

Sermon Notes

Concerns for the Family

#3 – “Anti-Christ is Nearer than You Think”

I. Introduction.

A. Much is said about the Antichrist in recent decades.

B. The Scripture

1. Paul – II Thess. 2:1-4; I Thess. 2:19; I Thess 5:1-3
2. Man of Lawlessness or sin.
3. Uses from the Apostle John
 - a. I John 2:18, 22; I John 4:3; II John 7
4. Primary meaning – denial of Jesus or his work on the cross.
5. Antichristos – Either “against Christ” or “instead of Christ”.

C. Today’s message

1. Not about a person but a subtle cultural assertion.

D. Spirit of Antichrist was in the first century and is present today.

1. Whatever preoccupies the world and seduces the believer’s heart is antichrist!

II. The spirit of antichrist in technology.

A. Can be an expression of common grace or used for great evil.

1. Not concerned with these extremes today, but with our preoccupation with it.
2. Concerned about busyness and technological stimulation.

B. Two realities of the modern urbanized and globalized world – opportunity and complexity.

1. Opportunity – we have more than ever before.
2. Complexity – so many choices!

C. A call for restraint on how much time and treasure are investing in worldly activity.

1. Without restraint the contemplative, meditative and reflective aspects of the Christian life are lost.
 - a. Psalm 1:2

III. Key Text

A. Matthew 5:27-30

1. Part of six antithesis. See Matt 5:21, 31, 33, 38, 43.
2. The context concerns lust and immorality.
3. Not literal but figurative.
4. John Stott
 - a. We may need some cultural amputation.

IV. Points for Reflection.

- A. We need to restrain how much time we allow for avenues of thought technology provides.
- B. We cannot speed up oneness with God and constantly “being on the go” will contribute to a poor example to children of who really is first.
- C. The Spirit of antichrist is alive and well.