

Study Guide: 1 John Lesson 44
December 10, 2025

This study guide is designed to review the core teachings presented in the lesson titled "Christians and Antichrists," focusing on the characteristics of false teachers and the doctrinal tests for true faith as outlined by the Apostle John.

Memory Verse

Matthew 1:21 (NKJV)

"And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins."

Quiz: Short-Answer Questions

Instructions: Answer the following questions in two to three sentences based on the source material.

1. What is the first characteristic of an antichrist as described in the lesson?
 2. According to the lesson, what is God's purpose in allowing false teachers to enter the church?
 3. What is the second characteristic of an antichrist, and which biblical test can be used to identify it?
 4. Explain the theological connection between denying the Son and denying the Father.
 5. What is the Corinthian heresy, and what did its proponents believe about Jesus Christ?
 6. What is the third characteristic of an antichrist?
 7. How does the lesson use the parable of the wheat and the tares from Matthew 13?
 8. According to 2 Peter, what is a primary motivation for false teachers who infiltrate the church?
 9. Why is it insufficient to simply "believe there's a God up there somewhere" to be saved?
 10. The lesson states it is currently the "last hour." What evidence is provided to support this claim?
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Answer Key

1. The first characteristic of an antichrist is that they depart from the fellowship. They do not remain in the true church because they are not genuine believers and do not love the truth. Their departure is a sign that they were never truly part of the body of believers.
2. God allows false teachers into the church to serve as a purifying or purging agent. These false teachers attract and draw out false believers who are already present, thus making it clearer to the church who is genuine and strengthening the body.
3. The second characteristic is that they deny the faith, specifically by denying that Jesus is the Christ. The "christoological test" can be used to identify this, as it assesses whether someone has the correct view of Christ's person, work, and gospel as revealed in scripture.
4. The Father and the Son are inextricably linked as part of the Trinity. To deny the Son, Jesus Christ, is to deny the God who revealed Himself as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Therefore, if you reject Christ, you do not know God the Father.
5. The Corinthian heresy, associated with a man named Cerinthus, taught that the "Christ spirit" was a divine entity that descended upon the man Jesus at His baptism and left Him before His crucifixion. This view denies the incarnation, suggesting Jesus was a man only temporarily granted a divine spirit, not the eternal God-man.
6. The third characteristic of an antichrist is that they actively try to deceive the faithful. They do not remain quiet in their denial but come into the church with the specific purpose of leading believers astray with false teachings and destructive heresies.
7. The parable from Matthew 13 is used to illustrate how the enemy (Satan) sows antichrists, or "tares" (weeds), among the wheat (the people of the church). These false teachers grow alongside true believers, and if not addressed, can choke out the truth and destroy the crop.
8. The lesson references 2 Peter 2:3, which states that a primary motivation for false teachers is covetousness. They seek to exploit believers with deceptive words for financial gain, alongside the pursuit of power and sex.
9. It is insufficient because salvation requires belief in the specific Christ revealed in scripture—Jesus Christ, the anointed Messiah, who is both God and man. Creating one's own version of Jesus or believing in a generic god is not saving faith; one must believe in the true gospel He taught.
10. The evidence that it is the "last hour" is the continuous attack against the person and work of Jesus Christ. This assault on His nature, deity, humanity, and messiahship began when He first arrived and continues today, proving that this era, which has lasted over 2,000 years, is indeed the last hour.

Essay Questions

Instructions: Formulate detailed responses to the following prompts, drawing exclusively from the concepts and evidence presented in the lesson.

1. Describe in detail the three primary characteristics of an antichrist as outlined in the lesson. For each characteristic, explain how it manifests and what its ultimate effect is on the church.
2. Explain the concept of the "christological test." Why is this test considered a "marvelous and critical doctrinal test for a true Christian," and what specific beliefs about Jesus Christ does it evaluate?
3. The lesson posits that God allows false teachers into the church as a way to "strengthen his church." Analyze this argument, explaining the process of purging and purification described and how true believers are protected during this process.
4. Discuss the various heretical views of Jesus Christ mentioned in the lesson, including the Corinthian heresy and modern denials of His deity or humanity. Explain why any alteration of Christ's identity as the incarnate God-man constitutes an "antichrist spirit."
5. Analyze the role of "sound doctrine" in equipping a Christian to withstand the attempts of antichrists to deceive them. How does a lack of doctrinal understanding make a person or church vulnerable, and what is the relationship between doctrine, perseverance, and eternal life?

Glossary of Key Terms

Term	Definition
Antichrist	As used in this lesson, refers not to the singular, final Antichrist, but to any false teacher or individual who denies the essential truths about Jesus Christ, departs from the fellowship, and seeks to deceive believers.
Christological Test¹	A doctrinal test to determine the validity of a person's faith by assessing their view of Jesus Christ. A true Christian affirms the biblical view of Christ's person (the God-man), His work (Redeemer and Savior), and His gospel.
Corinthian Heresy	A belief system, attributed to Cerinthus, that denied the incarnation of Christ. It taught that a divine "Christ spirit" temporarily inhabited the man Jesus, descending at His baptism and leaving before His crucifixion.
Doctrine	A set of beliefs held and taught by a church. The lesson emphasizes that sound, biblical doctrine is essential for the life of a true Christian and for protecting the church from false teaching.

Easy Believism	A term used to criticize the popular idea that salvation can be achieved by merely believing in a generic "God up there somewhere," without specifically believing in Jesus Christ as He is revealed in scripture.
Gnostics²	A group whose early ideas were being addressed by the Apostle John. They claimed to have enlightened, transcendent knowledge or "supernatural truth" about Christ that was not available to common believers.
Incarnation	The doctrine that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is fully God and fully man. Any denial of this—either that He was not truly God or not truly human in the flesh—is considered a mark of an antichrist spirit.
Last Hour	The period of time beginning with Christ's first coming and continuing to the present day, characterized by the persistent assault on the truth of who Jesus is.
Reconciliation	An element of salvation and redemption. A true believer who has been reconciled to God is granted a permanent faith and will continue and persevere in that faith until the end.
Sound Doctrine	Correct, biblically-based teaching. The lesson states that having sound doctrine is a key defense for believers, preventing them from being led astray by false teachers.
Tares / Weeds	A metaphor from a parable in Matthew 13 used to describe antichrists and false believers. The enemy sows them in the field (the church) among the wheat (true believers) to cause dissension and choke out the truth.
Trinity	The Christian doctrine of God as one being in three persons: the Father, the Son (Jesus Christ), and the Holy Spirit. The lesson stresses that denying the Son is equivalent to denying the entire Trinity.

Notes on Greek-Derived Terms

¹ **Christological:** (kris-tuh-LOJ-i-kuhl) Derived from the Greek words *Christos* (Χριστός), meaning "anointed one" or "Messiah," and *logos* (λόγος), meaning "word" or "study of." In this context, it refers to the study or doctrine concerning the person and work of Jesus Christ.

² **Gnostics:** (NOS-tiks) Derived from the Greek word *gnosis* (γνώσις), meaning "knowledge." In this context, it refers to people who claimed to possess a special, enlightened knowledge about spiritual truths that was hidden from others.