

Personal/Small Group Study Notes

Week of July 18, 2021, A.D.

Life is Short. Eternity is Forever.

(Note: For every question which appears in this study, always give the reasoning and/or the explanation for each of your answers.)

Read 1 John 2:18

1. What picture or thoughts come into your mind when you envision and/or think of the person known as “the antichrist”? From whom and/or from where did you formulate your ideas and images of the antichrist?
2. Do you really, honestly believe that there is and/or will be a diabolical human who will attempt to rule the world with an iron hand and without any love for anybody? If so, why? If not, why not?
3. In your opinion, do most Americans believe in (a) the devil? (b) the God of the Bible? (c) heaven? (d) hell? (e) a day of judgement before God and by God? When you explain your answers, please state how the popular view on each of these five questions has influenced the behavior of our culture and/or society in either a negative or a positive way.

Read 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12

4. Do you believe that the person who is called “the man of lawlessness” and /or “the lawless one” in verses 3, 8, and 9 is the same person that John calls “the antichrist”? Refer to verses 6 and 7 and tell us “what is holding him back”.
5. Refer to verse 9. Is Satan a for real and supernatural being? Are Satan and “the lawless one” the same person? Are Jesus and God the Father the same person? From whom did Jesus receive (and obey) orders while Jesus was on earth? From whom will “the lawless one” receive and obey orders?
6. Please explain the meaning of verses 9-12.

7. Please analyze, critique, and discuss the statement: "There is nothing more important to God than "the truth".

Read Revelation 13:1-8

8. In your opinion, are "the antichrist" from 1 John, "the lawless one" from 2 Thess., and "the beast" from Revelation 13:1-8 the same person?
9. Refer to verses 2-4. Who is "the dragon"? Who is in command in the relationship between "the dragon" and "the beast"? Describe how "the dragon" is a counterfeit of God? Describe how "the beast" is a counterfeit of Jesus? Why will the people who reject God and who reject Jesus accept and worship the dragon and the beast?

Read Revelation 13:11-15

10. Is the person who is called "another (second) beast" (in Rev. 13:11) the same person who is called "the false prophet" in Rev. 16:13 and in Rev. 19:20? Describe how "the false prophet" is a counterfeit of the Holy Spirit?

Read 2 Corinthians 4:1-4

11. Is Satan "the god of this age"? Is there anything written in the Bible which is false or deceptive? How important and/or essential is "truth" to God and to all people who believe "the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God"? Why?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

12. Are all believers in Christ both "a new creation" and "ambassadors for Christ"? What are the duties and the responsibilities of "an ambassador for Christ"? In your opinion, how well is your church family fulfilling its duties and responsibilities as ambassadors for Christ? What can and/or should your church family be doing to prepare themselves and their friends for the revealing of the antichrist and for his eventual rise to power on planet earth?

Consider: As ambassadors for Christ, two of our primary roles in life are to be witnesses for Jesus and to proclaim the gospel of the kingdom of God. The price and/or cost of our obedience to Christ is to be none of our concern. When we die, we will take nothing with us. But, every time you are obedient to Christ while you are on earth, you make a secure deposit into your personal bank account in heaven which will be there for you to personally enjoy forever. "You think about that." Amen.