

“Let us teach the New Testament!”

# First Epistle of John

## Lesson 5, 1 John 2:18-29

1john.currah.download September 2019

### Introduction

In this fifth of 15 lessons on the New Testament Book of 1 John, we shall deal with these ten matters.

1. 1 John 2:18-29 in the English Standard Version (2016)
2. 1 John 2:18-29 in the SBL Greek New Testament
3. Greek textual variants in 1 John 2:18-29
4. Parallels between 1 John 2:18-29 and the Gospel of John.
5. Analytical outline of 1 Jean 2 : 18-29
6. Important vocabulary and historical meanings
7. Greek grammar: the Greek definite article with nouns and participles
8. Teachable lists
9. Four historical Christian doctrines.
10. Practical applications of 1 John 2:18-29 for Christians

### 1. The English Standard Version text of 1 John 2:18-29

<sup>18</sup> Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore we know that it is the last hour. <sup>19</sup> They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us. <sup>20</sup> But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and you all have knowledge.

<sup>21</sup> I write to you, not because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and because no lie is of the truth. <sup>22</sup> Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son. <sup>23</sup> No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also. <sup>24</sup> Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father. <sup>25</sup> And this is the promise that he made to us—eternal life.

<sup>26</sup> I write these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you. <sup>27</sup> But the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie—just as it has taught you, abide in him.

## 2. Interlinear Greek-English Text of 1 John 2:18-29

<sup>18</sup> Children, last hour it-is, and as you-heard that antichrist is-coming,

<sup>18</sup> Παιδιά, ἐσχάτη ὥρα ἐστίν, καὶ καθὼς ἠκούσατε ὅτι ἀντίχριστος ἔρχεται,

and now antichrists many have-come, whence we-know that last hour it-is.

καὶ νῦν ἀντίχριστοι πολλοὶ γέγονασιν· ὅθεν γινώσκομεν ὅτι ἐσχάτη ὥρα ἐστίν.

19 from us they-went-out but not they-were from us; if for from us they-were,

<sup>19</sup> ἐξ ἡμῶν ἐξῆλθαν, ἀλλ' οὐκ ἦσαν ἐξ ἡμῶν· εἰ γὰρ ἐξ ἡμῶν ἦσαν,

they-have-continued would with us. But that might-be-manifested that not are

μεμενήκεισαν ἂν μεθ' ἡμῶν· ἀλλ' ἵνα φανερωθῶσιν ὅτι οὐκ εἰσὶν

all from us. 20 And you unction have from the Holy-One, and know you-all.

πάντες ἐξ ἡμῶν. <sup>20</sup> καὶ ὑμεῖς χρῖσμα ἔχετε ἀπὸ τοῦ ἁγίου καὶ οἴδατε πάντες·

21 not I-wrote to-you, because not you-know the truth, but because you-know it,

<sup>21</sup> οὐκ ἔγραψα ὑμῖν ὅτι οὐκ οἴδατε τὴν ἀλήθειαν, ἀλλ' ὅτι οἴδατε αὐτήν,

and because every lie of the truth not is. 22 Who is the liar

καὶ ὅτι πᾶν ψεῦδος ἐκ τῆς ἀληθείας οὐκ ἔστιν. <sup>22</sup> τίς ἐστὶν ὁ ψεύστης

if not the denying (quote) Jesus not is the Christ? This-one is the Antichrist,

εἰ μὴ ὁ ἀρνούμενος ὅτι Ἰησοῦς οὐκ ἔστιν ὁ χριστός; οὗτός ἐστιν ὁ ἀντίχριστος,

the denying the Father and the Son. 23 Every the denying the Son neither the Father has.

ὁ ἀρνούμενος τὸν πατέρα καὶ τὸν υἱόν. <sup>23</sup> πᾶς ὁ ἀρνούμενος τὸν υἱὸν οὐδὲ τὸν πατέρα ἔχει·

The confessing the Son has the Father also. 24 You what you-heard from beginning in you let-abide.

ὁ ὁμολογῶν τὸν υἱὸν καὶ τὸν πατέρα ἔχει. <sup>24</sup> ὑμεῖς ὁ ἠκούσατε ἀπ' ἀρχῆς, ἐν ὑμῖν μενέτω·

If in you abides what from beginning you-heard, too you in the Son and in the Father will-abide.

ἐὰν ἐν ὑμῖν μείνη ὁ ἀπ' ἀρχῆς ἠκούσατε, καὶ ὑμεῖς ἐν τῷ υἱῷ καὶ ἐν τῷ πατρὶ μενεῖτε.

25 And this is the promise that he-himself promised to-us: the life the everlasting.

<sup>25</sup> καὶ αὕτη ἐστὶν ἡ ἐπαγγελία ἣν αὐτὸς ἐπηγγείλατο ἡμῖν, τὴν ζωὴν τὴν αἰώνιον.

