

Devotional Questions – 1 John 2:15-29

1. *Why can we not love this world and God (1 John 2:15-16)?*
2. *What is the reason given for why we should love God instead of this world (1 John 2:17)?
How can you know which you love more?*
3. *How could he call it ‘the last hour*’ since that was almost 2000 years ago and Jesus still hasn’t returned (1 John 2:18)? *The correct term is “**the last time**” 1 John 2:18.*
4. *What does the anointing* of the Holy Spirit* have to do with antichrists and false doctrine? How do you think the Holy Spirit will keep us safe from false doctrine (1 John 2:20)? *The precise expression is “**But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things**” 1 John 2:20.*
5. *What is a test to know if a person is a false teacher or not (1 John 2:22)?*
6. *What are the antichrists seeking to take people away from* (1 John 2:26)? *The correct term is “**seduce.**”*
7. *What does John mean when he says that we do not need anyone to teach us (1 John 2:27)?*
8. *What reason does John give for why we should maintain a close relationship* to Christ (1 John 2:28)? *The precise expression “**abide in him**” 1 John 2:28.*

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Answers to Questions

For detailed comments see Dr Ruckman's commentary *The Books of the General Epistles* Volume 2 pp 56-81 and the *Ruckman Reference Bible* pp 1154, 1159, 1211, 1365, 1503, 1634-1635, 1642, 1647-1648.

1. *Why can we not love this world and God (1 John 2:15-16)?*

John explains that love of the world *as it is* and love of God cannot co-exist because God and the world are totally against each other.

“If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world” 1 John 2:15-16.

Note the Lord Jesus Christ's admonition against the world i.e. **“mammon”** that matches 1 John 2:15-16.

“No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon” Matthew 6:24 with Luke 16:13.

Note that the word **“lust”** in the context is the strongest possible word that the scripture could use because **“the end thereof are the ways of death”** Proverbs 14:12, 16:25 as both James and John explain.

“But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death” James 1:14-15.

“From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members? Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not” James 4:1-2 with James 4:5.

“And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever” 1 John 2:17.

Note that the first time the word **“lust”** appears in scripture, the result was precisely as the context of James 1:14-15 sets out especially in that **“in the day that the enemies of the Jews hoped to have power over them, (though it was turned to the contrary, that the Jews had rule over them that hated them;)”** Esther 9:1.

“The enemy said, I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil; my lust shall be satisfied upon them; I will draw my sword, my hand shall destroy them” Exodus 15:9.

“And Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to his strength when the morning appeared; and the Egyptians fled against it; and the LORD overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea. And the waters returned, and covered the chariots, and the horsemen, and all the host of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them; there remained not so much as one of them... Thus the LORD saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead upon the sea shore” Exodus 14:27-28, 30.

James also explains that love of the world *as it is* and love of God cannot co-exist because God and the world are totally against each other.

“Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God” James 4:4.

Note therefore that when Paul exhorts love with respect to *all* men, it is *toward* them, not participating *with* worldly men in their enmity against God.

“And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you” 1 Thessalonians 3:12.

Note also the following reasons why love of the world *as it is* and love of God are incompatible:

- *The world hates the Lord Jesus Christ*, one reason why the Lord Jesus Christ is not **“the desire of all nations”** Haggai 2:7*. *Peace is, Haggai 2:9.

“And Jehu the son of Hanani the seer went out to meet him, and said to king Jehoshaphat, Shouldest thou help the ungodly, and love them that hate the LORD? therefore is wrath upon thee from before the LORD” 2 Chronicles 19:2.

“The world cannot hate you; but me it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil” John 7:7.

- *The world hates the followers of the Lord Jesus Christ.*

“If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you” John 15:19.

“Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you” 1 John 3:13.

- *The world doesn't receive the Lord's prayer.*

“I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine” John 17:9.

- **“...the whole world lieth in wickedness”** 1 John 5:19, *contrary to the Lord's prayer for His followers.*

“I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil” John 17:15.

Paul's admonition to the Romans is a good summation for loving God and not the world.

“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God” Romans 12:2.

2. *What is the reason given for why we should love God instead of this world (1 John 2:17)?*

See *Question 1* with respect Proverbs 14:12, 16:25, James 1:14-15, 4:1-2, 5, 1 John 2:17.

