

Antichrist

Wild Speculation

- A notorious figure?
 - Bush?
 - Obama?
 - Osama Bin Laden?
 - Saddam Hussein?
 - Adolf Hitler?
- 2 Peter 3:15, 16 comes to mind.
- Let's follow Peter's advice and see what the Scriptures actually say.

Scriptures on the Antichrist

- Antichrist appears 5x in Scripture.
- John is the only writer to mention the word antichrist.
- 1 John 2:18 (Appears twice here.)
- 1 John 2:22
- 1 John 4:2, 3
- 2 John 7

Defining Terms

- What does “anti” mean?
 - Opposed to or against (Vine’s Exp. Dict., pg. 53, 54)
- Therefore, the antichrist is opposed to or against Christ.
- False Christs (Matthew 24:5) and antichrists are different.
 - An antichrist opposes and denies Christ, while false Christs pretend to be Christ.

Facts and Observations

- There is more than one antichrist.
- They existed at the time of John's writing.
- He denies Jesus is the Christ and that He came in the flesh.
 - He is a liar or a deceiver.
- It is possible to identify the antichrist.

Who is the Antichrist?

- The antichrist is anyone who denies that Jesus was the Christ and had come in the flesh.
- Why did John write about this?

Gnosticism

- Relating to our lesson, Gnosticism taught:
 - A claim to a superior knowledge than Scripture.
 - Christ did not come in the flesh.
 - Jesus was an ordinary human and that the “eon Christ” came upon Him at His baptism and left Him before His death.
- Cerinthus championed these views.
- John, in his writings, specifically took issue with the first two.

Emphasis of John's Writing

- While the Gnostics claimed Christ did not come in the flesh...
 - John cited tangible, objective evidence that Christ came in the flesh.
 - 1 John 1:1-4
 - We have heard
 - We have seen with our eyes, looked upon
 - Our hands have handled

Application

- Be careful with wild speculation.
 - Context matters.
- Beware of the antichrist.
- Beware that we don't become the antichrist.
 - 2 John 7-9
 - We must stay within the boundaries of His teaching—to do otherwise is anti Christ.