26 These things I-write to-you about those deceiving you. 27 And you the unction

<sup>26</sup> Ταῦτα ἔγραψα ὑμῖν περὶ τῶν πλανώντων ὑμᾶς. <sup>27</sup> καὶ ὑμεῖς τὸ χρῖσμα

that you-received from him abides in you, and not need you-have that anyone should-teach you.

ὁ ἐλάβετε ἀπ' αὐτοῦ μένει ἐν ὑμῖν, καὶ οὐ χρεῖαν ἔχετε ἵνα τις διδάσκη ὑμᾶς·

But as the of-him unction teaches you about everything, and true is,

ἀλλ' ὡς τὸ αὐτοῦ χρῖσμα διδάσκει ὑμᾶς περὶ πάντων, καὶ ἀληθές ἐστὶν

and not is lie and as has-taught you, abide in him.

καὶ οὐκ ἔστιν ψεῦδος, καὶ καθὼς ἐδίδαξεν ὑμᾶς, μένετε ἐν αὐτῷ.

28 And now, children, abide in him, that if he-should-appear we-may-have confidence

<sup>28</sup> Καὶ νῦν, τεκνία, μένετε ἐν αὐτῷ, ἵνα ἐὰν φανερωθῇ σχῶμεν παρρησίαν

and not we-be-ashamed from him in the coming of-him. 29 If you-know that righteous he is,

καὶ μὴ αἰσχυνοῦμεν ἀπ' αὐτοῦ ἐν τῇ παρουσίᾳ αὐτοῦ. <sup>29</sup> ἐὰν εἰδῆτε ὅτι δίκαιός ἐστιν,

you-know that every the doing the righteousness from him has-been-born.

γινώσκετε ὅτι πᾶς ὁ ποιῶν τὴν δικαιοσύνην ἐξ αὐτοῦ γεγέννηται.

### 3. Manuscript Variants in 1 John 2:18-29

- 2:18** From the 4th century, some manuscripts read, “the antichrist.”
- 2:20** From the 5th century, some manuscripts read, “all things” instead of “you all.”
- 2:27** A 4th and a 9th century scribes mistakenly wrote “gift” (*charisma*) instead of “anointing” (*chrisma*).  
 Instead of “his anointing,” one 9th-century manuscript reads, “his gift”; two 4th century manuscripts read, “his Spirit”; and from the 5th century a few manuscripts read, “the same anointing’.
- 2:29** From the 5th century, some manuscripts read, “if you saw” (*idéte*) in place of “if you know” (*eidéte*). It is hard to know which reading was original.

Download from [1john.currah.download](http://1john.currah.download) a more complete list of manuscript variants from 1 John 2:18-29.

### 4. Parallels between 1 John 2:18-29 and the Gospel of John

Children 2.18	Jesus said to them, “Children” 21.5
You all have knowledge 2:20	The Spirit of truth ... will guide you into all the truth 16.13
I write to you, not because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and because no lie is of the truth 2:21	You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free 8:32
We are of the truth 3:19	I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth 18:37
Whoever denies the Son has not the Father 2.23	Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him. 5.23Whoever hates me hates my Father also 15.23
Who acknowledges the Son has the Father also 2.23	That all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father 5:23
Promised us eternal life 2.25	We will go to him and make our home within him 14.23
the anointing that you received from him abides in you 2:27	And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever 14.16
Born of him 2:29 Born of God 3:9	Born ... of God 1:13 Born again 3:7 Born of the Spirit.” 3:8

5. Analytical outline for preachers, teachers and groups leaders.

This outline derives from a linguistic discourse analysis rather than from abstract theology.

Part 2: **Our Adversaries** 2.18 - 3.18

**V. Antichristian Teachers** 2.18-29

A. Two types of Christian 2.18-20

1. Antichrists

a. Their activity 2.18

b. Their departure 2.19

(1) They went out from us

(2) They were never of us

2. True Christians

a. We have received the anointing 2.20

b. We all know the truth 2.21

B. The profession that leads to life 2.22-25

1. Its doctrines

a. The man Jesus is the Christ 2.22

b. Those who profess the Son have the Father 2.23

2. Its condition 2.24

3. Its promise 2.25

C. Four Christian realities 2.26-29

1. Those who seek to mislead us 2.26

2. The anointing 2.27

a. It remains with us

b. It teaches us

3. Confidence for the future 2.28

4. Confident knowledge 2.29

## 5. Important terms and their historical meanings in 1 John 2:18-29

### **Anointing** χρῖσμα *chrisma*

anointing ... 1J 2:20, 27. Usually taken to mean anointing with the Holy Spirit.

### **Antichrist** ἀντίχριστος *antichristos*

Adversary of the Messiah, to appear in the last days ... 1J 2:18, 22; 4:3.

### **Holy One** ἅγιος *hagios*

Originally ... the quality possessed by things and persons that could approach a divinity. ... being dedicated or consecrated to the service of God. ... Used as a pure substantive, the holy (thing, person) ... God ... 1J 2:20.

