

THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

1 John 2:18-23
Lesson #10
Antichrist spirit
03/06/2022



As Christians
we are not alone
*in more ways
than one.*

1 John 2:26

“These things I have written to you concerning those who are trying to deceive you.”

John identifies and confronts
worldliness (2:15-17)
antichrist spirit (2:18-23)

Antichrist,
is the messiah of **Worldliness**
and the antithesis of God’s anointed.

1 John 2

“18 Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that **antichrist** is coming, even now many **antichrists** have arisen; from this we know that it is the last hour. 19 They went out from us, but they were not really of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out, in order that it might be shown that they all are not of us. 20 But you have an **anointing** from the Holy One, and you all know. 21 I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it, and because no lie is of the truth. 22 Who is the liar but the one who **denies that Jesus is the Christ?** This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son. 23 Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also.”

ANTICHRIST



Can mean:
“against Christ” or
“in place of Christ”

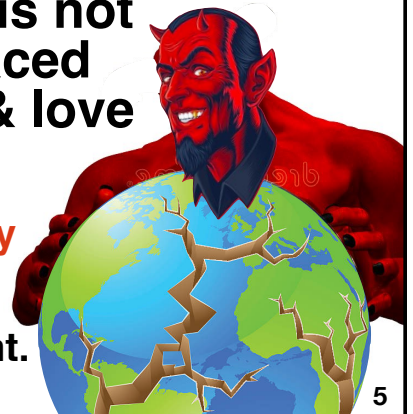
A spirit or principle
of worldliness that
will be embodied
in a person or
persons just
before Christ
returns.

- Found only in John’s writings
- The Beast (Rev.13:17-18)
- The man of lawlessness (2 Thess.2:3-4)


*Broken people in a broken world
have unmet longings for life.*

Worldliness is not
only a displaced
faith, hope, & love

but also a **worldly
wisdom**, making
perfect sense of
that displacement.



“It all comes down to power: Various forms of Christendom have denied Christ for the sake of political power. In the Bible, of all the things Satan could’ve chosen to tempt Jesus, it was the use of scripture — with promises of political power.”
 Matt.4:1-11



Stephen Mattson

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Matthew 4 (the antichrist spirit)

Superficial priorities

“2 And after He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry. 3 And the tempter came and said to Him, **“If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.”** 4 But He answered and said, “It is written, *‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.’*”

Selfish entitlements

“5 Then the devil took Him into the holy city; and he had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, 6 and said to Him, **“If You are the Son of God throw Yourself down; for it is written, ‘He will give His angels charge concerning You’;** and *‘On their hands they will bear You up, Lest You strike Your foot against a stone.’*” 7 Jesus said to him, “On the other hand, it is written, *‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’*”

Separating means from ends

“8 Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world, and their glory; 9 and he said to Him, **“All these things will I give You, if You fall down and worship me.”** 10 Then Jesus said to him, “Begone, Satan! For it is written, *‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.’*”

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What is an antichrist spirit?



The longings of aliens in a broken world
 Matthew 4:1-11




NOTE:
 Satan tempted Christ to use God’s power to satisfy core longings in life **by and through this world.**

1. Satan appeals to **legitimate longings.**
2. Satan appeals to **common sense.**
3. Satan appeals to **Scripture.**

8

“Idolatry is trying to bring in God’s Kingdom before its time and without its King.”



Richard John Neuhaus

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Matthew 4 (countering an antichrist spirit)

See beyond the bread

“2 And after He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry. 3 And the tempter came and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.” 4 But He answered and said, “It is written, *‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.’*”

Stay in your place as an alien, image bearer.

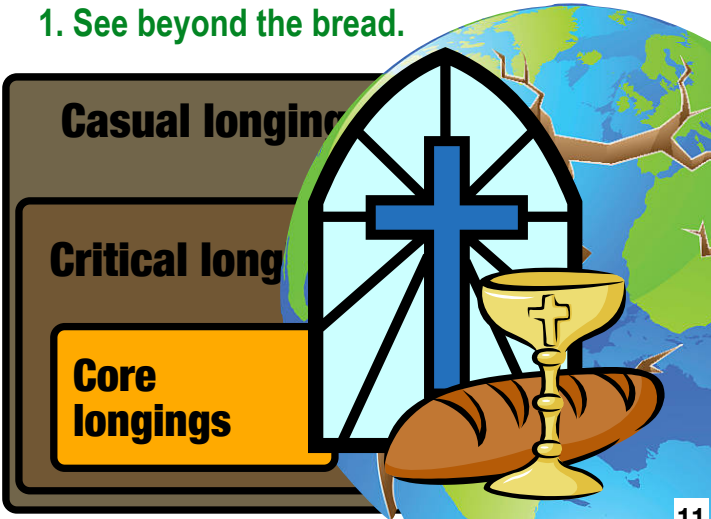
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Show the Way of the Cross

“8 Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world, and their glory; 9 and he said to Him, “All these things will I give You, if You fall down and worship me.” 10 Then Jesus said to him, “Begone, Satan! For it is written, *‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.’*”

10

1. See beyond the bread.



11

You can be anything you want to be.

Dream BIG

You are limited only by your dreams, faith, and work ethic.

Plan your work - work your plan.

DEDICATION DETERMINATION DOMINATION.

Whether you think you can, or you can't, you're right.

The sky is the limit.

12

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

Your God is too small!

"For I know the plans I have for you, . . . plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

"Ask anything in My name . . ."

"My yoke is easy and my burden is light."

"I am come that you might have life and have it abundantly."

"You have not because you ask not."

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The deepest longings of our heart will not be satisfied by looking to our outer circumstances.

