

That You May Know

The Last Hour — 1 John 2:18-21

March 3, 2019

Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore we know that it is the last hour. **-1 John 2:18**

I. THE DOCTRINAL TEST

- After a few brief rabbit trails, John now returns to his main idea. To a moral test and a relational test to discriminate between true and false believers, he now adds the doctrinal test (1 John 2:3-6, 7-11, 18-23).
- Doctrine matters, particularly in these final days (Mark 7:6-8; Rom. 16:17; Eph. 4:11-16; 1 Tim. 1:3; 6:3-4; Titus 2:1).
- The “last hour” is now, and has been since the days of Jesus (Micah 4:1; Acts 2:17; 1 Tim. 4:1; 2 Tim. 3:1; Heb. 1:1-2; James 5:3; 2 Pet. 3:3; Jude 18).
- The antichrist is part of the picture in this final hour. Antichrist has come, is here, and is coming (vs. 18; Matt. 24:5, 11; 2 Thess. 2:1-12).

II. WITH US BUT NOT OF US

- A great beginning is nice, but not the most important thing. A great finish is what we are shooting for (vs. 19; Mark 4:13-20).
- You cannot lose what you did not have (John 6:37-40; 10:25-30).
- Genuine believers persevere to the end (Heb. 3:12-14).

III. TRUTH IS TRUTH, LIES ARE LIES

- John trusts these believers—they know the truth, they have the Holy Spirit in them, and they can see through lies. His letter is a reinforcing letter, not a letter of condemnation (vss. 20-21).

KNOW: Those who claim to walk by the truth but walk away from it demonstrate that they were never transformed by it. The fact that all of this happens demonstrates that we are in the last hour of this world.

DO: Remain with Christ and thus demonstrate that you belong to him.

Suggested Reading:

Gospel Assurance & Warnings by Paul Washer (LifePoint Library #234 WAS).

Jesus Wins: The Good News of the End Times by Dayton Hartman (LifePoint Library #230 HAR)

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please Read 1 John 2:18-21

1. What, according to John, indicates that we are living in the “last hour”?
2. Who are “they” who went out from the church?
3. How is it that going out from the church (the faith) and not returning is an indication that they are not of us?
4. How do we explain the reality that some people act like believers for years, and then walk away from the faith?
5. Read vs. 20. What is this anointing by the Holy One that John speaks of here?
6. What stands out to you from Sunday’s teaching that you can benefit from?