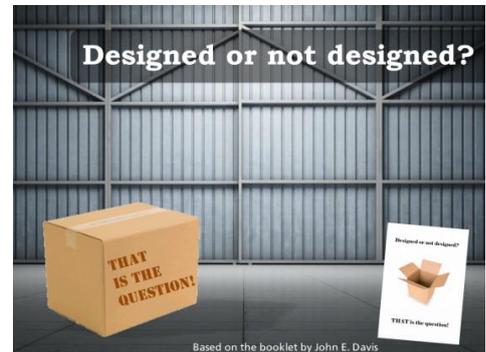
Note that to love God is therefore according to 1 John 2:17 to do His will and receive salvation to receive in turn eternal security in that **“...he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever”** 1 John 2:17 **“For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth”** 1 Timothy 2:3-4.

How can you know which you love more?

You can know you love God and not the world when:

- You don't want to keep up with the fashion of the world e.g. *Celebrity Master-chef, Strictly, X-Factor* etc. **"for the fashion of this world passeth away"** 1 Corinthians 7:31.
- You don't mind being one of **"the foolish things of the world...the weak things of the world...And base things of the world, and things which are despised"** because such things **"hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are"** 1 Corinthians 1:27-28 like a little booklet about a cardboard box that is having a great but varied (!) response 😊.

See www.timefortruth.co.uk/.



- You want to keep up as Paul did with the work of the Lord Jesus Christ **"Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus: Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily"** Colossians 1:28-29 e.g. by circulating the *Designed or nor designed booklets* and/or Chick tracts after the manner of Azariah's exhortation.

"Be ye strong therefore, and let not your hands be weak: for your work shall be rewarded" 2 Chronicles 15:7.

See www.chick.com/catalog/tractlist.asp.

3. How could he call it 'the last hour*' since that was almost 2000 years ago and Jesus still hasn't returned (1 John 2:18)? *The correct term is **"the last time"** 1 John 2:18.

Question 3 requires a doctrinal answer. John is essentially writing prophetically. **"The last time"** is not a reference to the last 2000 years of the Church Age. **"The last time"** is a reference to **"the last days"** 2 Timothy 3:1, James 5:3, 2 Peter 3:3 with particular application to **"the time of the end"** Daniel 8:17, 11:35, 40, 12:4, 9 with events described that have not seen their complete fulfilment yet but depict world conditions just before the Second Advent when those events will have their complete fulfilment. The prophecy **"many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased"** Daniel 12:4 is of course seeing partial fulfilment now.

According to the Lord Jesus Christ, **"The last time"** is a particular, limited interval of time just prior to and in the run-up to the Lord's Return, not the nearly 2000 years since Calvary in total. The Lord Jesus Christ said of this interval of time **"And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man"** Luke 17:26 and **"Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot...But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed"** Luke 17:28-30. **"The days"** of Luke 17:26, 28-30 describe physical events, as distinct from God's perception of time in the physical realm i.e. **"one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day"** 2 Peter 3:8.

Note further that the church approaching **"The last time"** is in the lukewarm Laodicean Age of which the Lord says **"So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth"** Revelation 3:16. For a detailed account of the Laodicean Church Age see *The History of the New Testament Church* Volume II Chapters 6-17 by Dr Peter S. Ruckman, Dr Ruckman's commentary *The Book of Revelation* pp 90-103 and *Final Authority* Chapters XIII to XVIII by Dr William P. Grady. Both Dr Ruckman, *The Book of Revelation* p 93, and Dr Grady, *Final Authority* Chapters XVI, indicate that the Laodicean Church Age apostasy is especially notable in the year 1901 with the publication of the corrupt ASV American Stan-

dard Version aimed at replacing the 1611 Holy Bible. The following scriptures are therefore instructive with respect to Luke 17:26 and *“the days of Noe.”*

“And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years” Genesis 6:3.

“...he went and preached unto the spirits in prison; Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water” 1 Peter 3:19-20.

