



## ***Overcoming the antichrist in the Last Days? (1 John 2:18-28)***

When will the “antichrist” show up? How can we tell if we are in the “last days”? Discover clear answers to these intriguing questions, from an apostle of Jesus.

## teachingnotes

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\* All Scripture is from CSB (Christian Standard Bible) unless otherwise noted.

### **Last Hour & Antichrist?**

**1 John 2:18** Children, **it is the last hour**. And as you have heard that **antichrist is coming**, even now many antichrists have come. By this we know that it is the last hour.

John called his time, 2000 years ago, “**the last hour**”. This is NOT referring to a chunk of 60-minutes and it isn't a phrase meaning the end of time is right around the corner.

- 🕒 We have been living in “the last hour” since this letter was written - over 2000 years ago. *The biblical writers taught that the death, burial, resurrection, and ascension to heaven has brought us into the last days.*

**This is spoken through the apostle Peter during Pentecost.** Go read it for yourself in (Acts 2:1-13).

**Acts 2:16-18** On the contrary, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: *And it will be in the last days, says God, that I will pour out my Spirit on all people; then your sons and your daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams. I will even pour out my Spirit on my servants in those days, both men and women and they will prophesy.*

**Last days** is the Greek **eschatou** - from where we the the term **eschatology** - **the study of “last things”**. The same Greek term is used here:

**1 Peter 1:18-20** For you know that you were redeemed from your empty way of life inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of an unblemished and spotless lamb. He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was revealed **in these last times** for you.

**Hebrews 1:1-2** Long ago God spoke to our ancestors by the prophets at different times and in different ways. **In these last days**, he has spoken to us by his Son. God has appointed him heir of all things and made the universe through him.

**Hebrews 9:26b** But now he has appeared one time, **at the end of the ages**, for the removal of sin by the sacrifice of himself. \* different term than “eschatou”, but used in the same way.

**We NOW live in the last days/hour** and await the return and reign of Jesus, which could occur at any time. Until then, we remain in the “last days/hour”.

### **How does John know this is the last hour?**

**1 John 2:18** Children, **it is the last hour**. And as you have heard that **antichrist is coming**, even now many antichrists have come. By this we know that it is the last hour.

His answer? **Even now many antichrists have come**, and **by this we know that it is the last hour**. “Anti” means “against”. Many in John's day had *stood against Christ* = **antichrists**. It might surprise you to know that this term - **antichrist** - is **ONLY** found in John's epistles and is **NEVER** used in Revelation.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Daniel L. Akin, 1, 2, 3 John, vol. 38, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2001), 114.

***Some blatantly stand against Christ***, saying Jesus is NOT the Messiah, and that He never claimed to be God. But others stand against Christ in a much more camouflaged and subtle way. They are the ones that Paul warned the Ephesian church about - possibly the very audience John is writing to:

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**Acts 20:29-31** I know that after my departure **savage wolves will come** in among you, **not sparing the flock**. Men will rise up even from your own number and distort the truth to lure the disciples into following them. Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day for three years I never stopped warning each one of you with tears.

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*These wolves looked like they sheep*, part of the flock, but they came to KILL the sheep instead of CARE for them. Jesus warned His first disciples of the same thing,

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**Matthew 24:4-5** Jesus replied to them, "Watch out that no one deceives you. For **many will come in my name**, saying, 'I am the Messiah,' and **they will deceive many.**

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Peter warns of the same thing.

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**2 Peter 2:1-3** There were indeed false prophets among the people, just as **there will be false teachers among you**. They will bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, and will bring swift destruction on themselves. Many will follow their depraved ways, and the way of truth will be maligned because of them. They will exploit you in their greed with made-up stories. Their condemnation, pronounced long ago, is not idle, and their destruction does not sleep.

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God will judge these false teachers, but until then, we must keep our eyes on Jesus and what He says through the Scriptures, rather than being lured away by **the attitude of antichrist** that distorts who Jesus is and what He says, and leads others to do the same thing. If the shepherds are doing their jobs, then the wolves in sheep's clothing won't stick around, and neither will their followers.

### **Stay in the Race and Finish Strong!**

**1 John 2:20-21** But **you have an anointing from the Holy One**, and all of **you know the truth**. I have not written to you because you don't know the truth, but because you do know it, and because no lie comes from the truth.

This **anointing** literally means "ointment" or "oil", but in this text it refers figuratively to the Holy Spirit who now lives in followers of Jesus.<sup>2</sup>

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**2 Corinthians 1:21-22** Now it is God who strengthens us together with you in Christ, and who has **anointed us**. He has also put his seal on us and **given us the Spirit in our hearts** as a down payment.

