

When Christ Enters In A Confusion To Understand 1 John 2.18-29

[So far in 1 John we have discovered that there is:]

- [A Conversion to Choose]
- [A Consecration To Develop]
- [A Cleansing To Receive]
- [A Commandment To Keep]
- [A Compassion To Show]
- [A Caution To Heed]

[In this study we will discover that there is A Confusion to Understand.]

[It seems that there are great divisions among those who call themselves Christians in our day. There are many different denominations and within those denominations there are just as many varying doctrines or teachings. It can be confusing at times to try and sift through all of the varying theologies and beliefs permeating our world as one struggles to discover the truth. John, through inspiration clearly recognized the confusion that would permeate the Church of our Lord and provided some direction to help God's people **stay in the right fellowships.** John declares that there is a Confusion that every Christian needs to understand.]

Notice in this passage,

A. A Departing Deception (vs 18-19) [*– 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. ¹⁹They 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. – J. Vernon McGee, in his commentary on this text notes the first two words of verse 18 “Little children” as a reference to the “little babies” who have just come to know Christ and have yet to grow in Christ. It is as if the apostle John is giving a warning to growing Christians that there are many in our world who claim to represent God and claim to teach the truth, but watch out for they do not carry the truth of God. **In other words, don't be deceived by the anti-christs. Don't be deceived by the False Teachers.**]*

1. There are **Many Deceivers** (vs 18, 2 Pet 2.3-4; Matt 24.5,11,24; Acts 20.29-30; 1 Tim 4.1; Titus 3.9-11; Matt 18.15-17; Rom 16.17) [- 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. It seems that many Christians are shocked when they realize that there are so many deceivers and deceptions permeating the Church of our Lord. The truth is that God identified deceivers who were in His Church from the very beginning and warned His people to watch out for them and stay away from them.]

2 Pet 3.3

[Peter wrote,]

[2 Peter 3:3-4 **Knowing this first**, that there shall come in **the last days** scoffers, walking after their own lusts, ⁴ **And saying**, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.]

Matt 24.5

[Our Lord Jesus Christ said,]

[**Matthew 24:5** For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and **shall deceive many**.]

[**Matthew 24:11** And many false prophets shall rise, **and shall deceive many**.]

[**Matthew 24:24** ²⁴ For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, **and shall shew great signs and wonders**; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.]

Acts 20.29

[The Apostle Paul said,]

[**Acts 20:29-30** For I know this, that after my departing shall **grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock**. ³⁰ **Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them**.]

1 Tim 4.1

[Paul Warned Timothy,]

Evidences Of Life
A Confusion To Understand
1 John 2.18-29

A. A Departing Deception
1. There are MANY Decievers

[1 Timothy 4:1 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed **to seducing spirits,** and doctrines of devils;]

[Many of those who call themselves Christians seem to have bought into the idea that **there are many roads that led to heaven and God,** and seem content to attend reprobate churches led by false teachers and anti-christs. To such as these I call your attention to verse 19]

Evidences Of Life

A Confusion To Understand

1 John 2.18-29

A. A Departing Deception

1. There are MANY Decievers

[1 John 2:19 **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.]

Titus 3.9

[The New Testament clearly warns Christians about these false teachers, **but what are God's people to do when they discover these anti-christ's in their midst?** Are we to love them, tolerate them, and listen to them? God says,]

[Titus 3:9-11 **But avoid foolish questions,** and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain. ¹⁰ **A man that is an heretick after the first and second admonition reject;** ¹¹ Knowing that he that is such is subverted, and sinneth, being condemned of himself.]

Matt 18.15

[Matthew 18:15-17 Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. ¹⁶ But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses **every word** may be established. ¹⁷ And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: **but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.**]

Rom 16.17

[Romans 16:17 Now I beseech you, brethren, **mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.**]

[Christians who continue to fellowship and serve among false-teachers and anti-christ's cause other, perhaps not so spiritually matured, Christians to sit

and submit to the false teachings of these apostate church leaders and cause others to stumble and the lost not to hear the gospel. God's children need to attend and **support rock solid Bible churches that teach and preach the Word of God** and that are doing God's kingdom work.]

2. **The Marks of Deceivers (Col 2.8; 1 Tim 6.20-21; 2 Tim 4.2-4; 1 Tim 4.1-12)** [– Discovering who these deceivers are seems like an insurmountable task in our day. It is obvious that there are no perfect Churches, because Churches are composed of imperfect people. **Someone has suggested that if you find a perfect Church then don't join it, because then it won't be perfect anymore.**]

Evidences Of Life

A Confusion To Understand

1 John 2.18-29

A. A Departing Deception

1. There are MANY Deceivers

[While all of this is true it is still every born again Christian's responsibility to join and serve in a local body of believers, and not just any Church will do. Seek a kingdom Church led by Bible believing God called people. The question is how are Godly Christians supposed to identify these false teachers?]

