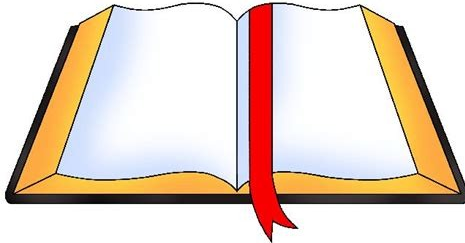


Hang on in there!

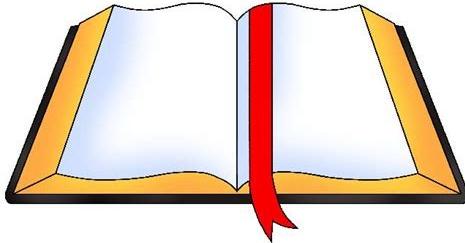
1 John 2:12-27



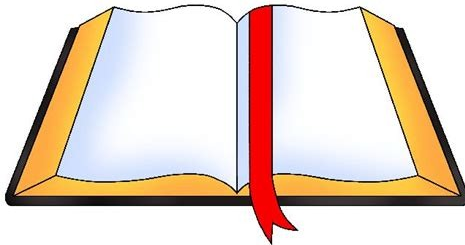
I write to you, dear children, because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name. I write to you, fathers, because you have known him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I wrote to you, dear children, because you have known the Father. I wrote to you, fathers, because you have known him who is from the beginning. I wrote to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one.



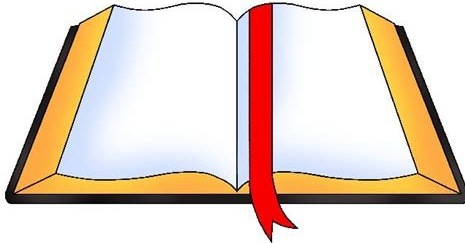
Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world--the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does--comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.



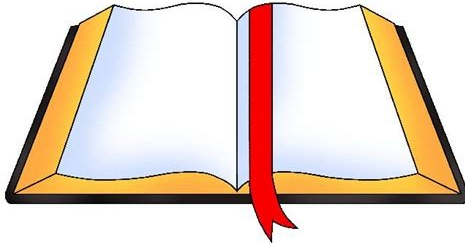
Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many Antichrists have come. This is how we know it is the last hour. They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us; but their going showed that none of them belonged to us. 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.



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. No one who denies the Son has the Father; whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also. 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. And this is what he promised us--even eternal life.



I am writing these things to you about those who are trying to lead you astray. 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--just as it has taught you, remain in him.



I write to you, dear children, because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name.

By the term 'these children', probably John could be referring to all the believers as he does at the beginning of the letter, or to those who are 'young' in the faith. The order that follows suggests it is the whole group of believers



They know the first basics – forgiven because of Jesus.

I write to you, fathers,
because you have **known** him who is from the beginning.

This group would refer to the spiritually mature, who have been believers for a long time.

They have entered into a deeper understanding of the greatness of Jesus and a fuller **experience**.



I write to you, young men,
because you have overcome the evil one.

The young men are those
who have gained a victory in
the spiritual battles we face.

The 'evil one' is another
term for Satan. It describes
his nature, while the name
Satan describes what he
does— opposes and accuses



I write(wrote) to you, dear children,
because you have known the Father.

Dear children
translates a different
word – ‘young ones’
This is a precious
assurance of our
relationship with our
heavenly Father.
The past tense – I
wrote – may refer to
John’s gospel.



God’s children have a perfect, loving Father.

I write(wrote) to you, fathers,
because you have known him who is from the beginning.

John repeats what he said to the 'fathers'. To grow into a deeper knowledge of the God of eternity and all grace is the great goal of our faith.

To know Jesus is a work for now and forever.



I write(wrote) to you, young men,
because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you,
and you have overcome the evil one.

Our strength comes
from the rich source of
God's word LIVING –
active – in us.

Such faith overcomes!



