

STUDIES IN 1 JOHN

STUDY NUMBER FIVE: Fellowship is Being Educated by His Spirit 1 John 2:18-27

Key Verse 2:27: "As for you, the anointing which you received from Him is abiding in you, and you are not having need that anyone keep on teaching you; but even as His anointing is teaching you concerning all things, and is true and is not a lie, and even as He taught you, keep on abiding in Him."

TEXT:

v.18 Young children, it is the last hour; even as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have arisen; from which fact we are knowing that it is the last hour.

v.19 They departed from us, but they were not of us. For if they were of us, they would have remained with us; but [they departed], in order that they might be revealed that they all are not of us.

v.20 And you yourselves are having an anointing from the Holy One, and you are knowing all things.

v.21 I am not writing to you because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and because every lie is not out of the truth.

v.22 Who is the liar if not the one who is denying that Jesus is the Christ? This one is the antichrist, the one who is denying the Father and the Son.

v.23 Everyone who is denying the Son is not having the Father; the one who is confessing the Son is having the Father also.

v.24 As for you, that which you heard from the beginning, let it be abiding in you. If that which you heard from the beginning is abiding in you, you also are abiding in the Son and in the Father.

v.25 And this is the promise which He Himself promised us: the life eternal.

v.26 These things I am writing to you concerning those who are leading you astray.

v.27 As for you, the anointing which you received from Him is abiding in you, and you are not having need that anyone keep on teaching you; but even as His anointing is teaching you concerning all things, and is true and is not a lie, and even as He taught you, keep on abiding in Him.

INTRODUCTION:

Presidential Haircut Delivery Service Not Cheap
by Lewis Grizzard

I phoned my personal stylist, Leroy, of Leroy's barbershop.

"Hi, there, Leroy," I said when he answered the phone.

"What did you call me?" he asked.

"Sorry," I said. "I meant Leroy. How are things in the haircutting game?"

"The price of Vitalis has gone out of sight. My second chair man is out drunk. And the customers are stealing my magazines," he replied. "Business as usual."

"Listen," I said, "I need a haircut."

"Well, you know where I am," Leroy said. "Still next to the pool hall after 30 years."

"Leroy," I went on, "how long have you been cutting my hair?"

"Two wives."

And I've been a loyal customer, right?"

"Been in once every three weeks, just like clockwork," said Leroy. "By the way, how's the dandruff?"

"Clearing up nicely since the Pine Sol treatment," I answered. "By the way, I need a favor."

"Oh, yeah," Leroy said. "People in hell need ice water, too."

"I'm serious, here," I continued. "Have you ever left the barbershop to give a haircut?"

"This ain't Domino's Pizza and I don't deliver. You wanna haircut, you get your shaggy head down here and I'll give you a haircut," Leroy responded, turning away from the phone to berate a customer leaving his shop, "Come back here with the magazine! It's brand-new. May of '91."

"You don't understand," I argued with Leroy. "I'm very busy today, and I don't think I can get to the shop. Couldn't you run out and meet me somewhere in a parking lot. You can cut my hair in my car."

"You all right, son?"

"Apparently you don't watch the news or read the papers," I said.

"I told you my second chair man was out drunk," said Leroy. "I barely got time to take a nip of Vitalis between heads myself."

"Well," I began, "President Clinton was in Los Angeles on Air Force One and needed a haircut and he was able to get somebody to come to the plane."

"What kind of barber would do something like that?" Leroy wanted to know.

"The president's stylist, Christophe," I said.

"I know Earl Slatz," said Leroy. "He's a barber in L.A. Met him at a barber's convention in Kansas City. And Niles Gilgoffer. Met him, too. He's got a shop in Burbank. He had a few parts in some movies, until the Vitalis made him start slurring his speech. What's this Christophe's last name? Maybe I met him, too."

"There's no last name," I said. "It's just Christophe."

"Beauty parlor man," said Leroy. "Never trusted them beauty parlor men. They ain't holding their scissors real right."

I asked Leroy exactly how much it would take to get him to meet me outside the shop and give me a haircut in my car."

"I'm not going to do it," he said. "But it wouldn't come cheap, and I'm not even sure the Pinto would crank anyway."

"Ball park estimate?" I pressed on.

"Well," thought Leroy, "I've got three customers waiting for haircuts now. At six dollars apiece, that's eighteen dollars I'd be losing there, and if any of them wanted a shampoo, that's another dollar-fifty I'm out."

"Then, there's the gas for the Pinto and my trouble. I wouldn't take a dime less than thirty dollars."

I laughed. "You're not going to believe what Christophe got for going out to Air Force One and cutting the president's hair," I said.

"Forty dollars?" asked Leroy.

"Two hundred big ones," I said.

"You're lyin'," said Leroy. "Ain't no ol' boy from Arkansas gonna pay two hundred dollars for a haircut."

I didn't have the heart to tell him what jogging shoes cost these days.

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(Simple Faith by Charles R. Swindoll)

Few things are more enjoyable than a good story. It makes no difference whether the story is true or fictional, happy or sad, long or short; if it has enough human interest and if the surprise element keeps us dangling, our concentration doesn't waver.

It happened to me just this past week while I was talking with Joe Gibbs, head coach of the Washington Redskins, and he mentioned a funny story that had to do with one of his friends. Since it was true, my interest was immediately tweaked.

Joe's friend owns a fine Labrador retriever. The friend, whom I will call Frank (not his real name), looked out his window one morning and saw his faithful, obedient dog sitting on his haunches near the front porch. Frank thought he saw something hanging from the dog's jaws. Sure enough, a closer look revealed it was his neighbor's pet rabbit . . . now dead. Frank was stunned. Not exactly sure what to do, his brain clicked through several options until he landed on one that seemed the best, though it would require a rather tedious process.