This writer is of the view that Genesis 6:3, Luke 17:26, 1 Peter 3:19-20, Revelation 3:16 may give an indication of *the duration of both “the days of Noe” and the Laodicean Church Age apostasy*. Allowing for all of Daniel’s 70th Week to take place in the future, Daniel 9:27 and, for now, taking the year 1901 as the beginning of the Laodicean apostasy from God’s perspective, a simple calculation would give a date of 2021 for the Second Advent and a date of 2014 for the Rapture, 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17, 18. As indicated, that analysis of course depends entirely upon God’s perception of when the Laodicean apostasy formally began and the validity of the above proposed association between the scriptures cited i.e. Genesis 6:3, Luke 17:26, 1 Peter 3:19-20, Revelation 3:16.

It would be comforting though, 1 Thessalonians 4:18, if the above analysis was at least approximately correct. Returning to 1 John 2:18, the times now are particular times approaching *“The last time”* 1 John 2:18 that are unprecedented as the study *The Cry of Sodom* shows.

See www.timefortruth.co.uk/bible-studies/alan-oreillys-studies.php and attachment at the end of this study after the graphic *Resistance to Antichrist*. *“The last time”* 1 John 2:18 is a big subject that merits a separate study but in sum, Paul, writing specifically to Christians, states that world conditions generally will get worse, not better, as the Lord’s Return draws near.

“This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come” 2 Timothy 3:1.

Paul therefore exhorts today’s believer to maintain steadfastness to the Lord Jesus Christ through fidelity to *“the holy scriptures”* 2 Timothy 3:15.

“But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works” 2 Timothy 3:14-17.

Jude, writing prophetically like John in 1 John 2:18, has a similar warning and exhortation for the recipients of his letter of *“the last time,”* which like Paul’s exhortation to Christian, has application for today’s believers, though not Creteans, Titus 1:12, nevertheless *“that they may be sound in the faith”* Titus 1:13. Observe *in particular* the underlined portions that follow and note Paul’s further exhortation that concludes this answer to *Question 3* and which should be memorized.

“But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts...But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life” Jude 17-18, 20-21. Note that the exhortation *“Keep yourselves in the love of God”* is *transitional* for the End Times *doctrinally* and *not* for the Church Age during which *nothing “shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord”* Romans 8:29.

“And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ” 2Thessalonians 3:5.

4. What does the anointing* of the Holy Spirit* have to do with antichrists and false doctrine? How do you think the Holy Spirit will keep us safe from false doctrine (1 John 2:20)? *The precise expression is **“But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things”** 1 John 2:20.

“The Holy One” 1 John 2:20 is **“the Holy One and the Just”** Acts 3:14, the Lord Jesus Christ, as indeed unclean spirits recognise, Mark 1:24, Luke 4:34 and as 1 John 2:27, 28 confirm.

The **“unction from the Holy One”** that safeguards against both antichrists and false doctrine is the fulfilment of the Lord’s prayer and promise for His followers who include today’s believers.

“And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you...But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you” John 14:16-17, 26.

The threefold ministry of **“the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost”** and **“an unction from the Holy One”** 1 John 2:20 *Personified* for today’s believers in order to guard against both antichrists and false doctrine is therefore to:

- **“abide with you for ever”** John 14:16 so **“I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you”** John 14:18
- **“teach you all things”** John 14:26 so that **“ye know all things”** 1 John 2:20
- **“bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you”** so that **“ye also shall continue in the Son, and in the Father”** 1 John 2:24.

In sum, as the Lord Jesus Christ also said of the threefold ministry of **“the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost”** John 14:26 reinforcing the above bullet points in order to guard against both antichrists and false doctrine:

“Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth; for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come” John 16:13.

As Paul said therefore, speaking of the purpose of **“spiritual gifts...given by the Spirit”** 1 Corinthians 12:1, 8 with Ephesians 4:11-13 **“That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive”** Ephesians 4:14.

5. What is a test to know if a person is a false teacher or not (1 John 2:22)?

1 John 2:22 states **“Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son”**

1 John 2:22 expresses two denials that mark out a false teacher.

1. **“he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ”**
2. **“He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son”**

The first denial is a direct contradiction of what the Lord Jesus Christ said with respect to Himself.

“The woman saith unto him, I know that Messiah cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things. Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am he” John 4:25-26.

The second denial is also a direct contradiction of what the Lord Jesus Christ said with respect to God and Himself.

“But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work. Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God” John 5:17-18.