I write to you, children,... fathers ...,young men,

While John personally addresses each group, it still shows that he regards the church as a family of disciples at different stages on our journey.



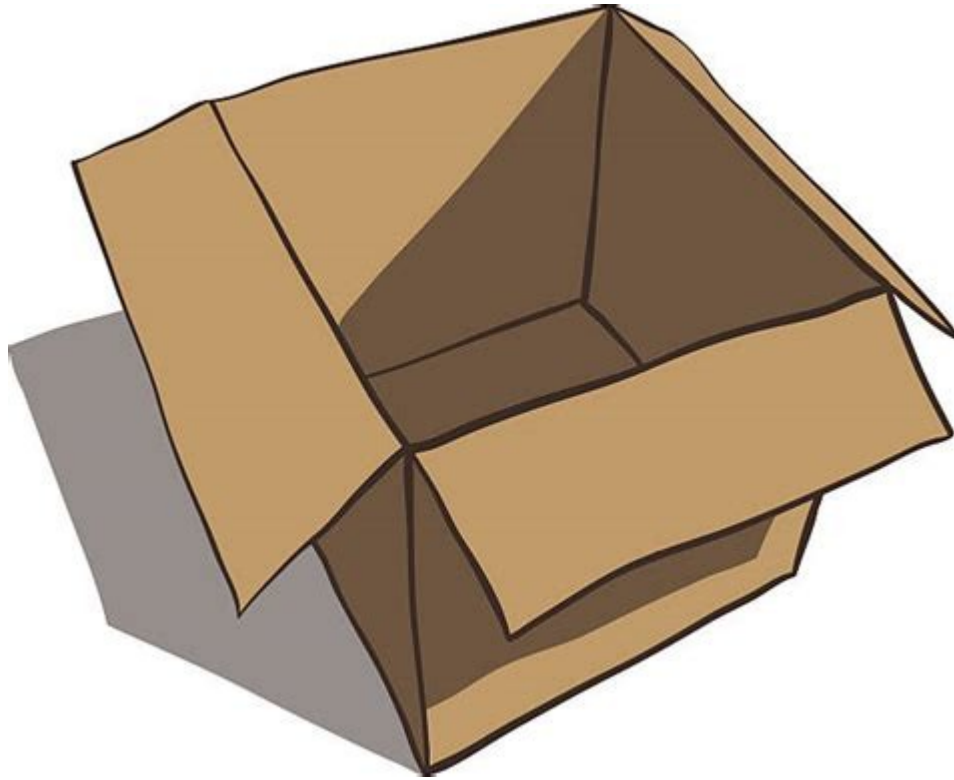
There are great dangers

Do not love the world or anything in the world.

John doesn't mean the world that God created but the system of people who are hostile to his rule and are destructive of all that is good. (cf. The tower of Babel.) The danger for us is that it can appear to be attractive.



If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.



The world with all its rewards, comforts and fame will leave us empty.

Without the Father's love within us we will not experience the love that fills us and returns to him from our hearts.

For everything in the world--the cravings of sinful man (lust of the flesh), the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does--comes not from the Father but from the world.



John gives us examples of what he means by 'the world'

Our sinful self – never satisfied.

We want what we see. (cf. Eve)

We boast of what we have and are able to do as if we were able to do anything without him..

The source is our fallen nature.

But we are being renewed by the Lord!

The folly of worldliness

The world and its desires pass away,



We are to be 'in' the world but not 'of' it.

What a contrast!

The world and its desires pass away,
but the man who does the will of God lives forever.



Alleluia

Dear children, this is the last hour;

At the beginning, all the disciples were expecting things to happen very soon. Acts 1:6
Time is short for us anyway, but these are the last days, which began with Messiah's first coming and ends with his return.

Compare Peter's reply in 2 Peter 3:8



None of us know when he when he will return,
But it could be very soon.

and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming,
even now many antichrists have come.

The term
'antichrist' is only
used by John.

There have been
others since
John's time.



John speaks of a personal Antichrist at the end of the age.
But even in his day there were those who were either in
opposition (anti) Christ or pretending to be a substitute (in the
place of) Christ.

