **Have** is the present active indicative, 2 person plural of *echo*, and **know** is the perfect active indicative, 2 person plural of *oida*. **Echo** means to possess something, and **know** meant to have a complete knowledge of a matter.

1. "But ye have an unction from the Holy One," - *kai humeis chrisma echete apo tou hagiou*. **Chrio** was to anoint with oil, which in the OT was a symbolic gesture of having the Holy Spirit come upon priests, kings and prophets. It is the root word for *Christos*, which is the name of Jesus Christ meaning he was the anointed one. **Chrisma**, which was only used by the Apostle John, looked at the act of anointing

whereby believers in Christ received the Holy Spirit. The word *unction* is a Latin word used for the religious rite of anointing with oil.

Some have thought this reference to the Holy One is a reference to Christ, but it's really to his Father. The Father sent the Holy Spirit down to earth to believers in Christ as per the request of the Son. "*And I will pray (ask) the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;*" John 14:46

So John is telling these believers that they already have an anointing, which is the anointing of the Holy Spirit, and that it came from the Holy One. Now this is being written around 96 AD over 60 years after the universal indwelling of the Holy Spirit, which took place at Pentecost. For 60 years, or so, all believers had been, and still are today, being indwelt by the Holy Spirit when they believe on Christ as their Savior. This indwelling by the Holy Spirit is also called the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

There is a similarity here in the thought of the Naassenes who were one of the early Gnostic groups that fed on Christianity. They had a teaching that was made as parallel to Christianity as they could get, but it was satanic to the core. These Gnostics, who claimed to be Christians, claimed to have a superior and true knowledge because they had submitted to a special sacrament of anointing. In fact, they claimed to have the true form of Christianity.

"*And ye know all things.*" - *kai oidate panta*. But John so aptly pointed out that they had the true anointing of the Holy Spirit, which had come to them from the Holy One and they, therefore, had no need of any subsequent anointing regardless of the form in which it came and regardless of who comes along afterward and says they need a subsequent anointing of the Spirit! And because of this, he said, you know all things.

Some Christians have mistakenly assumed that they don't need the spiritual gift of Pastor-teacher and the local church because they use this verse to say they have the Holy Spirit as their teacher, therefore they don't need any man to teach them! That, of course, begs the question of, then why did God give the churches Pastor-teachers if not to teach them the Word?

How it works is that Christians are exposed to a variety of teachings over their lifetime from many different sources. Of course their Pastor-teacher is to be their main source and he is to be the authority in what makes up sound doctrine. It is the ministry of the indwelling Holy Spirit that enables the believer to sort out what is true and what is false. He teaches the heart and he bears witness with the truth; he teaches us what is correct and incorrect, what is true and what is false; we just need to be filled with the Holy Spirit and open to the truth of God's Word.

Pastor Mike