

— 1 John —
Lesson #8 Chapter 2:18-29

“When you go to God in any duty, take your heart aside and say, 'O my soul, I am now engaged in the greatest work that a creature was ever employed about; I am going into the awful presence of God upon business of everlasting moment. O my soul, leave trifling now; be composed, be watchful, be serious; this is no common work, it is soul-work; it is work for eternity; it is work which will bring forth fruit to life or death in the world to come.' Pause awhile and consider your sins, your wants, your troubles; keep your thoughts awhile on these before you address yourself to duty.” ~John Flavel¹

1. Who does John address in verse 18? What had he been discussing with them in verses 15-17?
2. How does verse 17 provide a lead in for verse 18?
3. How does John view the times in which he lives according to verse 18? What do you learn from the other Bible writers about how they viewed the times in which they too were living? See Romans 13:11; 1 Timothy 4:1; James 5:3; 1 Peter 4:7; Jude 18.
4. What had John’s “children” heard according to verse 18? What do you learn about this person from Paul’s instructions to the Thessalonians in 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12?
5. What else does John tell his children in 1 John 2:18? What is the connection between the antichrists and the last times? What do we learn about the many antichrists from 1 John 2:18-19, 22; 4:3; 2 John 7?

¹ John Flavel, *Keeping the Heart* (...Christian Heritage, 2012), 32 maybe.

6. What do we learn about the antichrists from verse 19? How does verse 19 help us evaluate the attitudes and actions of professed believers?

7. What contrast is presented between those described in verse 19 and those in verse 20?

8. What do you learn about the word *anointing* from 2 Corinthians 1:21-22; 1 John 2:20, 27; 4:13?
 - a. Based on what you learned from those passages (2 Corinthians 1:21-22; 1 John 2:20, 27; 4:13), what is John saying about his children in verse 20?

 - b. Based on what you learned from those passages (2 Corinthians 1:21-22; 1 John 2:20, 27; 4:13), what is John saying about you from verse 20?

9. In verse 20 John rather abruptly ends his sentence with “you all know.” What is it that believers *know* according to verse 21?

10. What truth do believers know and cling to or you could say, what lies do unbelievers spout? See verse 22.

11. What do we know for sure about anyone who denies Jesus according to verse 23?

12. In what way does denying Jesus lead to denying the Father? See John 5:23; 1 John 4:14.

13. What are we supposed to do according to verse 24?

14. In what way can we hinder the truths we learned from the beginning? What is the outcome when we are faithful to stand firm in the truths we learned from the beginning? See verse 24.

15. What promise is repeated in verse 25? Who made the promise?

16. What situation is described in verse 26? What is John's solution according to verse 26?

17. What deceptions does John seek to correct in his letter thus far? See 1 John 1:6, 8, 10; 2:3-4, 9, 15, 18-19, 22-23.

18. List what you learn about the anointing from verse 27.

19. What is the anointing that we have received? See 1 John 2:20-21; 3:24; John 14:26; 16:13; Acts 5:32; Romans 8:9, 14.

20. Based on what John has just said in verses 18-27, why would receiving the Holy Spirit at salvation be so important? What can you be assured about what the Holy Spirit will reveal according to verse 27?

21. What final command in this chapter is given in verse 28? What reason is given for obeying that command according to verse 28?

22. What do you learn about the one who abides from 1 John 2:6, 10, 14, 24, 27-28; John 15:5-6, 10?

23. Verse 29 reveals another reason why we won't shrink in shame from the Lord Jesus at His second coming. Explain what you learn.

24. John seeks to shore up the believers by dismantling deceptions and teaching the truth. What truths from this lesson have encouraged you and built up your faith?

“The whole body of the saints . . . whom he exhorts to abide in Christ, that is, in the exercise of faith on him, of hope in him, and love to him; and to hold to him the head, and to hold fast his word and Gospel, and abide by his truth and ordinances, and adhere to his cause and interest, and not to be moved away on any consideration.” ~John Gill²

“He (John) was so anxious for their spiritual lives that he said over and over, “Remain in him; don’t let anyone lead you away from him.” ~Cornerstone Biblical Commentary³

² John Gill, *An Exposition of the New Testament, vol. 3*, The Baptist Commentary Series (London: Mathews and Leigh, 1809), 633–634.

³ Grant Osborne, Philip W. Comfort, *Cornerstone Biblical Commentary, Vol 13: John and 1, 2, and 3 John* (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2007), 347.