

San Juan church of Christ

1414 Hawk Parkway, Unit C
Montrose, CO 81401 | (970) 249-8116
www.sanjuanchurchofchrist.org

The antichrist

The term “antichrist” is commonly used today by many to refer to one individual [“the Antichrist”] who is supposed to appear in the “end times.” In other words, false teachers say that an individual person in the religion-political arena will rise up and lead many people astray just before Christ returns, a errant view held by pre-millennialists.

The apostle John is the only writer in the New Testament who uses the term “antichrist,” and he uses the term five separate times. In 1 John 2:18, the words “it is [present tense] the last hour,” describes the time from Christ’s resurrection to Christ’s return. “God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers, in the prophets [Old Testament] in many portions and in many ways, in these last days [the days in which the writer is living] has spoken to us in His Son” (Hebrews 1:1-2). John also writes in verse 18, “that antichrist is coming, even now [present tense] many antichrists have appeared [past tense]”; from this we know that it is NOW the last hour. The identity of the “antichrists” are those who refuse to accept or follow the apostolic authority. At the writing of this epistle, these individuals, who had associated with the apostles and other Christians, “went out from us, but they were not really of us [approved by the apostles]; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us,” (1 John 2:19). Later, John describes “the spirit of the antichrist” as that which does not hear the apostles [respect apostolic authority], of which you have heard that it is coming, and NOW [present tense] is already in the world” (1 John 4:3).

Today, “antichrists” have the same nature as those at the writing of John’s epistle. At first they appear to respect apostolic authority, only later to reveal their true attitude toward the written word. A sign of “antichrists” is their rejection of the scriptures. Those who reject the apostles’ doctrines [Scripture] reject Christ (John 13:20).

Just like the first century Christians, we in the present day need to be encouraged to continue in what we have learned from the Spirit-given Word, which is “His anointing” and “teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him,” (1 John 2:27). Having the word of God does not insure that we will be misled by others. For unless we study and apply the word, we are open to deceptions by modern-day “antichrists.”