He gingerly pulled the rabbit from the Lab's mouth, brought the thing into the kitchen, and washed off all the dirt and gunk. He then took it into the bathroom, pulled out a hair dryer, and spent several minutes blow-drying the dead creature until it was nice and fluffy. That night, after it was dark and quiet in the neighborhood, Frank crawled over the back fence, slipped across the neighbor's backyard, opened the door on the rabbit hutch, placed the dead rabbit back in the cage, and snapped the door shut. He then slithered back through the darkness, hopped the fence, and breathed a big sigh of relief.

Next morning there was a loud knocking at his front door. Frank opened it and, to his surprise, found his neighbor clutching the dead rabbit. He was steaming. "Frank, we have a real sickie in our neighborhood."

"Really? Why do you say that?"

"Well, see . . . my rabbit here died three days ago and I buried it. Some guy just dug it up, cleaned it off nice 'n' neat, and stuck it back in the hutch. We're talkin' a real sickie, Frank!"

pp. 239-40

We have been talking in this book of 1 John about FELLOWSHIP WITH THE FATHER.

We discerned that FELLOWSHIP is:

1. RESTORED BY JESUS CHRIST
2. BROKEN BY SIN
3. NOURISHED BY OBEDIENCE
4. ESCALATED BY GROWTH

We come in this particular study to the HOW of this matter of growth. It is one of the experiences of a child of God in fellowship with the Father to be EDUCATED BY HIS SPIRIT.

The problem of apostasy and unbelief was prevalent even in John's day, and he warned the Christians about the world and its desires. Now he takes a little time to warn them of the many who do not believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He then reassures them of their position in Christ, and that they have the Holy Spirit to teach them the truth.

Paul warned young Timothy in:

2 Timothy 4:3, 4

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires; and will turn away their ears from the truth, and will turn aside to myths.

John's concern is to prepare these young Christians for those problems which they might face in maintaining their fellowship with the Father.

He is preparing them by letting them know:

- that unbelief is still very popular,
- that there are many different beliefs in the world,
- and that being sidetracked into these things can lead to a broken fellowship.

Westcott sets the stage for understanding this passage in context by saying:

The broad contrast which has been drawn in the last section between things temporal and eternal, between the world and the church, leads to the central subject of the epistle--the great conflict of life which is treated in chapter 2:18 to chapter 4:6. In this the hostile power is seen to arise from within the Christian society. The world has found expression in an anti-Christian system which lays claim to spiritual endowment and authority. False prophetic power takes its place by the side of the imperial power. These false teachers, this spirit of antichrist, are of the world.

v.18 Young children, it is the last hour; even as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have arisen; from which fact we are knowing that it is the last hour.

Here John addresses them as "YOUNG CHILDREN." They are young in the faith, and he is very concerned about them being swept away by the pressure of error while they are in the process of growing up spiritually.

Westcott says:

The apostle addresses his readers with the authority of age and experience and not as dwelling on the thought of spiritual kinship.

Van Gorder says:

The apostle's attention turns once more to the little children. Their position in the family was one of spiritual infancy, or they had recently been born again. Because of their spiritual immaturity, they were in special need of a warning about false teaching.

It seems like most of the cults feed on young converts.

Mitchell points out:

The babes in Christ are warned to beware of these false teachers. We know that the various cults today with their false doctrines seek out inexperienced Christians. They work on those who are untaught and who know little of the word of God. They may come to your door with a Bible under their arm. But the purpose is to detract from the glorious person of Christ, the Incarnate Word of God. They deny the physical resurrection of Christ who died to put away our sin and was raised again from the dead by the glory of the Father. We find the same thing on the mission field. The cults do not go to the unsaved, the pagans, and idolaters. They go to those who are babes in Christ who know the Savior but are untaught and try to lead them astray.

Paul speaks of this in:

Ephesians 4:14

As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves, and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;

Galatians 1:6, 7

I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you, and want to distort the gospel of Christ.

Galatians 5:7

You were running well; who hindered you from obeying the truth?

John's first words to these "YOUNG CHILDREN" in verse 18 are seen in the phrase:

"IT IS THE LAST HOUR."

John chooses to conclude the verse with the same words:

"IT IS THE LAST HOUR."

Here John is marking the time on the Father's calendar even as Jesus did when He was walking upon the earth:

John 2:4

And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what do I have to do with you? My hour has not yet come."

John 12:23

And Jesus answered them, saying, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.

John 13:1

Now before the Feast of the Passover, Jesus knowing that His hour had come that He should depart out of this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.

John 17:1

These things Jesus spoke; and lifting up His eyes to heaven, He said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify Thy Son, that the Son may glorify Thee,

You feel a sense of urgency in these words:

"IT IS THE LAST HOUR."

Jesus expressed this same urgency in:

John 9:4

We must work the works of Him who sent Me, as long as it is day; night is coming, when no man can work.

2 Corinthians 6:2

for He says, "At the acceptable time I listened to you, and on the day of salvation I helped you"; behold, now is "the acceptable time," behold, now is "the day of salvation"--

IT'S LATER THAN EVER BEFORE!

The magazine Christian Truth for the Household of Faith relates the story of a small boy who was lying on the living room floor playing with his toys. Nearby stood a large grandfather clock. Noontime was approaching, and when both hands of the old timepiece reached 12, the chimes began to ring. As he always liked to do, the little fellow counted each gong as it sounded. This time, however, something went wrong with [the] clock's inner mechanism. Instead of stopping at 12, it kept right on chiming, 13-14-15-16 times. The boy couldn't believe his ears! He jumped to his feet and ran into the kitchen, shouting, "Grandma! Grandma! It's later than it's ever been before!" Of course, the youngster didn't understand what had happened, but in his excitement he expressed a truth we all would do well to consider.

