

Will We Stand?

Intro: As we conclude 1 John 2 and ease in to chapter 3, John now presents a huge challenge to those who were reading his letter then and to us now. The threat to truth had infiltrated the early church at different points. In this note, John speaks about those who are denying that “Jesus is the Christ”. Would the people stand up against these teachers? This evening, we look at 3 questions that I hope will challenge us as well.

1. Can we take a warning? (2:18-23)
 - A. “It is the last hour” speaks to how crucial this was to John.
 - B. The modern view of “truth” makes verses 18-19 sound silly to many.
 - C. John is saying to the folks, “Some people are not really believers”.
 - D. Beware of those who deny that belief in God does not have to include Christ.

2. Where does John place the responsibility for their remaining faithful to the truth? (2:20-21, 24-27)
 - A. He says to these people, “**You** have an anointing”.
 - B. He says **you** “Know the truth”.
 - C. He says that those individuals who deny Christ have denied the Father as well.
 - D. What **you** heard must abide in **you**.
 - E. It is **you** that these people are trying to deceive.

3. Can we wait for what we might not fully understand? (2:28-3:3)
 - A. “Abiding in Him” is where we can get our confidence “at his coming”.
 - B. Practicing righteousness is the evidence that we are “born of Him”.
 - C. We must be the ones to find peace in that we are “children of God”. Don’t expect the world to support your understanding or be impressed.
 - D. It hasn’t been revealed as yet, but someday “we shall be like Him”.
 - E. We show our willingness to wait by “purifying” ourselves in hope.

Conclusion: Can’t you see the concern that John had for those who found themselves in a place where what they had been taught about Jesus was under assault. Does it sound like John would have found it acceptable to hear that there is no absolute truth? How this passage “hits us” may tell us how much we have been affected by the “sea of relativism” in which we live. The question: Will we stand?