[Deceivers will be marked by,]

- a. **[Their Departure from the Word of God – Don't mistake this identifying mark with the fact of one carrying a Bible. Deceivers carry Bibles and quote Scripture. The Devil quoted Scripture when he tempted Christ in the wilderness. The fact that someone carries a Bible does not mean they believe the Bible. **These deceivers depart from the Word of God by Departing from the Authority of God's Word.**** They will rationalize the Bible and philosophize about the Bible until the Bible actually means nothing to them or those they teach.]

1 Tim 6.20

[Colossians 2:8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.]

[1 Timothy 6:20-21 O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called: ²¹ Which some professing have erred concerning the faith. Grace be with thee. Amen.]

[Deceivers will rationalize away the authority of the Word of God so that the Word of God really means nothing for their lives. They will say the standard things that many expect them to say. They will say the Bible is the Word of God, they will say the Bible is meant to be our guide in life, but when it comes to the point of conviction and conversion they will philosophize the Word of God into oblivion.]

- b. [Their Departure from the Doctrine of God – **The word doctrine means teaching or truth.** The Word of God is good for truth or doctrine. If the Word of God is the truth then we ought to believe and live by its truths. But these false teachers will turn away from the truths presented by God's Word. Paul warned Timothy,]

2 Tim 4.2

Evidences Of Life
A Confusion To Understand
1 John 2.18-29

A. A Departing Deception

1. There are MANY Deceivers
2. The Marks of Deceivers
 - a. Departure from the Word of God

[2 Timothy 4:2-4 ²Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. ³For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; ⁴And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.]

[False teachers will preach away the truth's of God's Word or better yet preach around the truth's of God's Word. They will preach a culturally acceptable message that will strive to make the Church more like our sinful world than preaching to transform Christians and our culture so that we and our nation will be more like our Savior.]

[Under this kind of leadership and teaching the Church and its people will begin to call **wrong-right and right-wrong**. Things like sexual impurity, sexual promiscuity, homosexuality, adultery, and divorce will all become acceptable and welcome in the Church.]

- c. [Their Departure from the Direction of God – People under the leadership of such deception will no longer obey those things directed by God's Word. The Word of God states,]

1 Tim 4.1

[1 Timothy 4:1-2 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits,

and doctrines of devils; ² **Speaking lies in hypocrisy;** having their conscience seared with a hot iron;]

[These people will fail to obey God's Word because:

- [They do not know God's Word. While their preachers carry a Bible they rarely teach and preach the Bible.]
- [They have not heard God's Word. They have not heard God's Word because the Word of God is not rightly divided for them.]
- [They cannot obey God's Word. One cannot obey what one has never heard.]

Evidences Of Life

A Confusion To Understand

1 John 2.18-29

A. A Departing Deception

1. There are MANY Deceivers
2. The Marks of Deceivers
 - a. Departure from the Word of God
 - b. Departure from the Doctrine of God
 - c. Departure from the Direction of God

[The result will be sin in the midst of the Church. Their denomination will endorse and exalt homosexuality. Their Church leaders will endorse clear immorality among their Church leaders, after all we are all sinners and need to love and forgive. Their Church folks will talk more of tolerance and forgiveness than they do of righteousness and purity. There will be a general departure from the direction of God.]

3. The Manifestation of Deceivers (vs 19; Matt 7.21-23; 2 Cor 6.17) [– ¹⁹

*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.** – What is the manifestation of a deceiver that departs from the authority, truth, and purity of the Word of God? The manifestation is that these were not and are not born again believers. Make no mistake about it my friends, not everyone that calls themselves a child of God is a child of God. Jesus himself said,]*

2 Cor 6.17

*[**Matthew 7:21-23** Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. ²² Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? ²³ And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.]*

[Born again Christians need to stop following false-teachers and anti-christs. Born again Christians need to stop supporting apostate Churches that do not honor, herald, and heed the Word of God. Let them depart, and let us hear God's Word!]

[2 Corinthians 6:17 *Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,*]

B. A Diligent Declaration (vs 20-27) [- There is a confession that every born again Christian must make and believe. This confession is not a series of mere words, not an intellectual acknowledgment of family or religious instruction. This confession must be the express declaration of one's heart and being. It must be one's confession and not merely a profession of one's understanding. In this declaration one realizes,]

1. The Reality of Christ (vs 21-23) [- *I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth.*²² *Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.*²³ ***Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: (but) he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also.*** - This speaks of ones reckoning with the truth of the Gospel as presented in the written Word of God and is indicative of the event referred to as the new birth.]

[This is far more than a mere intellectual assent concerning Christ. Through intellectual assent one might say, "Yes, I believe that Jesus was, and that my grandma said that Jesus died on a Cross, was dead and buried, and then rose from the grave." One can know that the Church teaches all of these things and still be void of the salvation offered by Christ. Instead, the apostle John is pointing to the heartfelt belief that what God has said in the Bible concerning Christ is really true.]

[It is a denial of the Word of God and of God himself whenever someone says, I know what the Bible says, but I'm not sure that the Bible is true.]

