

Anti Christs--Seducers
I.Jn.2:19.

The man who wrote this epistle is the same as John who wrote the Gospel according to John. It seems to have been written about 69 A.D. or 36 years after Jesus died. By this we can see that the church had lots of time to grow and also that enemies also had lots of time in which to arise. The people written to seem to have been Christian in general.

Why does he write this letter to the Christians? You say, "Is it to the Christians that he is writing?" He talks of children, young men, and fathers. That is very true he does. But the leading thought concerning this wording of it is that when he says "Children" he means born ones and that part of the born ones who have been in the church but a little while. Young men are those who have been in till like vigorous young men they are strong in spiritual things. Fathers are those ripened in religion and perhaps men who saw Jesus. "I write unto you fathers, because ye know Him who was from the beginning." Christians? Yes. Why write to them.

"I write unto you that ye sin not." Do Christians need to be preached to that they sin not? It seems that John thought so. These are the children he is writing to here and that is why that they sin not.

These he classes as young men he says, "I write unto you young men because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the evil one." Just pure encouragement to those who seem to be set in their Christian faith and who carry around with them palms of victory. It is no harm to write to, encourage in any way you can these people who are really wining battles over the devil. But even to them the exhortation goes out, "Love not the world neither the things that are in the world--if any man love the world the love of the Father is not in him."

Now to the "Children" he has a special message concerning the Anti-Christ and seducers. You may look for them but do not be taken away with them.

Anti-Christ and seducers are described.

a. They went out from us. They must have been with. In these years that the church has been growing people have entered who eventually became its enemy if not one at first until now they have gone out from us. And just here dear people is a dangerous point in the church. Enemies within, learning all our plans on the devil. Imagine an enemy in the masonic lodge learning its workings and secrets. An enemy in the cabinet of a president. These very things happen. It is entirely possible that enemies of the church sit in this audience to day. They were back there in the early church. Anti-Christ and seducers did not spring up on the out side but sprang up in our church, was John's word it seems. That kind of a thing always hurts. It brings sorrow to the organization from which the person goes. Sorrow because the organization feels that it has failed in that such a person has been allowed to develop on lower levels. It does lots of hurt on the outside because it looks as if the church has produced such a specimen.

Let a man preach for years in the church and then draw out and begin to fight the church. That kind of a man can get a large following of people just any old day and the church will suffer much from it. He can get out and appeal to the prejudice of people and harm the best people in the church. You would be surprised to know just how easy it is for the devil to stir

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up people who are compelled to live on less than some of the leaders of the church do. There is an evangelists in the U.S. who romps on the preacher and officials in the church till the rif-raff, as he calls them, come to church and feel that the evangelists is going to put down the men who have been the leaders and let them have a chance. That thing is possible with a man who leaves the church.

You do not have to withdraw your membership from the church in order to go out from us. Just so you become unfriendly to it and uncooperative in its program. Go out in regard to warmth, sympathy, and support. He use to be one of the finest helpers we had in the church but some how he never comes any more. He went out from us. How sad! But listen that expression does not have to be sad. If while a man is with us he learns of Jesus, becomes wrapped up in Jesus he may go out from us to our great joy. A church nurtures a boy or a girl and one day that person sails-- sails to the farflung battle lines to tell the blessed story. And the records begin to come back in and people begin to praise the lad his church with great joy and glory says, "He went out from our church--he went out from us." How do they go out from us here? As they grow up and leave Indianola what garb do they wear? Are they clad with the preparation of the gospel? Do they have on the whole armor of God and do they have the sword of the Spirit in their hands? Do their deeds bring shamed facedness to us as they echo into our ears? How does the home town feel about Hickman who is soon to hang for such cruel murder? How does the home town feel that produced Lindburgh? They go out from us but how? Are they expert on playing the role of high society or in turning low ideals in to high? A great many of you came from some other town. Is your life such that the old home town is proud to say, "He went out from us?" So mete it be.

John said another thing about those that went out. "They were not of us for if they had been then they would not have gone out from us--they would have continued with us". This indeed shows us what a high opinion John had of the Christian religion. He thought if a man got a good taste of it he was not likely to go away from it. However, he warned them not to love the things of the world as if he thought it was possible for them to go astray.

He says that they went out for a purpose. "They went out that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us." They wanted it to be broad cast that they were not all of us. It seems to be implied here that all who went out were not all people who had not been with us. When the cranks, hypocrites, spies of the devil, quitters when they saw that the church really meant to fight evil, some who had really been sincere left too. That will most always happen sure as you are here to day. Well in these days if it was at all like it is today, it was not hard for them to let it be known how they stood. Why you can tell them to day:

- a. By their haunts. Send a spy out from this house now and let him go around these streets and you will soon find those who are not of the church.
- b. By their language. In their mouths are the very echoes of hell.
- c. They in these days do not have the smell of Christians. It grieves our hearts that people will not serve Jesus. It is sad people will go out from the church either by actually leaving it or by disavowing their obligations to it.

" I write unto you not because you know not the truth but because you know it." "As for you let that abide in you which ye heard from the beginning. If that which you have heard from the beginning ye shall also abide in the Father and in the Son. And this is the promise which He has promised us--eternal life.

