

Living with Opposition to Christ

I John 2:18-21

The Depth of John's Thoughts

- ***Understood the Other-Worldly Nature of the Jesus He Knew***
“**Word of Life**” – the creator and re-creator of life (1:1)
“**Eternal Life**” – lived life as it should be without sin and death. (1:2)
“**Fellowship**” – authentically commitment to God and people. (1:3)
- ***Understood the Essence of God's Purpose and Our Calling***
“**Light**” – represents God's “life giving and sustaining” purpose. (1:5)
“**Light**” – represents our purpose and fellowship with Him. (1:6-7)
“**Light**” – exposes our sins and demands our response (1:8-10)
- ***Understood the Privilege of Knowing Jesus***
“**Jesus**” – with us (paraclete) in the actual presence of God (2:1)
“**Jesus**” – the one person in life totally committed to our good (2:1)
“**Jesus**” – the one who covered our sins and all sin. (2:2)
- ***Understood the Essence of “Knowing Jesus”***
“**Prioritizing His Commands and Being Like Him**” (2:3-6)
“**Prioritizing the New Commandment**” (2:7-11)
“**Prioritizing Love of the Father**” (2:15-17)

Living with Opposition to Christ (I John 2:18-21)

1. **John understood the Kingdom of God would not be established without serious opposition to Christ and Christians.** (I John 2:18a)

Daniel 7:13-14 There will be a Messianic Kingdom
Daniel 7:15-18 The “saints” will be entrusted with the Kingdom
Daniel 7:19-22 There will be opposition to the saints
Daniel 7:23-25 There will be a final stand against the Saints
Daniel 7:26-28 There will be a final victory
II Thessalonians 2:3-5

2. **John knew that the destruction of the temple and an Anti-Christ ruler would precede Christ's coming.**

(I John 2:18a; Matthew 24; Mark 13; Luke 21)

Matthew 24:36
Matthew 24:1-3
Matthew 24:4-14
Matthew 24:15
Great Fire of Rome under Nero in 64 ad
Destruction of Jerusalem in 70 ad

3. **John was focusing upon the presence of an anti-Christ spirit that already existed against Christ and Christians.**

(I John 2:18b-21)

2:18b-19 People are abandoning commitment to Jesus
2:20-21 True Christians are anointed and know the truth

We Need to Anticipate Opposition to Christ

- **We should not be surprised that behind everything we see there is a spiritually waged war against everything Jesus represents.** (I John 2:1; Isaiah 11:1-10; Eph. 6:12)
- **The only thing we know for certain will happen immediately before the end of time is referenced by Jesus as the “abomination of desolation.”** (Mat. 24:15; Daniel 9:27; II Thess. 2:3-10)
- **Our primary concern, no matter what the future holds, is prioritizing our commitment to “righteousness.”** (I John 2:27-29)