

1 John 007 2021

6/13/21

The Last Hour

1 John 2:18-21

I. Introduction:

A. Context

1. It's important to remember this letter was written by the apostle John to Christians in his contemporary setting of the 1st century, but being inspired by the Holy Spirit, thus his instruction is profitable for Christians of every generation.
2. This passage is in the context of last week's instruction in which John states Christians are to love God and not the world. **(1 John 2:15)**
3. Loving the world and the things of the world represents sin and evil.
4. Loving God and His word represents holiness and righteousness.
5. Mutually Exclusive: We cannot love God and the world at the same time.
6. We must exercise our God given will and make a choice. **(Matthew 6:24)**

B. Reason to reject this world

1. John gave a very good reason to reject the world & live for Jesus which is everything the world has to offer is temporary! **(1 John 2:17)**
2. Sin's pleasures, wealth, fame, power & all that's attainable in this world is temporary.
3. One day there'll be an eternal new heaven and new earth that will not be like this one.
4. Application: What will be your legacy when this life is over?

II. The last hour (1 John 2:18)

A. Meaning of The Last hour

1. Term "last hour" is synonymous with "last days" which refers to Jesus Christ return.
2. After Jesus resurrected from the dead, He appeared in His resurrection body over a 40-day period, then He ascended back to heaven.
3. He promised to return one day & call His church, His bride, out of the world (rapture).
4. After the rapture, 7-year tribulation will take place followed by the 1,000-year reign of Jesus on this earth, the kingdom age.
5. John told his readers they're living in last hour before these events would take place.
6. Observations:
 - (1) – A period of time
 - a. The last hour or the last days speaks to a period of time.
 - b. This current time is called the church age or the age of grace which is the last period or dispensation of human history before Jesus returns for His church.
 - c. The next prophetic event to take place will be the rapture of the church.
 - d. This period will be followed by the tribulation, which will be followed by 1,000-year kingdom reign of Jesus over the whole earth.
 - e. After the church age human existence will be forever changed.
 - f. Application: When the age of grace is over, there will be only judgment to follow.
 - (2) – Duration of the period
 - a. John & the other apostles had no way of knowing the duration of the church age for Jesus didn't tell them how many years would pass before He returned.
 - b. We see in Jesus' teaching that this period would be long from a human perspective.
 - c. See Jesus' parable of the talents. **(Matthew 25:14 &19)**

- d. Jesus is the landowner of the parable who travelled to a far country, He went back to heaven. We're the servants given talents to use for Him while He's gone.
 - e. After a long time, He will return and settle up with us. It's been 2,200 years so far.
 - f. Application: Christian will be accountable one day for their lives after salvation.
- (3) – John thought it would be sooner.
- a. He and the other apostles thought Jesus would return in their lifetime.
 - b. They were not wrong to expect a quick return, Jesus did not set an exact time.
- (4) – Implication for us
- a. If John thought the return of Jesus was near in His lifetime, it's much closer today!
 - b. Jesus could call His church out of the world at any time, without warning.
 - c. The only way to be ready for the rapture is to be forgiven of sin by faith in Jesus.
 - d. Only saved people will be called out of this world when the rapture takes place.
- B. Antichrist (1 John 2:18)**
- *“Anti” means “against,” thus the meaning is one who is against Christ which can be in one of two ways.*
 1. – Opposition to Christ
 - a. All who oppose the will and law of Christ are antichrists. They resist and reject Jesus' rule over life and His creation. By this definition, many are in the world.
 - b. The secular humanistic world we live in leads people to reject Jesus.
 2. – Replace Christ
 - a. The second form of antichrist is a desire to replace Jesus.
 - b. Man desires to be like God and rule over his own existence. There're many antichrists in the world today desiring to be the god of their lives & lives of others.
- C. How we know**
1. John said we know it's the last hour because of proliferation of antichrists in the world.
 2. As the resistance to Jesus and His word grows, we know the end is drawing near.
 3. The evidence of rebellion against God can be seen in the world. **See 2 Timothy 3:1-5.**
 4. Not only do we see these things in the world today, they are growing exponentially.
- D. The person Antichrist**
1. One other aspect of antichrist to consider is the antichrist as a person. See Revelation.
 2. When the church is raptured, Satan raises a man who'll personify antichrist meaning.
 3. This man will both oppose Jesus & claim to be god leading a world system seeking to eradicate any worship of Jesus.
 4. Anyone who gets saved during the tribulation will be hunted down and executed.
 5. Antichrist turns on Israel ½ way through tribulation trying to eliminate Hebrews.
 6. Types In History: We've seen historical figures who're a type of the antichrist to come.
 7. **Antiochus Epiphanes:** In 168 B.C. he became King of Syria, the old Seleucid Empire.
 8. He invaded Jerusalem, slaughtered 1,000s of Jews, & sold 10's of 1,000s into slavery.
 9. It was a capital crime to be found with a book of the law or have a male circumcised.
 10. The temple was turned into a brothel, statue of Zeus placed in its court & swine flesh was offered on the altar. He & others foreshadow what the last antichrist will be like.
- III. In The Church (1 John 2:19-21)**
- *John states antichrists will be in the church who're not genuine followers of Jesus.*
- A. True nature revealed.**
1. – They went out from us.

- a. False teachers & those loving this world will eventually fall away leaving the church.
 - b. Not only will they leave fellowship, but their natures revealed by denying Jesus.
 - c. Those who reject & deny Christ were never part of the body of Christ in 1st place.
 - d. They weren't saved in 1st place. They depart because they're never part of believers.
2. – We have an anointing of the Spirit.
- a. The genuinely saved are indwelt & sealed by the Holy Spirit into God's family.
 - b. They may falter & fail, but the redeemed of Christ will never fall away & deny Him.
 - c. You Know All Things: This doesn't mean the saved have knowledge of all things.
 - d. This means having a saving knowledge of God & understanding spiritual things by the illuminating power of the Holy Spirit.
 - e. They understand spiritual biblical truth the lost world cannot grasp.
 - f. False Teaching: The Holy Spirit uses the Word to teach & warn against error.