Mohammedans and Catholics are the worst offenders with respect to both denials.

See www.timefortruth.co.uk/bible-studies/alan-oreillys-studies.php Assurance and the Witnesses of 1 John 5 pp 6, and the following extracts in green and *green italic* with inserted references in blue and *blue italic*.

Muslims are liars [The KJB, Britain and Islam p 3]. They deny God’s Son and the existence of the Godhead in at least 28 passages in the Qur’an. For example, Sura 3:59, Yusuf Ali’s translation:

“The similitude of Jesus before Allah is as that of Adam; He created him from dust, then said to him: “Be.” And he was.”

Yusuf Ali in his notes insists that this verse proves that Jesus was only a man and not God or the Son of God. Islam is therefore blasphemous...

Among Rome’s worst deeds of shame is her perception of the Lord Jesus Christ, as The Canons of the Council of Trent, Session XIII, state on The Most Holy Sacrament Of The Eucharist, October 11th 1551 [www.thecounciloftrent.com/ch13.htm]. Note again that these Canons are still in force.

Canon I: “If any one denieth, that, in the sacrament of the most holy Eucharist, are contained truly, really, and substantially, the body and blood together with the soul and divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ, and consequently the whole Christ; but saith that He is only therein as in a sign, or in figure, or virtue; let him be anathema.”

Do you believe that the elements *represent* the Body and blood of the Lord Jesus Christ but are not *literally* His Body and blood? If so, Rome says that you are cursed.

Joseph Zacchello [*Secrets of Romanism* Joseph Zacchello, Loizeaux Brothers, 1977, pp 75-76] was a Catholic priest before he got saved. He gives a truly shocking disclosure about Rome and Communion. He states that *“I had and still have even as a former priest, according to the Roman teaching, the power to change the bread and wine into the real body and soul of Christ, into the very same Christ who lived on this earth nineteen hundred years ago and died upon a cross at Calvary...”*

“I, as a priest, was considered another God, the creator of my Creator, and after I had created Christ I had to kill Him in order to repeat for five dollars the sacrifice of the cross. Oh monstrous murderous power. How could I pretend to...kill for money that Christ who being raised from the dead dieth no more, death hath no more dominion over Him.”

Rome’s true perception of the Lord Jesus Christ is more subtle than Islam’s but at least as blasphemous. Both are false teachers and are drawing together in ***“the last days”*** 2 Timothy 3:1. See *Queen of All* by Jim Tetlow et al. Birds of a feather:

“And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird” Revelation 18:1-2.

6. *What are the antichrists seeking to take people away from* (1 John 2:26)? *The correct term is “seduce.”*

Antichrists seek to seduce individuals from *“the simplicity that is in Christ”* as Paul explains and warns, especially for *“these last days”* Hebrews 1:2.

“But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ” 2 Corinthians 11:3.

“Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils” 1 Timothy 4:1. Note the fulfilment of John 14:26, 16:13 in 1 Timothy 4:1. See *Question 4*.

Concerning *“the simplicity that is in Christ,”* Paul simply says *“the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me”* Galatians 2:20. The most striking example of *“the simplicity that is in Christ”* is *“The gospel of Christ”* Romans 1:16 itself. The Gospel is *simple* as Paul and Silas showed the Philippian gaoler. *“And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house”* Acts 16:31.

The simplicity and indeed certainty of salvation that Acts 16:31 describes matches the simplicity and certainty of salvation that the Lord Jesus Christ outlined in the Sermon on the Mount. Detours can't happen on the *narrow* way. See *New Age Versions* by Gail Riplinger Chapter 15 *Striving or Saved? “Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it”* Matthew 7:14.

By contrast, antichrists* make salvation *“difficult”* NKJV, Matthew 7:14. *Note that an anti-christ, as well as being against the Lord Jesus Christ, 1 John 2:22 and of the *“false Christs”* Matthew 24:24, Mark 13:22, is also a *substitute* or *counterfeit* Christ, in sly imitation of the ministry of Moses and Aaron. *“And he shall be thy spokesman unto the people: and he shall be, even he shall be to thee instead of a mouth, and thou shalt be to him instead of God”* Exodus 4:16.

Both Mohammedans and Catholics must follow works-based religions where salvation is both *uncertain* and *difficult*. See these extracts from *Assurance and the Witnesses of 1 John 5* p 2.