### **Hour** ὥρα *ōra*

A point of time as an occasion for an event, time... The present age of the world's existence 1J 2:18.

Download from 1john.currah.download a more complete list of terms and definitions from 1 John 2:18-29. Definitions extracted from Bauer, Arndt, Gingrich and Danker, *Greek Lexicon* (2001).

## 6. Greek grammar of 1 John 2:18-29. The Greek (definite) article

Greek nouns do not require a definite article ('the') in order to be definite, and Greek does not have an indefinite article ('a').

When a Greek noun has an article, you must discern what it means.

- The article may mean that its noun is the same noun mentioned earlier. For example, 1 John 2:20, "anointing" in has no article, but in 2:27 it does, referring to the same anointing.
- The article may point to a noun that a writer and readers know well. For example, in 1 John, "the truth" refers to the truth that Jesus had taught.
- The article may identify a person as the only one. For example, in 1 John 2:22, Jesus is "the Christ," in a way that no other person can be.
- The article with a participle usually mean a kind of person. For example, in 1 John 2:22, "the liar" means anyone who is a liar, and "the one who confesses" means all those who confess.

When a Greek noun has no article, you must discern what it means.

- The noun may be definite. For example, 1 John 2:18 says, "antichrist is coming." This refers to the evil man that the apostles warned would arise one day.
- The noun may refer to a trait or to quality of something. For example, in 1 John 2:18 the Greek says, "last hour it is," meaning that the present time is like the future last hour, because there are already many antichrists.

Only teach about Greek grammar, if learners are able to understand it and are eager to learn.

## 7. Teachable points from 1 John 2:18-29

Ask the Holy Spirit to show you teachable ideas and summaries from the passage. For example:

### The antichrists

- They are many 18
- They left the Christians 19
- They are liars 21, 22
- They deny that Jesus is the Christ 22
- They deny the Father and the Son 22, 23
- They try to deceive Christians 26, 27

### Real Christians

- They have been anointed 20
- They have knowledge 20
- They confess the Son 23
- They keep the original Good News 24
- They remain with the Son and with the Father 24
- The Anointing remains with them and teaches them 27
- They know that Jesus is righteous 29
- They practice righteousness 29
- They have been born of Jesus 29

### The Anointing (χρῖσμα, *chrisma*)

- Christians have received him 20
- He comes from the Holy One 20
- He gives knowledge 20
- He abides with Christians 27
- He teaches Christians 27
- He is true 27

### The end of days

- It will be the last hour 18
- The Antichrist will come 18
- Jesus Christ will appear 28
- Christians will have confidence before him 28
- Christians will live forever 25

Instead of reading or talking about all of these points, have learners form tiny groups. Have each group read a few verses of 1 John 2:18-29, looking for the topic. After a few minutes, ask someone in each tiny group to tell two or three items that the group members found. Thank everyone for their cooperation. It is not necessary to find or to report all of the items.

## 8. Four historical Christian doctrines.

*The Anointing.* When the eternal Son of God, had become human and was baptized with water, the Father anointed him with his Holy Spirit. Jesus promised that he would send the Holy Spirit to his followers, and God anoints all real Christians with the same Holy Spirit.

*The Antichrist.* Before Jesus returns, the devil will empower an evil man to do miracles, to deceive unbelievers, and to persecute Christians. This “man of sin” will gain political power over nations and will control their economies. When the Lord Jesus returns, he will destroy this man and will throw the devil into a deep pit.

*The Father and the Son.* The One True God has existed forever, still exists and will exist forever as the Father and as the Son. Together, the Father and the Son created and reign over the world and all living beings. The Father remains invisible God over all creation, whilst the Son has become the man Jesus. Christians believe in One God, worshipping the Father through his Son, Jesus Christ.

*The New Birth.* Jesus taught, “You must be born again!” He explained that the “new birth” is accomplished by God’s Holy Spirit. When sinners repent and put their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, God sends his Holy Spirit into them. From that moment, they become God’s adopted children, and they begin to lead a new life. Jean calls this action “born of God”.

## 9. Practical application of 1 John 2:18-29 for Christians

In small gatherings of learners, pose queries such as these:

- What have you learnt from this passage about God?
- What have you learnt from this passage about Jesus?
- What have you learnt from this passage about anti-Christians?
- What have you learnt from this passage about the anointing?

Whilst preaching, teaching or leading, recommend ways in which to apply the passage or put it into practice. For example:

- Identify antichristian teachers in your city and on the Internet.
- Have seekers and believers bring their antichristian books and amulets, then burn these in a bonfire.
- Pray to the Father, through the Son thanking God for giving you the anointing that teaches you the truth.
- Ask everyone to teach others this week that the One True God who is both the Father and the Son.
- Remind everyone that Jesus will return one day, and to live in a way that will not bring shame.

## Conclusion

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- Read five times 1 John 3:1-10 before you view the next video lesson.
- Please, leave comments or queries, or write to me at the download site. I shall try to reply to you by email or on line.