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The Holy Spirit reminds us of the TRUTH and helps us to stand against false claims of those who deny what Jesus says.

**1 John 2:22-23** Who is the liar, if not the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ [Messiah]? This one is the antichrist: the one who denies the Father and the Son. No one who denies the Son has the Father; he who confesses the Son has the Father as well.

**God the Father and God the Son are a package deal.** Jesus wasn't just a man, nor just God. He was the GOD-MAN, the ONE who is large and in charge. Listen to how John quotes Jesus in his Gospel writing.

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**John 5:22-23** The Father, in fact, judges no one but has given all judgment to the Son, so **that all people may honor the Son just as they honor the Father**. Anyone who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him.

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WOW! What if a spiritual leader you know said THAT!!!!???

- **Jesus is the Messiah**, something that **Jewish people who don't follow Jesus reject**.
- **Jesus is the Son of God**, which **Muslims fully reject**. They say Jesus was just a prophet.
- **Jesus is God in skin**, the second person of the Trinity. **Jehovah's Witnesses reject this** - teaching that Jesus was the first creation of God - the angel Michael. On JW.org website this question is asked and answered: "**Is Jesus the Archangel Michael? Put simply, the answer is yes.**"<sup>3</sup>

**X** ALL OF THESE deny WHO Jesus is and WHAT Jesus says about Himself.

<sup>2</sup> John MacArthur, 1, 2, 3 John, MacArthur New Testament Commentary (Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers, 2007), 102

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.jw.org/en/library/magazines/wp20100401/Is-Jesus-the-Archangel-Michael/>

**The spotlight of Scriptures is on WHO Jesus is and WHAT Jesus says.** When correcting his religious enemies Jesus said...

**John 5:38-40** You don't have his [God's] word residing in you, because you don't believe the one he sent. You pore over **the Scriptures** because you think you have eternal life in them, and yet **they testify about me**. But you are not willing to come to me so that you may have life.

**BIG TRUTH: Eternal life is given to those who trust Who Jesus IS and what Jesus says.**

While the attitude of antichrist distorts the claims of Jesus and leads others to do the same thing, **followers of Jesus are to make sure that...**

**1 John 2:24-28** What you have heard from the beginning is to remain in you. If what you have heard from the beginning remains in you, then you will remain in the Son and in the Father. And **this is the promise that he himself made to us: eternal life.** I have written these things to you concerning those who are trying to deceive you. As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you don't need anyone to teach you. Instead, **his anointing teaches you about all things** and is true and is not a lie; just as it has taught you, **remain in him.** So now, little children, **remain in him** so that **when he appears we may have confidence** and not be ashamed before him at his coming.

**You don't need anyone to teach you?** What does John mean by this?

✗ John is NOT saying the spiritual teachers are not important.

✓ The very letter we are reading is TEACHING people what they should do and not do. So too, the Scriptures note that God has given the church spiritual leaders to shepherd the people, teach the truth, and run off the wolves (Eph. 4:11-12).

✗ The teaching of men is NEVER a substitute for the truth of the Scriptures, affirmed through the Holy Spirit's Presence (anointing).

Anyone who distorts WHO Jesus is and WHAT Jesus says, leads others to do the same thing, and should be REJECTED, as this is **the attitude of antichrist.**

**With every tick of the clock, we get closer to the day that we see our King. Until that time we must guard & share the reality that...**

**Eternal life is given to those who trust Who Jesus IS and what Jesus says.**

✓ **Remain in Him**, by opening the Scriptures, pray, & walk in obedience.

✗ May we NOT live in such a way that we would **be ashamed before Him at His coming.**

**What if you knew it was tomorrow - 24 hours from now?**

- What would you surrender to Jesus today?
- What lie, secret, what impure relationship, what material possession would you say, "I'm not covering that up anymore, I going to make the right today."?
- What personal relationship would you try to make right? What sin would you ask another to forgive you for?
- Who would you engage with the truth of Jesus if you only had 24-hours left?

❓ HOW do you know it's NOT?

## heretoserveyou

Have questions and need some help? ...real soon...how about now? Please **call** or **text** us soon!

\* Contact **Jackie** (850-673-1582), **Justin** (704-618-6144), **Christy** (673-9764), or another follower of Jesus soon!

\* Or call our **deacons & wives**: Steve & Debbie Bass (673-7952), Freddy & Joyce Howard (973-0047), Jere & Darlene Burnette (673-1888), Fain & Linda Poppell (464-1282), Jim & Derita Pinkard (229-834-4307), or Boss & Amelia Mulkey (464-6717).