



Around the Word  
**BIBLE STUDY**

Trinity, 2016

# 1 John 2:15–25

**St. Augustine on  
Parched Hearts and  
Vain Words:**

“Yet let there not be none in thine heat: let Christ be in thine heart: let his unction be in the heart, lest it be a heart thirsting in the wilderness, and having no fountains to be watered withal. There is then, I say, a Master within that teacheth: Christ teacheth; His inspiration teacheth. Where His inspiration and His unction is not, in vain do words make a noise from without.”

*(Homily III on 1 John)*

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**Introduction:** In this study, we get a taste of John’s eschatology (study of the end) and will look at the doctrine of the antichrist. As we study the biblical meaning of this term, we find that what God has said about antichrist contrasts sharply with the theatrical portrayal we find in much of American Christianity.

**Opening: Psalm 24**

<sup>1</sup>The earth is the LORD’s and the full- | ness thereof,\*

the world and those who | dwell therein,

<sup>2</sup>**for he has founded it up- | on the seas\* and established it upon the | rivers.**

<sup>3</sup>Who shall ascend the hill | of the LORD?\* And who shall stand in his | holy place?

<sup>4</sup>**He who has clean hands and a | pure heart,\* who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear de- | ceitfully.**

<sup>5</sup>He will receive blessing | from the LORD\* and righteousness from the God of his sal- | vation.

<sup>6</sup>**Such is the generation of those who | seek him,\* who seek the face of the God of | Jacob.**

<sup>7</sup>Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O | ancient doors,\* that the King of glory | may come in.

<sup>8</sup>**Who is this King of | glory?\* The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in | battle!**

<sup>9</sup>Lift up your heads, O gates! And lift them up, O | ancient doors,\* that the King of glory | may come in.

<sup>10</sup>**Who is this King of | glory?\* The LORD of hosts, he is the King of | glory! Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\* and to the Holy | Spirit; as it was in the be- | ginning,\* is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

<sup>15</sup> **Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.**

If we are not to love the world, what should we be focused on instead? Read Romans 12:2

How does James describe our relationship with the world in James 4:4?

Read John 16:29-33. Does the world love us? What has Jesus done for us with respect to the world?

Was the Church free of love for the world? Read 2 Timothy 4:10. What happened with Demas?

Does this mean that we as Christians cannot have hobbies or things that we enjoy?

This is a question of priority. What is most important in our lives? What happens when we get this wrong? Read Romans 1:25.

<sup>16</sup> **For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world.**

Read Ephesians 2:1-3. Are we familiar with what the desires of the flesh are? What is the spirit that’s behind those desires of the flesh? What Spirit is behind our own desires now as Christians?

Read Genesis 3:6. What desire did Eve give in to?

Read James 1:13-15. Why should we be aware of our desires and not always give in to them?

<sup>17</sup> **And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.**

How does Paul describe our lives in these last days in 1 Corinthians 7:29-31?

Look back to what John says in 1 John 2:8. Why is the darkness passing away?

When will this “passing away” be finished? Read Revelation 21:1-4.

John here reinforces the Biblical teaching that the world is ending. The “end times” is not something to be looked for in the future, but is a present reality. This prepares us to move into the next section of this letter.

**<sup>18</sup> Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore we know that it is the last hour.**

This helps us to have a larger view on what it means to be antichrist than what is presented in pop-Christianity (movies, novels, etc.).

Read Daniel 7:24-25. Who is the target of the antichrist’s attacks?

Read 2 John 7. What is the quality of antichrist that John speaks of here?

Read 1 Timothy 4:1. What does antichrist teaching look like?

What will the antichrist do, according to 2 Thessalonians 2:3-5?

After reading these things in Scripture, do you think that antichrist is a fascist ruler on a governmental throne bent on taking over the world, or is he one who will spread false teaching against Christ?

**<sup>19</sup> They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us.**

From where did these antichrists arise?

Read Acts 20:29-30. Who is Paul speaking to in this text? John was in Ephesus later in his own life and ministry. Do you think that what Paul warned about came to pass?

Read 1 Corinthians 11:18-19. Do divisions in the Church sometimes serve a purpose?

What have these false teachers revealed about themselves by leaving the fellowship of the apostolic Church?

**<sup>20</sup> But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and you all have knowledge. <sup>21</sup> I write to you, not because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and because no lie is of the truth.**

How have you been anointed? Read Joel 2:28-29 and John 14:26.

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According to Acts 2:38, when did you receive this anointing?

Does this anointing of the Holy Spirit grant us any special powers or abilities?

Does having the Holy Spirit make us all geniuses? What does John mean that we have “all knowledge?” Read John 8:31-32.

If we have knowledge of Christ and the salvation that is in him, we can recognize any teaching to the contrary as a lie. See what Paul says about false teachers in Galatians 1:8.

**<sup>22</sup> Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son. <sup>23</sup> No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also.** This is the true nature of antichrist: false teaching.

From where do lies and false teachings come? Read John 8:43-44

Read Ephesians 4:4-6. If someone denies that Jesus is the Christ or that he is God, are they worshipping the same God that has been revealed to us in Scripture?

What does John say about this issue in 2 John 9?

**<sup>24</sup> Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father. <sup>25</sup> And this is the promise that he made to us—eternal life.**

What is it that they heard from the beginning? Read John 15:7

According to Romans 10:17, how does faith come? If Jesus’ Word abides in us, do we have faith?

Read what Jesus says in John 17:1-3. What is eternal life?

**Closing Hymn: Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying (LSB, 516)**

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