Christ came to save our soul not our plans.

Christ calls us to a cross before a crown.

"If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied." 1 Cor.15:19

Stand on the Promises!

Name it Claim it!

Claim your miracle!

Abundant life!

Have faith in faith!

You can have the desire of your heart!

Health and Wealth!

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2. Stay in your place as an alien, image bearer.

America's Original Sin

Not Secularism, Slavery, Materialism,

But **INDEPENDENCE**

WE and **THEE** in service of **ME**



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God's gifts /signs can become idols.

A Golden Calf is not unique to Israel.

Corinthian ch.

American ch.



16

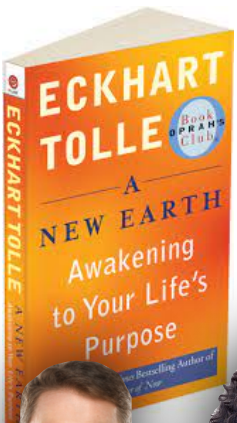
When God blesses us, He takes a great risk

lest we live for the gift and not for the Giver

or seek more material rather than spiritual wealth.




17



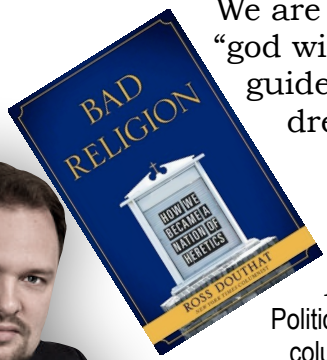

“I am a Christian who believes that Jesus came to show us how to live lives that are in touch with the spirit within.”

The New Earth Church



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American culture is moving away from both a secularism that fails to inspire and an institutional religion that is irrelevant. We are moving toward a “god within, therapeutic guide to the American dream” spirituality.

Ross Douthat
Political analyst, N.Y. Times columnist, former senior editor of The Atlantic.

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Too many Christians are willing to follow Jesus so long as they have a voice, vote, and a veto.

Kingdom consulting is not a spiritual gift.


We can't give ourselves until we have gotten over ourselves.

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3. Show the Way of the Cross.

Matthew 22:21
“Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s”

1. *Jesus recognizes two different spheres of ethical responsibility.*
2. *Caesar and God were not always in sync.*
3. *How is it possible to both support an evil Caesar and serve a holy God?*



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What does the Bible say about social justice?

The Old Testament

1. **Theocracy** - It unites church and state.
2. **Law** - It managed from the outside - in.

The New Testament

1. It says a lot about social justice (but within the faith community as salt and light to the world).
2. “The Way of the Cross” by the Spirit is the model of Jesus and the Apostles.

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3. Show the Way of the Cross.

We understand “redemption” from sin, by looking to **PAID IN FULL**

the Word of the Cross.

We understand “reform” of society, by looking to **FOLLOW ME**

the Way of the Cross.



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Resisting an antichrist spirit's

- Superficial priorities

The Way of the Cross calls for a broad perspective and an inside - out reformation.

- Self-centered expectations

The Way of the Cross calls for taking our baptism seriously.

- Sanctifying any means for Godly ends

The Way of the Cross calls for following a holy "means" to a holy "end".

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If you wish to understand "kingdom" social reform

NO JUSTICE

NO PEACE



NO PEACE

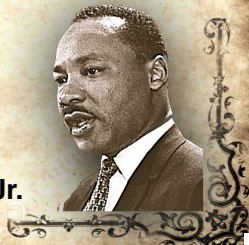
NO JUSTICE

*Social reform
sign, salve, solution*

25

"Morality cannot be legislated, but behavior can be regulated. Judicial decrees may not change the heart, but they can restrain the heartless."

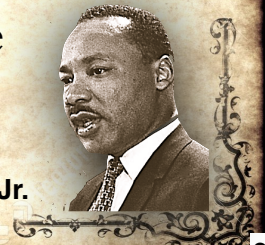
Martin Luther King, Jr.



26

"Peace is not merely a distant goal that we seek but a means by which we arrive at that goal."

Martin Luther King, Jr.



27

If the USA derives its powers from heaven it is only through its citizens.

"We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, & the Pursuit of Happiness: — That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, **deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the governed;**"

The Declaration of Independence

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What are the roots of the American system?



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A socialist society

is willing to sacrifice individual liberty and material productivity for material and social equality.

A capitalist society

is willing to sacrifice material and social equality for individual liberty and material productivity.

A Christian society

views liberty and productivity as a responsibility more than a right - and compassion, cooperation, and justice as important as competition.

Christians can "do good" in both capitalist and socialist societies.

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Christian capitalists

Competition that is fair

It is motivated by the pursuit of efficiency, and effectiveness as stewards more than personal comfort and power as consumers.

Cooperation that is proactive

It is sensitive to the well-being of the community as well as the family and the individual.

Compassion that is sacrificial

It is free to be generous and sensitive in addressing the true needs of others, especially those without power or dignity.

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Kingdom strategies

1. Embrace a **global** perspective.
2. Respect human **dignity**.
3. Be a **Peace** maker and keeper.
4. **Integrate** the ends and means.
5. Pray and vote for leaders who are: **wise, truthful, and virtue inspiring.**
6. Respect the **diversity** that is vital to the American system.
7. Place your faith and hope in **God's kingdom** not any political system.

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Hot Topics (Christian Ethics) #1 - #39

Theology file #807 Church and State

This will give you more detailed information on the subject.

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1 John

Next week
2:24-29

Abiding in
the Anointing

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A bishop then must be ... apt to teach 1 Timothy 3:2

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