(From InfoSearch 3.0)

The Bible Knowledge Commentary says:

John's general warning against the world is now followed by a warning against one of its end time manifestations. The false teachers who were present were worldly to the core. The readers knew about the predicted advent of the antichrist and needed to be alerted to the appearance of many who would display his traits of hostility toward God's Christ.

1 John 4:5

They themselves are out of the world. On this account, out of the world they are speaking, and the world is hearing them.

The Bible Knowledge Commentary says further on the words "THE LAST HOUR":

Despite the lapse of centuries since John wrote, the climax of all things impends in a special way. The stage has been set for history's final drama.

"YOUNG CHILDREN, IT IS THE LAST HOUR; EVEN AS YOU HEARD THAT ANTICHRIST IS COMING."

They had already been taught that the "man of sin" was going to be coming.

This is Satan's false messiah. He is going to come and exercise worldwide rule during Satan's final shot at a kingdom.

2 Thessalonians 2:3, 4

Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God.

Daniel 9:26, 27

After the sixty-two 'sevens,' the Anointed One will be cut off and will have nothing. The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed. He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven,' in the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing of the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him."

Revelation 13:4-8

and they worshiped the dragon, because he gave his authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast, and who is able to wage war with him?" And there was given to him a mouth speaking arrogant words and blasphemies; and authority to act for forty-two months was given to him. And he opened his mouth in blasphemies against God, to blaspheme His name and His tabernacle, that is, those who dwell in heaven. And it was given to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them; and authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation was given to him. And all who dwell on the earth will worship him, everyone whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain.

"YOUNG CHILDREN, IT IS THE LAST HOUR; EVEN AS YOU HEARD THAT ANTICHRIST IS COMING, EVEN NOW MANY ANTICHRISTS HAVE ARISEN; FROM WHICH FACT WE ARE KNOWING THAT IT IS THE LAST HOUR."

Here John is making reference to the false teachers who are denying the deity of Jesus Christ and so calls them "ANTICHRISTS."

v.19 They departed from us, but they were not of us. For if they were of us, they would have remained with us; but [they departed], in order that they might be revealed that they all are not of us.

The word "THEY" refers back to the "antichrists" or false teachers of the previous verse.

There was a time when they were with them, but these false teachers have separated themselves from the main body of believers.

This is the reason John's words spell such a sense of urgency.

False teaching often leads to division in the body. Truth leads to division outside of the body.

The Bible Knowledge Commentary says:

Of the false teachers John had in mind he wrote us: It does not make sense that the false teachers had left the churches to which the readers belonged. If they had, how were they still a problem? On the other hand, if, like the legalists of Acts 15, they had seceded from the apostolic churches of Jerusalem and Judea, then they were a threat to the readers because they came to them claiming roots in the soil out of which Christianity arose. John was eager to deny any connection with them. They did not share the spirit and perspective of the apostolic circle, for if they had their secession would not have taken place.

Galatians 2:4

But it was because of the false brethren who had sneaked in to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, in order to bring us into bondage.

Philippians 3:17-19

Brethren, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us. For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, that they are enemies of the cross of Christ, whose end is destruction, whose god is their appetite, and whose glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things.

2 Peter 2:22

It has happened to them according to the true proverb, "A dog returns to its own vomit," and, "A sow, after washing, returns to wallowing in the mire."

John says:

"THEY DEPARTED FROM US, BUT THEY WERE NOT OF US."

Just like JUDAS ISCARIOT who was WITH Christ but never IN Christ, these false teachers departed FROM them but they were not OF them.

A man who is in touch with God will submit to apostolic instruction.

1 John 4:6

We ourselves are from God; the one who is knowing God is hearing us; he who is not from God is not hearing us. From this we are knowing the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

Here John points up the fact that they had never experienced the new birth. They were really not a part of God's family. They were just WITH them but not IN Christ.

I feel sure that in the back of John's mind as he writes these words that he recalls the experience with JUDAS ISCARIOT. Although Judas was with them, he was not a part of them. He was with Christ but not in Christ.

How easy it is to be caught up in some particular teaching and to bring about division as a result of it.

Matthew 13:24-30

He presented another parable to them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. But while men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed tares also among the wheat, and went away. But when the wheat sprang up and bore grain, then the tares became evident also. And the slaves of the landowner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?' And he said to them, 'An enemy has done this!' And the slaves said to him, 'Do you want us, then, to go and gather them up?' But he said, 'No; lest while you are gathering up the tares, you may root up the wheat with them. Allow both to grow together until the harvest; and in the time of the harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather up the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them up; but gather the wheat into my barn."'"

John explains the reason for this statement that "THEY WERE NOT OF US" by the next phrase:

"FOR IF THEY WERE OF US, THEY WOULD HAVE REMAINED WITH US."

If they had really been a part of God's family, they would have remained with these fellow brothers and sisters in the family.

John goes on to say:

"BUT [THEY DEPARTED], IN ORDER THAT THEY MIGHT BE REVEALED THAT THEY ALL ARE NOT OF US."

They took the action to depart, and the purpose in that departure, John says, is:

"THAT THEY MIGHT BE REVEALED THAT THEY ALL ARE NOT OF US."

2 Peter 3:17

You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard lest, being carried away by the error of unprincipled men, you fall from your own steadfastness,

2 Corinthians 11:13-15

For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their deeds.

Jude 4

For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

Jude 10-13

But these men revile the things which they do not understand; and the things which they know by instinct, like unreasoning animals, by these things they are destroyed. Woe to them! For they have gone the way of Cain, and for pay they have rushed headlong into the error of Balaam, and perished in the rebellion of Korah. These men are those who are hidden reefs in your love feasts when they feast with you without fear, caring for themselves; clouds without water, carried along by winds; autumn trees without fruit, doubly dead, uprooted; wild waves of the sea, casting up their own shame like foam; wandering stars, for whom the black darkness has been reserved forever.

