

Keeping the Main Thing the Main Thing

1 John 2:18-27

This sermon series is titled: Light in the Darkness! **The Church is called to be that light in the darkness, but our light is always a reflective light!**

We bring light into this world as we reflect the light of Christ, the One who was (at creation), who is (the incarnation), and is to come (the 2nd coming)!

How do we effectively reflect His light? John has pointed out 3 ways:

- 1) **Morally** – Living a life of obedience! We are called to live in such ways that the world can see Jesus (the Righteous One) living in us!
- 2) **Lovingly** – It's not just that we do the right things, it's that we do it with the right motivation – a love for God & a love for others. The world will know that we are followers of Jesus by the way we love one another!
- 3) **Doctrinally** – When we know the Truth, the Truth will set us free - to live a life of doing the right things, with the right heart, and shining light into this world that truly reflects who Jesus was/is/will be!

What we believe matters, because what we do flows out of our beliefs!

What's beneath the surface (what we believe), is what produces the fruit of righteousness and love in our lives.

Being a true believer, is to pass these three tests – the moral test, the love test, and the doctrine test! Today we will look at the last of the three!

Doctrine is a set of beliefs that shape one's faith expression!

Doctrine has a tendency to either unite or divide us! Examples:

Sometimes we choose to “major in the majors”, and sometimes we choose to “major in the minors”! What do I mean by that?

Our passage this morning speaks about the “antichrist”, the “last hour”, the “anointing of the Holy Spirit”, and “eternity”. These are all doctrines that can cause much disagreement and division in the church, but should they?

Sometimes we miss the main thing that can unite us because we focus on lesser things that divide us!

Does doctrine matter? Yes! **But the truth about Jesus matters most!**

1 John 2:18-27 What doctrine does John reveal in this passage?

What truth does he reveal about the “last hour”?

- **We are living in it now!**
- It actually started after Jesus' first coming!
- It will end when Jesus returns (whenever that may be)!

What truth does he reveal about the “antichrist”?

- **There are many who have already come!**
- There are some in our midst today!
- They are defined as those who “went out from us, but were not of us!

What truth does he reveal about the “anointing of the Holy One”?

- **The anointing is accompanied with knowledge!**
- The anointing is a revelation of truth!
- Those who hear the truth about Jesus & understand it are the anointed!

It's here that we begin to see what the main focus of this passage is!

- John doesn't speak of the “last hour” to form our eschatology, **He does so to point us to what we are to be focused on in the last hour!**
- John doesn't speak of the “antichrist” so that we become obsessed with the who, when, where surrounding him/her/them, but **to focus us on the One that the antichrists oppose and seek to replace in our lives!**
- John doesn't speak of the “anointing” to lead us to seek out a special knowledge or gift of the Spirit, but to help us understand that which we already know about Jesus Christ, as the gift of the Holy One!

What matters most in this “last hour” is what we believe about Jesus!

The only thing that we really “need to know” about the antichrist is how to defeat him/her/them, through proclaiming Jesus as Messiah & Son of God!

The only anointing we need is the Spirit of God to live within us, because **He will be the One to reveal all things to us in the proper time!**

What we can know for sure, what has been clearly revealed for us to know and respond to, right here & now, is that Jesus is the Christ!

What we believe about Him (Christology), & how we then respond to such doctrine, is what it means to keep the “Main Thing” the main thing!

Keeping the Main Thing the Main Thing

1 John 2:18-27

This sermon series is titled: Light in the Darkness! The _____ is called to be that light in the darkness, but our light is always a reflective light!

We bring light into this world as we reflect the light of Christ, the One who was (at creation), who is (the incarnation), and is to come (the 2nd coming)!

How do we effectively reflect His light? John has pointed out 3 ways:

- 1) _____ – Living a life of obedience! We are called to live in such ways that the world can see Jesus (the Righteous One) living in us!
- 2) _____ – It's not just that we do the right things, it's that we do it with the right motivation – a love for God & a love for others. The world will know that we are followers of Jesus by the way we love one another!
- 3) _____ – When we know the Truth, the Truth will set us free - to live a life of doing the right things, with the right heart, and shining light into this world that truly reflects who Jesus was/is/will be!

What we believe matters, because what we ___ flows out of our beliefs! What's beneath the surface (what we believe), is what produces the fruit of righteousness and love in our lives.

Being a true believer, is to pass these three tests – the moral test, the love test, and the doctrine test! Today we will look at the last of the three!

_____ is a set of beliefs that shape one's faith expression!

Doctrine has a tendency to either unite or divide us! Examples:

Sometimes we choose to “major in the majors”, and sometimes we choose to “major in the minors”! What do I mean by that?

Our passage this morning speaks about the “antichrist”, the “last hour”, the “anointing of the Holy Spirit”, and “eternity”. These are all doctrines that can cause much disagreement and division in the church, but should they?

Sometimes we miss the main thing that can _____ because we focus on lesser things that divide us!

Does doctrine matter? Yes! But the truth about _____ matters most!

1 John 2:18-27 What doctrine does John reveal in this passage?

What truth does he reveal about the “last hour”?

- We are living in it _____!
- It actually started after Jesus' first coming!
- It will end when Jesus returns (whenever that may be)!

What truth does he reveal about the “antichrist”?

- There are _____ who have already come!
- There are some in our midst today!
- They are defined as those who “went out from us, but were not of us!

What truth does he reveal about the “anointing of the Holy One”?

- The anointing is accompanied with _____!
- The anointing is a revelation of truth!
- Those who hear the truth about Jesus & understand it are the anointed!

It's here that we begin to see what the main focus of this passage is!

- John doesn't speak of the “last hour” to form our eschatology, He does so to point us to what we are to be _____ in the last hour!
- John doesn't speak of the “antichrist” so that we become obsessed with the who, when, where surrounding him/her/them, but to focus us on _____ that the antichrists oppose and seek to replace in our lives!
- John doesn't speak of the “anointing” to lead us to seek out a special knowledge or gift of the Spirit, but to help us understand that which we already know about Jesus Christ, as the gift of the Holy One!

What matters most in this “last hour” is what we believe about _____!

The only thing that we really “need to know” about the antichrist is how to defeat him/her/them, through proclaiming Jesus as Messiah & Son of God!

The only anointing we need is the Spirit of God to live within us, because He will be the One to reveal _____ to us in the proper time!

What we can know for sure, what has been clearly revealed for us to know and respond to, right here & now, is that Jesus is the Christ!

What we believe about Him _____, & how we then respond to such doctrine, is what it means to keep the “Main Thing” the main thing!