

Leader

1 John 2:18,19 (ESV)

<sup>18</sup> Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore we know that it is the last hour. <sup>19</sup> They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us.

Cong.

1John 2:20,21 (ESV)

<sup>20</sup> But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and you all have knowledge.

<sup>21</sup> I write to you, not because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and because no lie is of the truth.

Leader

1John 2:22,23 (ESV)

<sup>22</sup> Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son. <sup>23</sup> No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also.

Cong.

1John 4:3 (ESV)

<sup>3</sup> ...and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already.

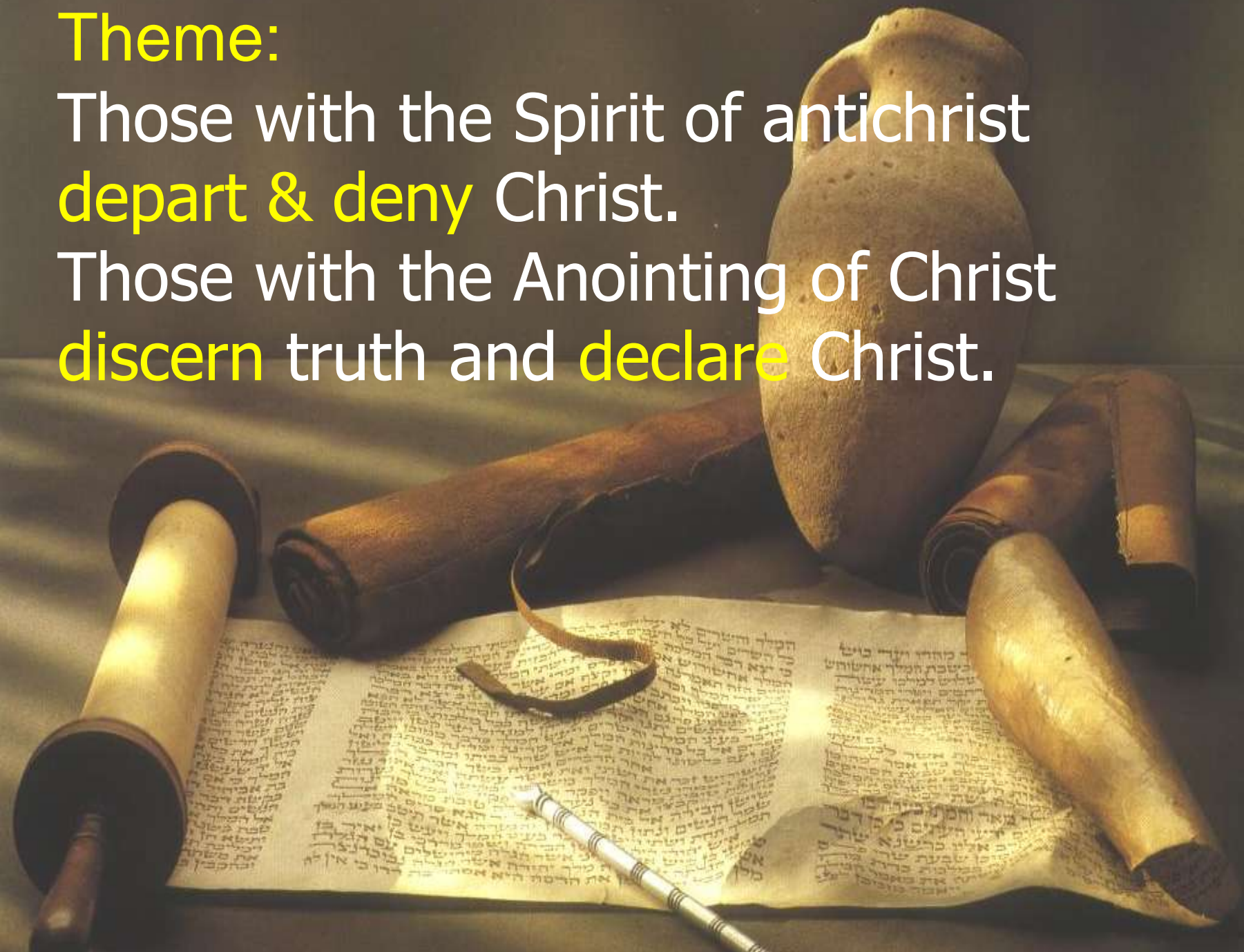


**Test of Truth: Overcoming Antichrist**  
**1 John 2:18-23**

Theme:

Those with the Spirit of antichrist  
depart & deny Christ.

Those with the Anointing of Christ  
discern truth and declare Christ.



## The Last Hour 2:18

- The purpose of John's Epistle is that those who believe *know* they have eternal life (5:13).
- John tests for fellowship with the God of Light (eternal life) looking for progress in truth, love & holiness.

## The Last Hour 2:18

- 'It is the last hour [for the world]...many antichrists have arisen.' 2:18
- We know it's the last hour by the presence of antichrists. 2Thess.2:1-5
- 'The world' works together with 'antichrist' **against** Christ and trying to **replace** Christ.
- The Spirit of Antichrist is already in the world. 1 Jn 4:3

# The Spirit of Antichrist 2:19,22

- They **depart**. ‘They went out...[to] show... that they all are not of us.’ (19)  
Matt 13:25ff
- This contrasts with those who ‘remain’ in Christ, passing the test of life.
- They **deny**. ‘This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son.’ (22)

## The Spirit of Truth 2:20-23

- They **discern** truth & error. 'You have the anointing...and you know all.'
- The anointing doesn't mean infallibility or eliminate need for teachers. It means we can discern truth and error and we're called to act on it and not be intimidated.
- The anointing happens at salvation and remains, its not something that comes & goes.

## The Spirit of Truth 2:20-23

- They **declare** (confess) the Son. This shows you 'have the Father.' (23)
- 'Confess' means more than mere knowledge and assent. Saving faith includes: knowledge, assent *and* trust in Christ.



# Applications

- Am I using the anointing to detect & defeat the spirit of antichrist in my life?
- What false ideas (replacements) of Jesus have I accepted?...winked at in others?

# Diving bell spider & 4 Eyed Fish