Jude 16

These are grumblers, finding fault, following after their own lusts; they speak arrogantly, flattering people for the sake of gaining an advantage.

Jude 19

These are the ones who cause divisions, worldly-minded, devoid of the Spirit.

NEW KINGDOMS FOR THE CULTS

"Aberrant and unorthodox groups join Christians in filling Eastern Europe's spiritual vacuum."

The former Eastern Bloc countries are being targeted by cults, sects, and unorthodox Christian groups that want to fill the giant spiritual vacuum created there by the collapse of atheistic Communism. The Moonies, Hare Krishnas, Mormons, and Jehovah's Witnesses are among those with big plans for "reaching out" to Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. While Christian evangelists are racking up impressive numbers of converts, these other groups are also finding that people whose religious impulses have been stifled for so long are naive enough to raise their hands or sign on the dotted line to join almost any movement that comes along--especially one presenting itself with slick Westernized promotional techniques.

Some groups, like the Children of God, appear to be Christian and do not reveal their cultic nature. Thus many Christians are falling prey to their deceptions. Other groups have curried favor with the new governments in various countries. For example, the former U.S. Ambassador to Poland, who is a Latter-day Saint, helped to secure government recognition of the Mormon church in that country.

In many cases, the Eastern Europeans have been favorably impressed by the friendliness and wholesome lifestyles of the proselytizing groups. When Jehovah's Witnesses held conventions last year in 30 cities all around Europe, press coverage was generally positive. They reported 18,293 converts for the year, making them perhaps the fastest growing group. The Watchtower Society claims that most of the work is being done by nationals who have operated as Jehovah's Witnesses undercover for years.

Probably the most disturbing thing is that not only is the general public vulnerable to false teachings but the Christians are also ignorant and therefore practically defenseless against this cult invasion.

"New Kingdoms for the cults" by Joe Maxwell. Christianity Today, Jan 13, 1992. Pages 37-40.

(From InfoSearch 3.0)

We are being bombarded in the United States of America with all kinds of false teaching:

SCIENTOLOGY,

THE MOONIES,

THE GODDESS PRINCIPLE INTRODUCED BY NEW AGE THINKING,

THE MORMONS,

THE DAVIDIANS,

THE JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES,

AND THE LIST GOES ON AND ON.

Yes, indeed, we are truly living in "THE LAST HOUR."

(Pack Up Your Gloomees in a Great Big Box, then Sit on the Lid and Laugh! by Barbara Johnson)

If It's Free, It's Advice;
If You Pay for It, It's Counseling;
If You Can Use Either One, It's a Miracle!

p. 1

(Living by the Book by Howard G. Hendricks
& William D. Hendricks)

One Sunday morning I was home recovering from surgery, when two men showed up at my house, one older, one younger man, both nicely dressed. "We're visiting in the neighborhood today to talk with folks about God and religion," they told me. "Could we come in?"

Curious, I said, "Sure, come on in."

So we got involved in a conversation. They kept talking about a particular passage, and I kept saying "But that's not what the Bible says."

"Oh, yes it is," the younger man insisted. "It's in the Greek." He didn't know that I teach at a seminary.

So I asked, "What's Greek got to do with it?"

"Well, Mr. Hendricks, apparently you don't know that the New Testament was written in Greek."

"Really," I replied. "That fascinates me. Do you study Greek?"

He said, "Yes, it's a part of our training program."

"Good," I replied, and handed him my Greek New Testament. I'd have given anything to have captured on tape what happened next. He fumbled with the text, trying to make sense out of it. The older man jumped in to try and bail him out. Finally I said, "Wait a minute," and I read the passage to them, first in Greek, then in English, and said, "You see, it doesn't say that. And it doesn't mean that."

The younger guy found that very interesting, but his older companion quickly hustled him out of there. (I've never been visited by that group since. No doubt they put the word out to stay away from Hendricks.) But that kind of thing goes on every day of the week, all over the world. The problem is not with the Word of God. It's with misinterpretation of the text.

pp. 202-3

(Laugh Again by Charles R. Swindoll)

Puritan Thomas Brookes once penned these words: "For wolves to worry lambs is no wonder, but for lambs to worry one another, this is unnatural and monstrous."

p. 176

v.20 And you yourselves are having an anointing from the Holy One, and you are knowing all things.

John says, according to The Bible Knowledge Commentary:

They were well-fortified against antichrists. They had an anointing from the Holy One, that is, from God. No doubt this anointing is the Holy Spirit.

Acts 10:38

You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how He went about doing good, and healing all who were oppressed by the devil; for God was with Him.

Here John reminds these young believers that they have "AN ANOINTING FROM THE HOLY ONE" and as a result of that anointing:

THEY "ARE KNOWING ALL THINGS."

This "ANOINTING" is the indwelling Holy Spirit that has come to take up residence in them at the moment of their salvation.

John 16:13

But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.

John 14:26

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.

John is making reference to the promise which Jesus made in the upper room when He said: "He who is with you shall be in you." And now the Holy Spirit comes to indwell every believer, and He comes with the express purpose of teaching the deep things of God which are alone imparted by the indwelling Holy Spirit.

2 Corinthians 1:21, 22

Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and anointed us is God, who also sealed us and gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge.

Ephesians 1:18

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

"AND YOU YOURSELVES ARE HAVING AN ANOINTING FROM THE HOLY ONE, AND YOU ARE KNOWING ALL THINGS."

Van Gorder says:

W. E. Vine wrote:

The passage teaches that the gift of the Holy Spirit is the all-efficient means of enabling believers to possess a knowledge of the truth.

1 Corinthians 2:14

But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.

HOW DOES UNCTION FUNCTION?

Through the centuries, preachers and listeners have experienced some special touch of God in the midst of the preaching event. We call it unction.