Sura 101:6-11 from the Qur'an, Yusuf Ali's translation, states:

“Then, he whose balance (of good deeds) will be (found) heavy, Will be in a life of good pleasure and satisfaction. But he whose balance (of good deeds) will be (found) light, - Will have his home in a (bottomless) Pit...(It is) a Fire Blazing fiercely!”

Islam is clearly a works-based religion that has no assurance of salvation...

The Canons of the Council of Trent, Session VI, on Justification, January 13th 1547 [www.thecounciloftrent.com/ch6.htm] make the Catholic position clear with respect to salvation. For example:

Canon IX: “If any one saith, that by faith alone the impious is justified; in such wise as to mean, that nothing else is required to co-operate in order to obtaining the grace of Justification...let him be anathema.”

Those Canons of the Council of Trent are still in force. Do you believe that you are justified by faith alone in Jesus Christ? If so, Rome says that you are accursed.

The goal of antichrist seduction is of course *domination “for filthy lucre...being lords over God's heritage”* 1 Peter 5:2-3 instead of *“being ensamples to the flock”* 1 Peter 5:3, as Paul lamented over the Galatians *“that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel”* Galatians 1:6 that was a *false gospel* from *“false teachers...who privily shall bring in damnable heresies”* 2 Peter 2:1 and based on *works*, Galatians 4:9-10.

“They zealously affect you, but not well; yea, they would exclude you, that ye might affect them” Galatians 4:17.

Paul therefore exhorts both the Galatians and today’s believers with respect to resisting false teachers and their **“damnable heresies”** 2 Peter 2:1 **“By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left”** 2 Corinthians 6:7.

“Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage” Galatians 5:1.

7. What does John mean when he says that we do not need anyone to teach us (1 John 2:27)?

1 John 2:27 states **“But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.”**

See *Question 4* and note that **“ye need not that any man teach you”** matches Paul’s declaration to the Corinthians and today’s believers that God, not man, is the believers’ teacher by means of the *spiritual guidance of scripture with scripture*.

“Which things also we speak, not in the words which man’s wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual” 1 Corinthians 2:13.

Note again that **“the anointing”** is **“the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost”** John 14:26 and that the following attributes with respect to the **“the anointing”** and the believer match those of **“the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost”** and the believer:

- **“the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you”** matches **“he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth”** John 14:16.
- **“the same anointing teacheth you of all things”** matches **“the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things”** John 14:26.
- **“and is truth”** matches **“the Spirit is truth”** 1 John 5:6.
- **“ye shall abide in him”** matches **“But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his”** Romans 8:9.

“the anointing which ye have received of him” is also a testimony to the eternal security of today’s believer.

“But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you” Romans 8:11.

8. What reason does John give for why we should maintain a close relationship* to Christ (1 John 2:28)? *The precise expression is **“abide in him”** 1 John 2:28.

The reason is **“that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming”** 1 John 2:28. The way to achieve this confidence is fidelity to **“the scripture of truth”** Daniel 10:21 as the Lord Jesus Christ Himself said with respect to the experience of His love for the believer. **“If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father’s commandments, and abide in his love”** John 15:10.

Note that 1 John 2:29 **“If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him”** is *not* Pauline Church Age doctrine, showing 1 John is *transitional*. Pauline Church Age doctrine is that the Christian is **“born of him”** in that he is **“in Christ...a new creature”** 2 Corinthians 5:17 **“born after the Spirit, even so it is now”** Galatians 4:29. Paul even warns against *satanic* **“ministers of righteousness”** and **“their works”** 2 Corinthians 11:15.

Resistance to Antichrist

www.simondarby.net/2013/11/the-thought-that-counts.html



“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you” James 4:7

“The Cry of Sodom” – Genesis 18:20



“The LORD rained upon Sodom...fire from the LORD” Genesis 19:24¹

Introduction – “as it was in the days of Lot” Luke 17:28

The Lord said **“Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot;...But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all”** Luke 17:28-29.

He then said in Luke 17:30 that a return to **“the days of Lot”** would point to His Return.

“Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.”

