



Sermon Title: 1 John Part 9 – Staying the Course

IN Opportunities to connect and pray as a group

1. If you only had an hour left to live, how would you spend this time?
2. Tell about a time in your life when you had serious doubts about the Christian faith. How did you handle it?

UP Time that is devoted to the Word of God

1. Pastor Ashwin taught that antichrists are all around us today and exist to take us on a spiritual detour away from Jesus. What are some examples of ‘antichrists’ and false teachings at work in our world today? How do we recognize them (vv. 22-23)?
2. From these verses, what are the three ‘safeguards’ against going astray from the faith? Why is each one important?

OUT Seek to be the Community of God’s people in your community

1. Discuss the role of these safeguards in your current season of life.
2. Pastor Ashwin noted that the Apostle John had two nicknames: he was known as one of the ‘sons of thunder’ and also the ‘Apostle of love’. John is ruthless against false teaching and yet speaks at length about the love of God.

How are we to be bold against false teaching, and yet always full of love toward others?

What does this look like in your life?

UP – IN – OUT reflect a balanced life including a focus on our personal relationship with the Father (UP), staying connected to the Body (IN), and reaching our world (OUT).

This week’s writers:

Edi Dygert, Marg Andrusky, Thomas Attrell, Deb Matiko, Jared Harrison

For Personal Reflection/Prayer:

Pray that God would draw us to his Word, keep us in community, and guide us by his Spirit. Pray for the knowledge, wisdom, patience and love to know how to interact with those who disagree with us, and how we can faithfully stay the course.

THE WORD (NIV)

1 John 2:18-27

¹⁸Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know it is the last hour. ¹⁹They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us; but their going showed that none of them belonged to us.

²⁰But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth.^[a] ²¹I do not write to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it and because no lie comes from the truth. ²²Who is the liar? It is whoever denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a person is the antichrist—denying the Father and the Son. ²³No one who denies the Son has the Father; whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also.

²⁴As for you, see that what you have heard from the beginning remains in you. If it does, you also will remain in the Son and in the Father.²⁵ And this is what he promised us—eternal life.

²⁶I am writing these things to you about those who are trying to lead you astray. ²⁷As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit—just as it has taught you, remain in him.

Hebrews 6:4-6

⁴It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, ⁵who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age ⁶and who have fallen^[a] away, to be brought back to repentance. To their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace.

John 14:26

²⁶But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.



Staying the Course

The Apostle John wrote this letter to confront false teaching that was infiltrating the early church and creating divisions. False teachings and false teachers come through the agency of humans, but their source is satanic, as they seek to lead people away from Jesus. We have to constantly be on guard against deceptive philosophies that permeate the church with the intent of destroying people's faith. Our text today gives us three safeguards that help us avoid falling prey to false teachings that lead us away from Christ.

Safeguard #1. The Christian Community

A private faith is gullible to heresies. But a community of believers offer the gift of discernment. One of the greatest defenses against false teachings is the Christian community. A lone believer has no one to keep them accountable, no one to discuss their intellectual struggles with, no one to pray and search the Scriptures with. True Christian community is a safeguard – it helps you from being deceived by false teachings. When you are going through spiritual doubts – don't isolate yourself.

Safeguard #2: The Anointing of the Spirit

Jesus Christ is the Anointed One. The word "Christ" means "Anointed". Jesus was anointed with the Spirit, and now this is the distinguishing mark of all followers of Christ – we are also anointed by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the spirit of truth and He guides us into all truth (1 John 2:27). The Holy Spirit is our safeguard against false teachings and Satanic distortions. He gives us understanding as we read the Bible.

Safeguard #3: The Gospel of Christ

John clearly instructs his church to hold on to the message of the gospel they heard originally from the apostles. This original message preached by the apostles hasn't changed and it will never change. Christian theology is anchored on Jesus' work and the apostolic testimony. If anyone brings any other message that adds to this gospel or improvises this gospel or contradicts this gospel – that message is from the antichrists. We are called to be gospel centred, rooted and established in the good news. By believing in the gospel – we remain in fellowship with the Father and the Son (1 John 2:24) and share in the promise of eternal life.

The Bible has some stern warnings for those who leave the faith (Hebrews 6:4-6) and for those who cause others to leave the faith (Matthew 18:6-7). We need to stand strong and lean on the safeguards God has provided.

To view the full sermon, please visit cchurch.ca/lit/ or youtube.com/user/mycchurch/videos.