Almost every preacher has had times when both he and his listeners felt a special sense of God's presence--an unction on the preaching. If we are to experience that unction more frequently, it is important to realize that it cannot be generated by human efforts. Neither a great message nor a flawless delivery can guarantee it. Unction is not just a feeling the preacher has. In fact, it is as much something that happens to the ones in the pews as to the one in the pulpit. The preacher should realize that he cannot bring unction by careful sermon preparation and that he should not berate himself if he doesn't feel particularly spiritual when he stands to preach.

Though it is unpredictable and elusive, unction is more likely to occur when the preaching is centered on God's Word and when it speaks to a particular congregation at the point of their greatest need. There are several things preachers can do. (1) As presumptuous as it seems, a preacher must try to discern the mind of God. If he is not willing to do that, he has no business preaching. (2) He must do everything he can to know his hearers and what their needs and struggles are. A sermon can be true to Scripture but still not scratch where people itch. (3) A preacher must do his own sermon preparation. Taped messages or sermon services can only offer generic messages, but people need God's Word for their specific situation. (4) Consistent and persistent prayer will help the preacher be more attuned to both the needs of his people and what Scripture has to say to them.

"How does unction function?" by Randy Mayeux. Leadership, Sum 1991. Pages 40-41.

(From InfoSearch 3.0)

v.21 I am not writing to you because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and because every lie is not out of the truth.

What John is saying here is that he is not wishing to convey some new truth. He just wants them to realize that truth and a lie are opposites.

Just as we have the conflict between:

LIGHT AND DARKNESS,

LOVE AND HATRED,

THE FATHER AND THE WORLD,

so also there is the conflict between

TRUTH AND THE LIE.

They already know the truth:

John 8:32

and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

John 14:6

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me.

They also have the experience of being guided into truth by the ministry of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

(The Existence and Attributes of God by Stephen Charnock)

It is clear to inform our understanding, and rich to comfort us in our misery; it is a light to guide us, and a cordial to refresh us; it is a lamp to our feet, and a medicine for our diseases; a purifier of our filth, and a restorer of us in our faintings. He hath by his goodness sealed the truth of it, by his efficacy on multitudes of men; he hath made it the 'word of regeneration,' James i. 18. Men, wilder and more monstrous than beasts, have been tamed and changed by the power of it. It hath raised multitudes of dead men from a grave fuller of horror than any earthly one. Again, goodness was in all ages sending his letters of advice and counsel from heaven, till the canon of Scripture was closed.

p. 615

(The Wounded Healer: Ministry in Contemporary Society
by Henri J. M. Nouwen)

This is what the coming generation is watching, and they know they can expect nothing from above. Looking into the adult world they say:

I'm on the outside looking inside.
What do I see?
Much confusion disillusion all around me.
You don't possess me
Don't impress me
Just upset my mind.
Can't instruct me
or conduct me
Just use up my time.

p. 31

v.22 Who is the liar if not the one who is denying that Jesus is the Christ? This one is the antichrist, the one who is denying the Father and the Son.

John asks a QUESTION and then gives us an ANSWER.

The QUESTION is:

"WHO IS THE LIAR IF NOT THE ONE WHO IS DENYING THAT JESUS IS THE CHRIST?"

The ANSWER then is:

"THIS ONE IS THE ANTICHRIST, THE ONE WHO IS DENYING THE FATHER
AND THE SON."

The Bible Knowledge Commentary says:

You cannot have the Father without the Son. To reject one is to reject the other.

John 4:29

Come, see a man who told me all the things that I have done; this is not the Christ, is it?

John 4:42

and they were saying to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves and know that this One is indeed the Savior of the world."

John 20:31

but these have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.

Now John identifies the antichrists that he has been speaking about back in verse 18, and the "LIAR" that he is speaking about here in verse 22.

They are the ones who are denying that Jesus is the Christ. Jesus was just a wonderful teacher and another good man, but, they are saying, He is not the Christ.

John concludes the 22nd verse by saying:

"THIS ONE IS THE ANTICHRIST, THE ONE WHO IS DENYING THE FATHER AND THE SON."

Here John goes on to point out that it is not only a denial of Jesus as being the Christ, but also a denial of the Father or of the existence of God.

A story is told of an atheistic father who was endeavoring to teach his young child his beliefs. He commanded the child to write upon her slate, "God is nowhere." The child made a wrong separation of syllables so the writing upon the slate said, "God is now here."

This is the message that we as Christians who are walking in fellowship with the Father now enjoy.

(Making Sense out of Suffering by Peter Kreeft)

It was the unthinkable, "the absolute paradox" (as Kierkegaard calls it) that the eternal God should have a beginning in time, that the maker of Mary's womb should be made in Mary's womb; that the first one became second, the independent one became dependent as a little baby, dependent for His very earthly existence--not on "the will of the flesh" but on the new Eve saying yes to the angel where the old Eve had said yes to the devil.
pp. 231-32

CAUGHT IN A WEB

A personal story of a young couple drawn into the net of a strong pastor who preached heresy and dominated his adoring congregation. Article includes a sidebar with some questions to ask of any religious group: 1) Do they value loyalty to Scripture more than loyalty to a person or organization? 2) Do they make everything that they believe public? 3) Do they encourage high moral standards? 4) Do they respect each member's privacy? 5) Do they encourage members to give money and time as God leads and not according to strict, demanding rules? 6) Do they serve and interact with the larger Christian community? 7) Are members encouraged to think critically and to voice doubts? 8) Do they encourage members to build healthy relationships with friends and family? 9) Are members allowed to leave the group without being made to feel guilty?

"Caught in a web" by Holly Green. Today's Christian Woman, Sep/Oct 1989. Pages 60-63+.

(From InfoSearch 3.0)

v.23 Everyone who is denying the Son is not having the Father; the one who is confessing the Son is having the Father also.

