

Building a Faith that Survives

Text: 1 John 2:18-29

Topics: Perseverance, Apostasy, Holy Spirit

Series: Bold Assurance

South Orlando Baptist Church

April 10, 2016

Dr. David Crowe

To build a faith that survives...

1. Study those who have _____ (vs. 1 John 2:18-19)
 - A. An antichrist is anyone who denies that Jesus is the Christ (vs. 22).
 - B. These antichrists used to attend the church, but now they have departed.
 - C. "If they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us." This implies that those who are truly saved will never abandon Christ, for they will be kept by his grace (ESV Study Bible). Jude 24 (HCSB) Now to Him who is able to protect you from stumbling and to make you stand in the presence of His glory, blameless and with great joy.

2. Submit to the _____ (Holy Spirit) (vs. 20-24a, 27)
 - A. John was addressing the false teachers who were claiming to be the sole source of truth.
 - B. The anointing of the Holy Spirit helps you to discern doctrinal errors.
 - C. "What you have heard from the beginning must remain in you." We must hold onto the faith that was "once for all delivered to the saints (Jude 3)." See also Galatians 1:8-9.
 - D. Are you being swayed by any "new teachings" or "new doctrines"?

3. Stay in step with _____ (vs. 24-27)
 - A. Believers should maintain an abiding relationship with Jesus so that we can stand before Him unashamed when he returns. (See also John 15:1-11)
 - B. John also uses the word "Confident" when referring to our standing before Jesus at his return.
 - i. "But in this letter, as in the letter to the Hebrews (4:16; 10:19), the word indicates the confidence with which the Christian may draw near to God in prayer now (3:21; 5:14), at the *parousia* [return of Christ] (2:28) and on the judgment day (4:17). It is only if we *continue in him* today, however, that we shall *be confident* before him and not shrink from him on the last day." (John R. W. Stott, *The Letters of John: An Introduction and Commentary*, vol. 19)
 - C. Are you abiding in Christ each day in a way that is increasing your confidence to stand before Him when he returns? Are you an unashamed follower of Jesus Christ?

Application Questions

- 1. Who are the enemies of the Church today?**
- 2. What do you think is the best defense against cults and other false spiritual teaching?**
- 3. What time did John say it is? (2:18)**
- 4. Who was coming and who had come at the time John wrote this? (2:18)**
- 5. What did John say about those who had left? (2:19)**
- 6. What did the readers of 1 John have? (2:20)**
- 7. What did the readers of 1 John know? (2:21)**
- 8. How is the antichrist identified? (2:22)**
- 9. In what way is denying (or acknowledging) the Son related to having the Father? (2:23)**
- 10. What did John encourage his readers to do? (2:24)**
- 11. What did the Father promise? (2:25)**
- 12. Why did the author write these things? (2:26)**
- 13. What was the relationship between the anointing these believers received and their need to be taught? (2:27)**
- 14. What makes you think that we are living in the last hour today?**
- 15. What antichrists are among us today?**
- 16. What truths do we know about Christ?**
- 17. What have we been taught by the anointing of the Holy Spirit?**
- 18. How can we remain in or have fellowship with Jesus Christ?**
- 19. What groups of people are trying to lead believers astray today?**
- 20. How can we protect ourselves against false teachers and antichrists?**
- 21. What will you do this week to deepen your fellowship with Jesus Christ?**
- 22. What steps do you need to take to better prepare yourself against antichrists and their false doctrines?**
- 23. Who is someone you can encourage in their relationship with Christ this week?**