

"THE MAN OF SIN"**Introduction**

1. Here is one of the NT "mysteries"
2. It refers to "the Antichrist". Cp "antichrists"
3. Relevant to Scotland at this time

1. WHAT GOD REVEALS OF THE ANTICHRIST

- 1) Here is one event to happen before Christ comes:
See carefully v.2-3. Other events.
- 2) The circumstances relating to Antichrist:
 - (i) v.3: there will be a "falling away"
 - (ii) v.3: his progress – (i) concealed (ii) revealed (iii) perdition
 - (iii) v.3: his character: "man of sin" + v.9
 - (iv) v.4: behaviour: claims to godhood
 - (v) v.4: location: in the visible church
 - (vi) v.6-7: concealed for a time. Explain
 - (vii) v.8: final destruction: not till the end
- 3) The period of time when he appears openly:
 - (i) v.7: "already work", i.e. in Paul's day
 - (ii) v.8: "revealed in his time" (Gregory the Great C. AD 600)
OBSERVE: Not (i) just in the past (ii) not future
DOCTRINE: The View of Westminster Confession 25:6

2. WHY GOD PERMITS THE ANTICHRIST

- 1) It might seem amazing that God should permit this Antichrist; especially in His Church.
 - (i) v.4: considering his claims.
 - (ii) v.9: considering his false miracles e.g. Lourdes
 - (iii) v.10: considering his deceitfulness
OBSERVE: God permits him as a judgement
- 2) v.10: "love of the truth" unwelcome

- (i) men who do not want to be saved
- (ii) have no love of Christ's gospel
- (iii) not prepared to repent and fear God

- 3) The judgement is just:
 - (i) instead of Christ – an Antichrist
 - (ii) in place of God – a human god
 - (iii) for real miracles – false miracles
 - (iv) for God's gospel – Satan's gospel
- 4) So Antichrist does not bring a different religion i.e. Shinto, Buddha... (exx) but the religion in a false form.
ILLUSTRATION: Bible / Trinity / Sacraments...
OBSERVE: It is Satan's masterpiece: Satan's lies dressed up to look like the truth
APPLICATION: Hear the Westminster Confession: 25:6

3. HOW WE ARE TO KEEP OURSELVES FROM ANTICHRIST

- 1) We must protect ourselves:
 - (i) believe this prophecy and mystery
 - (ii) understand history clearly: c. AD600
 - (iii) know what the pope's claims are:
keys / tiara / titles / purgatory /
 - (iv) "DOMINUS DEUS NOSTER PAPA"
- "DEUS ALTER IN TERRA"
- "IDEM EST DOMINIUM DEI ET PAPAE"
("Ye shall be as gods")
- 2) The claims are preposterous:
 - (i) See Matt. 16:18-19: "on this rock"
 - (ii) hear Peter: 1 Peter 5:1 ("an elder"!)
 - (iii) hear Paul: Acts 14:15 ("men...")
- 3) These words should warn us: v.12
- 4) But we are safe if we hold to the truth

CONCLUSION

APPLICATION: Love RCs; but hare this system

1. What a prophecy!
2. Thank God for the Reformation
3. Hold fast to the true gospel: sola fide.

PSALM

81:8 – 12

82: 1 – 8

101: 1 – 4