John 14:8-11

Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us."

Jesus said to him, "Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how do you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works. Believe Me that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me; otherwise believe on account of the works themselves.

The Father and the Son are related. You deny the Son and you deny the Father.

You cannot have the Father without the Son, nor the Son without the Spirit.

Matthew 10:33

But whoever shall deny Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven.

2 Peter 2:1

But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves.

John goes on to say:

"THE ONE WHO IS CONFESSING THE SON IS HAVING THE FATHER ALSO."

We have noted in chapter 1:9 that it is our responsibility to be confessing our sins. This is required to maintain our fellowship.

Now it is to be confessing Jesus Christ as the Son of God. Peter said, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Jesus said in:

Matthew 10:32

Everyone therefore who shall confess Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven.

Romans 10:9, 10

that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved; for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.

NO NEUTRAL GROUND

C. H. Spurgeon said, "Let me imagine a man entering heaven without a change of heart. He comes within the gates. He hears a sonnet. He's shocked! It is to the praise of his enemy. He sees a throne, and on it sits One who is glorious; but it is his enemy. He walks streets of gold, but those streets belong to his enemy. He sees hosts of angels, but those hosts are the servants of his enemy. He is in an enemy's house, for he is at enmity with God. He could not join the song, for he would not know the tune. There he would stand, silent, motionless, till Christ would say, with a voice louder than ten thousand thunders, 'What doest thou here? Enemies at a marriage banquet? Enemies in the children's house? Enemies in heaven? Get thee gone! Depart, ye cursed, into the everlasting fires of hell!'"

(From InfoSearch 3.0)

v.24 As for you, that which you heard from the beginning, let it be abiding in you. If that which you heard from the beginning is abiding in you, you also are abiding in the Son and in the Father.

1 Corinthians 15:58

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.

The Bible Knowledge Commentary says:

John's point was that if the readers would resist the lies of the antichrists and let the truth they had heard from the beginning be at home in them, they would continue to abide in the fellowship of God the Father and God the Son.

John 14:21

He who has My commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves Me; and he who loves Me shall be loved by My Father, and I will love him, and will disclose Myself to him.

What they had "HEARD FROM THE BEGINNING" was the fact that Jesus Christ is God's Son, that He came to die for them upon the cross of Calvary; and now having received Jesus Christ, they are to continue to abide in him.

John goes on to say:

"LET IT BE ABIDING IN YOU."

That is, the Holy Spirit, who has come to carry on the ministry of separating truth from error and guiding us into truth, needs to be able to carry on His function in our lives. He can be grieved by sin so that He cannot function properly in His capacity. He can also be resisted by rebellion and therefore quenched.

It is God's desire that we be SUPERSENSITIVE SAINTS, sensitive to the Spirit of God and the truth of God.

"AS FOR YOU, THAT WHICH YOU HEARD FROM THE BEGINNING, LET IT BE ABIDING IN YOU. IF THAT WHICH YOU HEARD FROM THE BEGINNING IS ABIDING IN YOU, YOU ALSO ARE ABIDING IN THE SON AND IN THE FATHER."

(Life and Works of Rev. Charles H. Spurgeon
by Henry Davenport Northrop, D.D.)

A Christian once, in doubt and discouragement, considered the darkness that overspread her soul as a proof that she was finally cast away. She stumbled over mole-hills when she should have been removing mountains. To an old minister who was trying to comfort her, with impassioned emphasis she said, "Oh! I'm dead, dead, twice dead, and plucked up by the roots!" After a pause, he replied, "Well, sitting in my study the other day, I heard a sudden scream--'John's in the well! John's fallen into the well!' Before I could reach the spot, I heard the sad mournful cry, 'John's dead--poor little Johnny's dead!' Bending over the curb, I called out, 'John, are you dead?' 'Yes, grandfather,' replied John, 'I'm dead.' I was glad to hear it from his own mouth."

Many doubts are so absurd that the only way to combat them is by gentle ridicule.
p. 455

v.25 And this is the promise which He Himself promised us:
the life eternal.

When all else is said and done, this is really the important issue in John's mind. He promised us ETERNAL LIFE.

The Bible Knowledge Commentary says:

They could also continue to rest on the divine promise of eternal life.

1 John 5:9-13

If we are receiving the witness of men, the witness of God is greater; because this is the witness of God, that He has borne witness concerning His Son. The one who is believing in the Son of God is having the witness in himself; the one who is not believing God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the witness which God has witnessed concerning His Son. And this is the witness, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. The one who is having the Son is having the life; the one who is not having the Son of God is not having the life. I wrote these things to you in order that you may know that you are having eternal life, you who are believing in the name of the Son of God.

1 John 5:20

Now we are knowing that the Son of God has come, and has given to us insight, in order that we may be knowing the truth, and we are in the truth in His son, Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

John 10:28, 29

and I give eternal life to them, and they shall never perish; and no one shall snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.

Joshua 23:14

Now I am about to go the way of all the earth. You know with all your heart and soul that not one of all the good promises the Lord your God gave you has failed. Every promise has been fulfilled; not one has failed.

GOD IS LIKE

God is like Coke . . . He's the real thing.
 God is like Pan Am . . . He makes the going great.
 God is like General Electric . . . He lights your path.
 God is like Bayer Aspirin . . . He works wonders.
 God is like Hallmark Cards . . . He cared enough to send the very best.
 God is like Tide . . . He gets the stains out that others leave behind.
 God is like VO5 Hair Spray . . . He holds through all kinds of weather.
 God is like Dial Soap . . . Aren't you glad you know Him? Don't you wish everyone did?
 God is like Sears . . . He has everything.
 God is like Alka Seltzer . . . Try Him, you'll like Him.
 God is like Scotch Tape . . . You can't see Him, but you know He's there.

(From InfoSearch 3.0)

v.26 These things I am writing to you concerning those who are leading you astray.