Antichrist

He is coming

2 Thessalonians 2: 1-12



Antichrist

He is coming

2 Thessalonians 2: 1-12

as a false Christ

Revelation 13: 11



Antichrist

He is coming

2 Thessalonians 2: 1-12

as a false Christ

Revelation 13: 11

in opposition to Christ

Revelation 13: 1 - 8



**The Lord Jesus warns us
of many coming
as well as the last one.**



Matthew 24: 4, 23 - 31

This is how we know it is the last hour.

It is not that John knew when the end would come, but in the light of the evil in our world we can see that there will be an end and that the things that mark the end had already started.



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.



Some (antichrists) had left the community of believers. John says that in effect they weren't really saved otherwise they would have remained.

This is telling us that genuine believers are really saved.

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.



They had experienced a genuine saving work of the Holy Spirit (regeneration) sent by Jesus. He it is that gives us an **understanding** of the truth.

A real work of the Holy Spirit will not cause us to believe the lies of the false teachers.

Who is the liar? It is the man who denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a man is the antichrist



LIAR!

A straight-forward test.

They reject the truth that Jesus (the man) is the Messiah (God's Anointed Son).

This is directed at the 'gnostic' false teaching

--he denies the Father and the Son.



Because God is
a Trinity of Persons,
to reject one means you
reject the other.

People may have many
'gods' but there is only one
true God – the God of the
Bible.

No one who denies the Son has the Father;
whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also.

Don't claim you know God if you don't believe in Jesus



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.



The Gospel has to be the foundation for our lives as Christians. When it comes to the Gospel a 'new' version is not better.

As we **remain** true to the faith as revealed in the Bible, we continue to enjoy the fellowship of God the Father and His Son.

And this is what he promised us--even eternal life.



God's promise is certain, and bigger than we can imagine.
And it has to begin NOW – in this life.

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



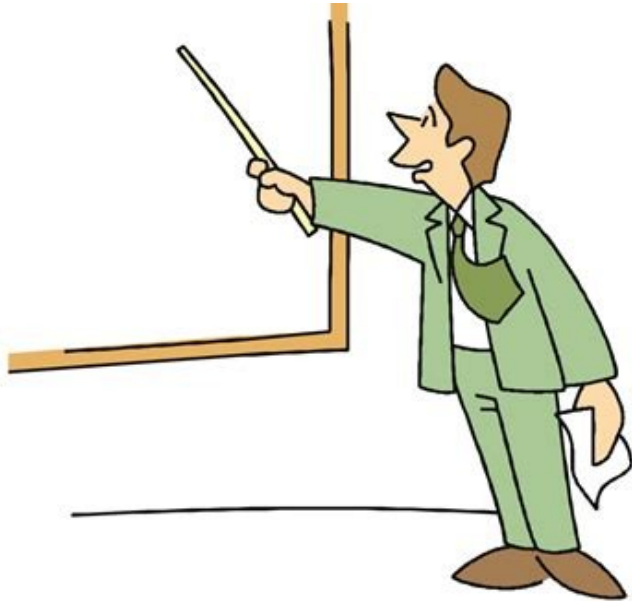
Watch out there are dangerous influencers about!

As for you, the anointing **you received** from him remains in you,



Again, John uses the image of anointing – seen in the Old Testament with the appointment of kings and priests. It is a physical picture of the spiritual reality. One of the wonderful blessings under the New Covenant is the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit in all believers.

As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you,
and you do not need anyone to teach you.



That doesn't mean we don't need teachers – John is teaching us as he wrote this letter - but that the Holy Spirit will give us the understanding to recognise the essentials of our faith.

But as his anointing teaches you about all things
and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit
--just as it has taught you, **remain in him.**

‘Remain’ is one of John’s favourite words.

The Holy Spirit’s work includes
helping us to hold on!

In summary:

- 1, what you have is precious and real
- 2, there are dangers out there
- 3, stay safe by remaining in Jesus.

