
Inductive Bible Study of 1 John 2:15-27

John warns believers about two dangers that can pull them away from the truth: loving the values of a world opposed to God and listening to voices that distort the identity of Jesus. The world is passing away, but those who remain in the truth of Christ have the promise of eternal life.

Step 1 – Observation: *What does the passage say?*

Read 1 John 2:15-27 slowly at least three times, using more than one translation if possible. Pay attention to John's commands, warnings, contrasts, and repeated words before deciding what they mean.

Observation Prompts

- What words or ideas are repeated?
- What contrasts do you notice?
- How are the world and its desires described?
- What does John say about the antichrists and those who left?
- What statements are made about the Father and the Son?
- What or whom is said to abide or remain?

Read the Passage and Record What You See

1. What command and warning does John give in verses 15-16?

2. List the three things John says come from the world in verse 16.

3. What two different outcomes are described in verse 17?

4. What does John say shows that it is the last hour?

5. According to verses 18-19, what does John say about the antichrists and those who went out from them?

6. What contrasts between truth and lies appear in verses 20-23?

7. What does John say about denying or confessing the Son and a person's relationship with the Father?

8. List every command and promise in verses 24-25.

9. Record everything John says about the anointing in verses 20 and 27.

10. Which word, phrase, or sentence is surprising or difficult to understand?

Step 2 – Interpretation: *What does the passage mean?*

In this passage, the world does not mean the people God loves or the creation He made. John is describing the system of desires, values, and pride that stands against God. Because this world is passing away, believers should not build their identity or direction around it.

John also warns about teachers who deny the truth about Jesus. Believers can recognize deception by holding to the message they heard from the beginning and depending on the Holy Spirit, whom John describes as an anointing from the Holy One.

Questions to Explore

1. What does John mean by the world in this passage? What does he not mean?

2. Why are love for the world and love for the Father in conflict with one another?

3. How do the desires of the flesh, the desires of the eyes, and the pride of life describe the ways the world appeals to us?

4. What does John mean by the last hour? How do the many antichrists serve as evidence of it?

5. What does verse 19 reveal about the false teachers who left?

6. Why can a person not truly have the Father while denying the Son?

7. What is the anointing believers have received? How does it help explain John's statement that they do not need anyone to teach them?

8. How are remaining in the apostolic message, remaining in the Son and Father, and receiving the promise of eternal life connected?

Word Study Suggestions

- **World:** Greek kosmos - the world or ordered system; here it describes human values and desires organized in opposition to God.
- **Desire:** Greek epithymia - a strong desire, longing, or craving; in this passage it refers to desires directed away from God.
- **Pride:** Greek alazoneia - boastful pride, pretension, or confidence in what a person has and does.
- **Antichrist:** Greek antichristos - one who opposes Christ or presents a false substitute for Him.
- **Anointing:** Greek chrisma - an anointing or endowment; here it points to the Holy Spirit's presence and work in believers.
- **Abide or remain:** Greek meno - to remain, continue, stay, or dwell.

Step 3 – Application: *How should I respond?*

The world constantly invites us to build our lives around what we desire, what we see, what we possess, and what makes us feel important. John reminds us that all of it is passing away. Our lives must remain grounded in the Father and the Son.

We must also test every spiritual claim by the truth about Jesus. The Holy Spirit does not lead us away from the message of Scripture; He helps us recognize the truth and remain in what we heard from the beginning.

Personal Reflection

1. Where is love for the world competing with your love for God?

2. Which most often influences you: the desires of the flesh, the desires of the eyes, or the pride of life? Give a specific example.

3. Are you building any part of your identity, security, or value around something that is passing away?

4. What voices or influences are shaping what you believe about Jesus? How are you testing them against Scripture?

5. What truth that you heard from the beginning do you need to let remain more deeply in you this week?

6. What specific step will help you remain in Christ and resist the pull of the world?

Summary Truths

- Love for the world competes with love for the Father.
- The world appeals to us through disordered desires and pride in what we possess or accomplish.
- The world and its desires are passing away, but a life surrendered to God's will has eternal significance.
- False teaching is exposed by what it says about Jesus; we cannot claim to know the Father while rejecting the Son.
- The Holy Spirit helps believers recognize truth and remain grounded in the apostolic message.
- Those who remain in the Son and the Father have the promise of eternal life.

Optional Memory Verse

“And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.” 1 John 2:17 ESV

For Further Study

- **John 17:14-19** - How can believers live in the world without belonging to its system and values?
- **Romans 12:1-2** - What is the alternative to being shaped by the pattern of this world?
- **John 16:12-15** - How does the Spirit of truth guide Jesus' disciples while glorifying Him?
- **2 John 7-9** - Compare John's warning about deceivers with his command to remain in the teaching of Christ.

Homework for next week

- **Read 1 John again** - Notice every use of abide or remain and record what John says should remain in believers.

Prepare for the next lesson

- Read 1 John 2:28-3:10 and watch for appear, confidence, born of God, children, sin, righteousness, hope, and purify.