Evidences Of Life
A Confusion To Understand
1 John 2.18-29

A. A Departing Deception

1. There are MANY Deceivers
2. The Marks of Deceivers
 - a. Departure from the Word of God
 - b. Departure from the Doctrine of God
 - c. Departure from the Direction of God
3. The Manifestation of Deceivers

[**Illustration:** A Preacher friend of mine was sitting on a park bench with one of his Church men, who happened to be his Adult Sunday School Teacher. The Teacher looked at my preacher friend and said, “So, you don’t really believe that this virgin birth stuff is really true, do ya?”

[You cannot deny the things of God written in the Word of God and say that you are agreeing with God. In order to be saved one must confess with God about Jesus. To confess means “to agree with.” If you do not know that God is true and His Word is true then you are not one of God’s children.]

[Is the reality of Christ in you? Do you know that you know that what God has said is absolutely true in every regard.]

Evidences Of Life

A Confusion To Understand

1 John 2.18-29

A. A Departing Deception

1. There are MANY Deceivers
2. The Marks of Deceivers
 - a. Departure from the Word of God
 - b. Departure from the Doctrine of God
 - c. Departure from the Direction of God
3. The Manifestation of Deceivers

B. A Diligent Declaration

1. The Reality of Christ

2. **The Rationalization of Christ (vs 26; Matt 7.15)** [- *These things have I written unto you concerning them that **seduce you**.* – Yet there are these deceivers among us. They strive to lead us away from the truth (seduce) by questioning our resolve in the truth. They strike at us with every subtle device they can muster. They will often find their way into our confidence through association until they are referred to as our friends and then they begin to violate our trust by tenderly and subtly seducing our beliefs. They are wolves in sheep’s clothing, as we have been warned,]

[Matthew 7:15 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.]

[These will either tear you down or temper your mortar. You may not recognize who or what they are until after they have challenged your understanding in and belief of the Word of God. Some of these deceivers you may never discern. Yet, their attack will always be to rationalize away the truths presented in the Word of God.]

3. **The Realization of Christ (vs 27, 20, 24)** [- ***But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you,** and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, **ye shall abide in him**.* – Once the

reality of Christ has come upon you then the realization of Christ within you will protect from the rationalization of Christ about you. John notes this realization in vs 27 as an anointing and an abiding. John notes it in,

[1 John 2:20 But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things.]

[1 John 2:24 Let that therefore abide in you, which ye have heard from the beginning. If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall continue in the Son, and in the Father.]

John is clearly talking about the indwelling presence of God within you and the illumination of the Holy Spirit that will accompany the presence of God. The truth is there are times when a deceiver will look so much like a spiritual Christians that you will have trouble discerning who he is. But make no mistake about it, for you, as a born again Christian, your assurance will rest wholly upon the reality of the presence of God within you. You know you are a child of God not only because of the Word of God but also because of the living presence of God within you.

**Evidences Of Life
A Confusion To Understand
1 John 2.18-29**

A. A Departing Deception

1. There are MANY Deceivers
2. The Marks of Deceivers
 - a. Departure from the Word of God
 - b. Departure from the Doctrine of God
 - c. Departure from the Direction of God
3. The Manifestation of Deceivers

B. A Diligent Declaration

1. The Reality of Christ
2. The Rationalization of Christ
3. The Realization of Christ

C. A Dignified Debut (vs 28) [- Make your stand with the Lord Jesus Christ in your mortal life and you will have a debut, and entrance in unto Him one day in your immortal life.]

1. **The Assurance of His Appearing** [- *And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, . . .* – There is a confidence that will accompany those who are certain about our Lord and those things revealed within the Bible about Him. As we watch for the soon coming of our Lord we ought to find great satisfaction in walking with Him in our daily lives. There ought to be a joy that accompanies our conduct throughout our mortal lives. We ought be glad to live with Him and for Him. Life in Christ, if you are confident that Christ is real and your life is really hid in Him ought to be permeated with the marks that will naturally accompany such a confidence.]

2. The **Assent of His Appearing (1 Pet 5.6)** [- . . . we may have confidence, and **not be ashamed** before him at his coming. – To live out your life for Christ on this earth will be rewarded by our Lord when we stand in His presence one day soon. Great glory will be granted to all who will surrender all to the Lord of Life. God declares,]

[1 Peter 5:6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:]

CrossRoads Baptist, Sunday, March 27, 2022
CrossRoads Baptist, Sunday Evening, June 1st 2008

Evidences Of Life

A Confusion To Understand

1 John 2.18-29

A. A Departing Deception

1. There are MANY Deceivers
2. The Marks of Deceivers
 - a. Departure from the Word of God
 - b. Departure from the Doctrine of God
 - c. Departure from the Direction of God
3. The Manifestation of Deceivers

B. A Diligent Declaration

1. The Reality of Christ
2. The Rationalization of Christ
3. The Realization of Christ

C. A Dignified Debut – Christ is coming.