

1 JOHN 2:18-29

THE ISSUE - ANTICHRISTS

Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the **antichrist** is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know it is the last hour. They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us; but their going showed that none of them belonged to us[...] Who is the liar? It is whoever denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a person is the **antichrist**—denying the Father and the Son. No one who denies the Son has the Father; whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also.

[1 JOHN 2:18-23]

ANTICHRISTS TODAY

*I am writing these things to you
about those who are trying to
lead you astray*

1 JOHN 2:26

★ WEAPONS OF MASS DISTRACTION ★



**WEAPON
OF MASS
INSTRUCTION**



THE REMEDY - THE HOLY SPIRIT

But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth. I do not write to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it and because no lie comes from the truth[...] As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit

[1 JOHN 2:20-27]

TEACHES US ABOUT ALL THINGS

As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to **teach** you. But as his anointing **teaches you about all things**[...] —just as it has **taught** you, remain in him.

[1 JOHN 2:24-27]

***ARE YOU SO FOOLISH? ALTHOUGH
YOU BEGAN WITH THE SPIRIT,
ARE YOU NOW TRYING TO FINISH
BY HUMAN EFFORT?***

GALATIANS 3:3 (NET)

The Devil's Convention

Satan called a worldwide convention. In his opening address to his evil angels, he said, "I've got some good news! Our work has paid off: the number of people identifying as Christian is at an all-time low but we can't rest yet - Christianity is still the dominant religion. The ones who are really devoted are still going to Church, trying to follow Jesus.

We've got to come up with something else! One of the angels spoke up and said "Let's keep them from forming an intimate, transformative relationship with God. If they gain a deep connection with Jesus, our power over them is truly broken". "Good idea", the devil said. We may not be able to stop them from going to church or practicing their religious lifestyles but we can steal their time so that they never quite gain the deep experience with God that they desire.

"How shall we do this?" shouted his angels.

"We'll create weapons of mass distraction, to keep them busy in the nonessentials of life. Let's invent numerous schemes to occupy their minds, which slowly lead them astray. Start by overstimulating their brains so they cannot hear the Holy Spirit's still small voice. Make music so accessible that they play it when they go off to sleep, when they drive, when they're working, in fact everywhere - this will limit their thinking, praying and listening. Place a mobile phone in the hands of every adult and child so they no longer see the need to connect with each other in real relationships and so the children become so hooked that they don't even realize their need for God. Create apps and social media that entice them to keep scrolling mindlessly, so it jams their minds - leaving no room for the Holy Spirit to speak to them.

And then instead of airing a TV show once a week, create streaming services that allow them to binge-watch episodes for hours on end so that they're too tired to pray in the mornings. Through movies, TV and social media let them have a constant feeling that they're missing out by being a Christian, this way they'll become discontented and believe that God is not enough. Even in their recreation, let them be excessive: make video gaming so addictive that it becomes a drug, so they feel bored when they don't play. Make it so easy to access x-rated sexual material so that once they're hooked they have no escape and because they are so socially isolated let it lead them further and further away from each other and God. Stop them from going out in nature to reflect on God's wonders and creation. Instead, make them only find pleasure in amusement parks, sporting events, concerts and movies. When they do spend time with God, create a Bible app that makes them feel good because they looked at the 'verse of the day' without it having any transformational impact on their lives.

And when they meet for Christian fellowship, let their conversations be so shallow and superficial that they miss out on the healing power of one another relationships. Crowd their lives with so much work and many good causes that their whole lives become about doing rather than being. Soon they'll rely on their own strength, sacrificing their faith, health, and family unity by all the distractions." What a convention it was! The evil angels went eagerly to their assignments creating and launching these weapons of mass distraction. Has the devil's scheme been successful?

2024 version by CJ Wakefield

WE MUST REMAIN IN HIM

As for you, see that what you have heard from the beginning remains in you. If it does, you also will remain in the Son and in the Father[...] As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you[...] that anointing is real, not counterfeit—just as it has taught you, remain in him.

[1 JOHN 2:24-27]

WE SHOULD MAKE IT A PRIORITY TO MEET WITH GOD REGULARLY IN A SACRED SPACE, AND TO LISTEN FOR GOD'S VOICE WITHOUT FILLING THE AIR WITH WORDS [OR NOISE].

HENRI NOUWEN

PRIEST, PROFESSOR, WRITER AND THEOLOGIAN

WHERE IS YOUR SACRED SPACE?

**IN WHAT MOMENTS IS GOD
TRYING TO SPEAK TO YOU?**



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COMMUNION