1 John 3:7

Little children, let no one keep on leading you astray; the one who is doing righteousness is righteous, even as that one is righteous.

Guy King says:

So often these people are individuals of such charming manners, obvious enthusiasm, delightful personality, and high intellectuality, that they put you completely off your guard.

(Where Does a Mother Go to Resign? by Barbara Johnson)

Remember, the definition of a mental block is "the street where several psychiatrists live" and you have the Greatest Psychiatrist of all on your street right now.

p. 139

(Men Who Win: Pursuing the Ultimate Prize
by Steven J. Lawson)

They were all sneering, "His elevator must be stuck in the basement." "He's got rooms to rent upstairs. Unfinished." "His lights are on, but nobody's home."
p. 91

In chapter 1:8 we saw that:

"If we say that we are not having sin, we are leading ourselves astray."

Now he's warning us of those who are endeavoring to do the same thing with false teaching.

1 Timothy 4:1, 2

But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron,

Matthew 24:24

For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect.

(When You Can't Come Back by Dave & Jan Dravecky
with Ken Gire)

We struggled daily in that wilderness to get our bearings. That's not an easy thing to do when you're surrounded with empty horizons, deceptive mirages, and shifting sand.

As we stumbled our way through this trackless desert we encountered plenty of people who pointed out directions. The only problem was that we had people pointing in so many directions, we didn't know which way was up. Proverbs says that "in an abundance of counselors there is victory." There can also be confusion. Anyway, confusion is what we experienced with some of the counselors that came offering advice.

We had a few days before we had to go to New York for my surgery, so I took the time to read through some of the mail. The majority of mail I have received has been positive and encouraging. But a few of the letters were unsettling. They came from sincere people, I'm sure, people like the man below who just wanted to help:

Dear Dave,

I'm writing to you in hope that you'll receive the Word of God in faith and receive your total healing. I should have wrote you a year ago but I felt you knew the Word of Faith. Then I heard you on James Dobson and realized you were going to lose your healing by what you were saying. . . .

Dave, you could be still pitching if you don't reject this teaching and you act immediately. . . .

A lot of religious teachers condemn this message but praise God it works every time, because it's God's living Word. . . .

The Bible says ye were healed by Jesus' stripes. "Were" is past tense so it's already done! Jesus bore our sicknesses and diseases for us, the Bible says. Jesus healed everyone who asked it of Him while He was on earth. God's will for us is health every time. . . .

He loves us all and He will heal any believer who has faith in what He's provided for us in His Word.

The letter quoted several Bible verses and pointed me in a direction that would lead out of the wilderness and into a promised land brimming over with health, wealth, and prosperity.

At one point in my life, getting a letter like that would have made me angry. I didn't get that way, but I did feel that the person was trespassing on private property. From spending so much time in hospitals, I've learned that when we walk through someone's door who is suffering, we have to respect the sanctity of that room. When we cross that threshold, we should be careful not to violate that person's life. Something sacred happens when a person is suffering. There is a turning to God, turning to him for assurance, for answers, for comfort.
pp. 69-70

(Living by the Book by Howard G. Hendricks
& William D. Hendricks)

I ran across a touching essay by a ten-year-old pupil. It has some correct observation, but incorrect interpretation. It also has some correct interpretation, with incorrect observation. Here's what the child wrote:

The cow is a mammal. It has six sides. Right, left, an upper and below. At the back it has a tail on which hangs a brush. With this it sends the flies away so that they do not fall into the milk. The head is for the purpose of growing horns and so that the mouth can be somewhere. The horns are to butt with and the mouth is to moo with. Under the cow hangs the milk. It is arranged for milking. When people milk the milk comes and there is never an end to the supply. How the cow does it I have not yet realized. But it makes more and more. The man cow is called an ox. It is not a mammal. The cow does not eat much, but what it eats, it eats twice so that it gets enough. When it is hungry it moos, and when it says nothing it is because its inside is all filled up with grass.
p. 235

INTEGRITY CRISIS IN MINISTRY

"We are facing an integrity crisis. Not only is the conduct of the church in question, but so is the very character of the church."
--Warren Wiersbe.

The undeniable crisis of immorality in the ministry has reached the epidemic stage. The secular media is having a heyday, and respect for ministers has just about bottomed out. What has caused this crisis of integrity? Sinful human nature is the obvious root cause, but Satan has used some particular strategies to bring down pastors.

(1) Materialism: The secular values of society have had a greater impact on the church than the church has had on society, and today many men in the ministry are after gold rather than God. For them the role model of the corporate CEO has replaced the scriptural example of the servant-shepherd.

(2) Pride: Egotism is rampant as religious terminology is used to justify the drive for personal power and prestige.

(3) Deceitfulness: Exaggeration gives way to outright lying in many cases.

(4) False teaching: Many are anemic in their understanding of biblical truth and thus have very shallow theology. This results in a tendency to fall either into legalism or, at the other extreme, emotionalism. Such an unstable doctrinal foundation cannot stand under pressure.

It might seem that these factors have no direct connection with immorality, but they do. If a man lacks self-control in one area (desire for affluence), it often spills over into other areas of his life (lust). Deceitfulness in regard to his own accomplishments may be reflected in a tendency to hide the truth in other ways (being unfaithful to his wife). Moral failures can usually be traced to three lacks: no daily personal walk with the Lord, failure to meditate on Scripture, and the absence of intimacy in the marriage.

"Integrity crisis in ministry" by Danny Akin. Southern Baptist Communicator, Jan/Feb 1992. Page 3.

(From InfoSearch 3.0)

v.27 As for you, the anointing which you received from Him is abiding in you, and you are not having need that anyone keep on teaching you; but even as His anointing is teaching you concerning all things, and is true and is not a lie, and even as He taught you, keep on abiding in Him.

