

Who Is the Antichrist?

One preacher said, "One evening my 16 year old daughter and I were watching TV. During a commercial advertising books on life after death and unexplained mysteries, she started asking me questions about dying. Unable to answer everything, I told her, 'No one really knows what takes place once a person passes on. It's just wise to live every day as if it were your last.' She replied, 'I tried that once and you grounded me!'" Well, living like it's the last days before Jesus returns does not mean we should party hard. It means that we had better be ready to hear Jesus say to us, "Great job! When I came back I found out that you were expecting me!"

John says "the antichrist is coming." John is the only Bible writer who uses this term. Here are the other scriptures where he uses the term antichrist, and I want you to notice what the definition of the term is.

1 John 2:22, "Who is the liar? It is the man who denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a man is the antichrist - he denies the Father and the Son."

1 John 4:3, "Every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world."

2 John 7, "Many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist."

The first text says that the antichrist is the person who denies that Jesus is the Christ and when he denies Jesus is the Christ, he denies God and Jesus. The second text says that the antichrist is the person who does not acknowledge that Jesus has come from God, and the third text says that the antichrist is the person who does not acknowledge that Jesus, the Christ, has come to live in the flesh. Do you see a common trend here? The antichrist is a person who denies Jesus is the Son of God, the promised Messiah.

Who is the one person many believe is the Antichrist? I don't know, but John is not emphasizing any one person here. His emphasis is on any person who does not teach God's word correctly when it comes to the truth about Jesus. John evidently was thinking of someone in particular in verse 18 when he said you have heard the antichrist is coming, but John also said that many antichrists "have come," not will come. You and I must be careful when calling anyone an antichrist. Just because someone may differ in opinion with us does not make them a false teacher. The main thing we are looking for is this. Do they claim that Jesus is the Messiah or not?

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