

Antichrist and the Anointing

1 John 2:18-29

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Jimmy Gill

Last Sunday's sermon on 1 John 2:18-29 covered everything from the antichrist to apostasy to the end times—a veritable minefield of controversial topics. Ironically, I stepped on a "landmine" that wasn't even in the passage! In an attempt to show that 2:19 is not really even about apostasy, I tried unsuccessfully to discuss apostasy in a very short time. This sort of issue is not only very complex, but it is also a sensitive pastoral issue that needed much more time and a much better explanation than I provided. I in no way intended to suggest that the elect can apostatize or lose their salvation. My intent was to show how Scripture speaks of non-elect persons who are nevertheless covenant members for a time and enjoy the common operations of the Spirit (WCF 10.4). In contrast, the elect are guaranteed that God will complete the good work he started and preserve them to the end (Phil. 1:6; WCF 17-18). As I should have made more explicit in the sermon, we have this hope because Christ has anointed us with His Spirit, who is the seal and guarantee of our salvation (2 Cor. 1:21-22).

Below are a few helpful resources that do an excellent job of correcting my mistakes by explaining the complex relationship between election and apostasy in a much more nuanced way.

- Pastor Lusk's book chapter "New Life and Apostasy" examines Hebrews 6 and the question of "true" Christians falling away.
 - [https://www.dropbox.com/s/dw2b21czbulqvow/New Life and Apostasy%2C Heb 6-Rich Lusk.pdf](https://www.dropbox.com/s/dw2b21czbulqvow/New%20Life%20and%20Apostasy%20Heb%206-Rich%20Lusk.pdf)
- This article by Pastor Lusk answers frequently asked questions about election and covenant.
 - http://gallery.mailchimp.com/8ea3e603f218b2822136a7f67/files/Covenant_and_Election_FAQs_Lusk.pdf
- For a shorter overview, this article can be helpful.
 - http://gallery.mailchimp.com/8ea3e603f218b2822136a7f67/files/Thinking_Biblically_about_Election_and_the_Covenant.pdf

Jimmy Gill
jmgill85@gmail.com