References to God’s destruction of Sodom and **“the days of Lot”** are therefore found in the later New Testament letters that look towards the Lord’s Return in fiery judgement, 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9, such as overtook Sodom. See the *Ruckman Reference Bible* pp 1629, 1641.

“And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly; And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;)” 2 Peter 2:6-8.

“Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire” Jude 7.

The latest instigation of **“the days of Lot”** in this country came on March 15th 2012².

“The government has launched a 12-week consultation on allowing gay [i.e. sodomite] couples in England and Wales to marry.” The PM intends that sodomite marriage be legalised by 2015, www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-19072023.

The PM’s intent shows that **“according to the scriptures”** 1 Corinthians 15:3, 4, the Lord’s Return is near. These are **“the last days”** of the **“perilous times”** 2 Timothy 3:1, www.jesus-is-savior.com/Basics/sodom.htm, *Europe and America are Becoming a Giant Sodom and Gomorrah!*

One aspect of **“the days of Lot”** is **“the cry of Sodom”** Genesis 18:20, and its relation to **“the men of Sodom...wicked and sinners before the LORD exceedingly”** Genesis 13:13.

“The Cry of Sodom” – the Biblical Witnesses

“And the LORD said, Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous; I will go down now, and see whether they have done altogether according to the cry of it, which is come unto me; and if not, I will know” Genesis 18:20-21.

Most pre-1611 Bibles support the reading **“cry of Sodom”**; the Coverdale, Great, Bishops’, Geneva Bibles. The Wycliffe Bible partially supports it with *“the cry of men of Sodom.”* Early post-1611 versions, Challoner’s Revision 1749-1752, 1885 RV, 1901 ASV support **“cry of Sodom.”**

The modern bibles change the reading. The RSV, NRSV, 1984 NIV, 2005 TNIV, 2011 NIV, NKJV, JB, NJB, NWT, CEV, NCV, NLT, ESV, HCSB have **“outcry against Sodom”** or similar and the NASV has *“outcry of Sodom.”* This is a change of *meaning* but, typically, *it is not for the better.*

“Outcry against Sodom” – What Outcry?

The change to “outcry” is wrong. See Jude 7 and Genesis 19:24-25.

Then the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven; And he overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground.

No outcry occurred against Sodom. **“God destroyed the cities of the plain”** Genesis 19:29 **“and all the inhabitants of the cities”** with the exception of Zoar at Lot’s request, Genesis 19:20-23, because they were all engaged in Sodom’s **“very grievous”** sin, apart from **“just Lot”** whom God delivered. In a city **“overthrown by the mouth of the wicked”** Proverbs 11:11, God will spare **“the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof”** Ezekiel 9:4-6 but God spared none of **“the men of Sodom.”** What, then, of the criers?

“The Cry of Sodom” – the Child Victims

The cry of a city in scripture is of its citizens and is of distress. **“...and the cry of the city went up to heaven”** 1 Samuel 5:12. See also Jeremiah 11:12, 14:2, 51:54 but note Genesis 19:4-5:

“But before they lay down, the men of the city, even the men of Sodom, compassed the house round, both old and young, all the people from every quarter: And they called unto Lot, and said unto him, Where are the men which came in to thee this night? bring them out unto us, that we may know them.”

“...all the people” were guilty, whether they **“commit such things...worthy of death”** or **“have pleasure in them that do them”** Romans 1:32. *The only ones crying in distress were victims, child victims. Only they could have cried “unto me.”* That is why **“God destroyed the cities of the plain,”** for sodomy and paedophilia, mercifully delivering the victims by sudden death.

“Occupy till I come” Luke 19:13

Government strategy is **“...as it was in the days of Lot.”** *“They want the world to become like Sodom”³ and new versions conceal the danger to children even though psychiatrists confirm it⁴. “...2-4% of men attracted to adults prefer men...; in contrast...25-40% of men attracted to children prefer boys...Thus the rate of homosexual attraction is 6-20 times higher among pedophiles”*

Nevertheless, **“Occupy till I come”** Luke 19:13 **“And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ”** 2Thessalonians 3:5.

References

¹ en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sodom_and_Gomorrah

² www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-17375736

³ www.chick.com/reading/tracts/1070/1070_01.asp

⁴ www.familyresearchinst.org/2009/02/pro-gay-bias-in-study-of-pedophilia/