This is the verse which I have picked as the KEY VERSE for Study #5:

"FELLOWSHIP IS BEING EDUCATED BY HIS SPIRIT."

The thing which gave John great confidence for the stability and strengthening of these Christians in the midst of this pressure of false teaching and error was that:

THEY HAD "THE ANOINTING WHICH [THEY] RECEIVED FROM HIM."

This anointing is the indwelling of the Holy Spirit which they received when they came to know Jesus Christ as Savior.

It is obvious from the passage that these believers are quite mature and that they have experienced some of the teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit.

The significance of the phrase "IS ABIDING IN YOU" refers to the permanency of residence on the part of the Holy Spirit in us. He may be grieved by sin and He may be quenched by rebellion, but He is still there and we are still His children.

John 7:17

If any man is willing to do His will, he shall know of the teaching, whether it is of God, or whether I speak from Myself.

"AS FOR YOU, THE ANOINTING WHICH YOU RECEIVED FROM HIM IS ABIDING IN YOU, AND YOU ARE NOT HAVING NEED THAT ANYONE KEEP ON TEACHING YOU."

It is the function of the Holy Spirit to guide us into truth. Because of this ministry, John can have deep confidence that they are being taught the truth.

They were not like the believers in the book of Hebrews:

Hebrews 5:12

For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food.

"BUT EVEN AS HIS ANOINTING IS TEACHING YOU CONCERNING ALL THINGS, AND IS TRUE AND IS NOT A LIE, AND EVEN AS HE TAUGHT YOU, KEEP ON ABIDING IN HIM."

John 15:4, 7

Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it shall be done for you.

We understand that for us to "ABIDE IN" Christ is to draw our source of life from Him because the branch cannot bear fruit of itself. It is only as the life of the vine flows through the branch and there is union between the branch and vine that fruit is born.

John is teaching us here that we are to be:

ABIDING IN CHRIST,

DEPENDING UPON HIM,

and BEING TAUGHT THE THINGS OF GOD BY THE INDWELLING HOLY SPIRIT.

Guy King says:

We come again to our glorious possession of the unction. He too, the great teacher in the face of false teachings, the great safeguard in the presence of dangerous doctrine, will take you for your guidance to the holy scriptures; and if you are willing to accept and obey His word, you shall be lead aright.

Van Gorder says:

Dear Christian, abide in Christ. Allow the blessed Holy Spirit to fill and control you. Let the very life of the Lord Jesus produce fruit through you to His glory. Then you and those who have ministered to you will rejoice in the day of Christ's coming.

As we surrender to the Lord and are submissive to the teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit, we can be assured that we will be guided into all truth.

(Pack Up Your Gloomees in a Great Big Box, then Sit on the Lid and Laugh! by Barbara Johnson)

I'm perfectly willing to compromise, but God wants to have everything His own way.
p. 45

CONCLUSION:

What are some of the lessons that we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: Young believers are easy prey for many of the cults.

LESSON #2: We are living in the last hour.

LESSON #3: We must be aware and on our guard with regard to false teachers.

LESSON #4: God's Spirit permanently indwells us as believers so that we can be taught the truth by the Spirit.

LESSON #5: You cannot have the Father without the Son, nor the Son without the Spirit.

LESSON #6: False teaching often leads to division in the body of Christ.

LESSON #7: God has made a promise to us of eternal life and He does not break His promises.

LESSON #8: There are many who will lead you astray if you pay attention to what they are teaching.

LESSON #9: It is the Spirit of God who is teaching us all things.

LESSON #10: Keep on abiding in Him.

The obvious questions that come to our minds at this point, are:

Have I experienced the blessing of receiving the gift of eternal life through faith in Jesus Christ?

Am I abiding in Christ?

Has it been my experience to be taught the meaning of God's truth by the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit?

A vital and meaningful part of fellowship is the experience of **BEING EDUCATED BY HIS SPIRIT.**

(Victory through Surrender by E. Stanley Jones)

Rufus Moseley calls it "a happy yielding to God's initiative."
p. 105

He who began a good work in you will complete it. You don't have to live a lifetime now. Live day by day, moment by moment. The future will take care of itself. And that future is as bright as the promises of God.
p. 111

UNHAPPY ENDINGS

People who consistently reject God's Word by refusing to repent increase daily the likelihood of coming to an unhappy end in life. George Bernard Shaw, who as a young man repudiated the Gospel, became increasingly hostile to it as he grew older. On the flyleaf of a Bible he sold to an auctioneer 4 years before his death is this inscription: "Except as a curiosity, this book is a most undesirable possession. I must get rid of it. I really cannot bear it in my house!" The reports concerning his death indicate that he died without a ray of hope.

(From InfoSearch 3.0)

Perhaps you are a Christian out of fellowship with the Father today because of some sin or disobedience in your life, and you have a deep hunger and desire to be educated by His spirit.

This will come as a natural result of confessing the sin or clearing up the disobedience by being submissive to His revealed will.

You will once again experience the joy of being educated by His Spirit.

These words have been written by my daughter Becky, who has had a kidney transplant:

Whenever I am troubled
 And my faith is growing dim;
 I turn my thoughts to Jesus,
 And I just abide in him.

And when my plans all go awry,
 And no one seems to care;
 I have a session with my Lord
 And leave my heartaches there.

Of course, there are the many times
 I'm selfish and unkind;
 And once more have to flee to Him
 To gain back peace of mind.

And then, forgiven, restored, renewed,
 My heart again can sing;
 While tuned in to the hope and strength
 That Christ alone can bring.

How very blessed our lives become
 The moment we decide
 To just completely yield to Him
 And in His love abide.

I love you,

Becky.

STUDY #5 - 1 John 2:18-27

What are some of the lessons that we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: Young believers are easy prey for many of the cults.

LESSON #2: We are living in the last hour.

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