

The Last Hour

1 Jn 2.18

Just to recap: We all deal with sin and lust in our lives...

Always have to battle the pull of the world...constant tug of the flesh...

John warns us to concentrate on His kingdom and not our flesh so that we can be part of his victory in the days ahead and so we are not trapped in a spiral of negative lust that leads to destruction

Gal 5:

Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage (LAW)...but further...

Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

The plan of the Father is to purge out the old system: *He's getting us out of Egypt and getting Egypt OUT of us!*

John makes it even more acute by saying: This is the last hour! Serious! No time to goof around! Redeem the time! Prepare!

This "last hour" is a very interesting phrase...quite debated. (Relevant, give two basic interpretations)...

Based on the dating of this letter: two opinions...64 AD or 90 AD. If it was written in 60ish, then...

John is nearing the end of the generation that Jesus said would see the destruction of Jerusalem (AD 70, See Mt 24)

He would recognize the Antichrists that were swirling around (as Jesus said)

He would see Jerusalem being surrounded (as Jesus...) ...false Xs ...Nero (AntiX of his day: 666) and the Jewish War of AD 66.

He would see the death of Nero (68) and rise of Vespasian and Titus who would destroy Jerusalem...

Hence...THIS is the LAST HOUR...Get your spiritual house in order! :Everything you see is about to pass away and the lust of it! Gone!!!

-Pharisees will be gone; Sadducees; Temple; jobs; schools; Jewish society...

Everything you held dear will soon be gone! All of your supports! Visible assistance! Things you trusted! Temple you marveled at!

Heritage...history...family traditions...

All you will have left is the Kingdom of God and each other!

If it was written after the fall of Jerusalem (AD 70)...Then *HOW MUCH further are we down the line toward the last hour?*

SAME MESSAGE FOR US!

Be careful what you put your trust in! Watch out for the AntiXs! Deceivers! Bury your nose in this word!

Make No Mistake, THIS is the LAST HOUR!!! But...

Make No Mistake, YOU HAVE AN APPOINTMENT.

As shared last week, *GOD is in CONTROL of all of history!* Every HOUR is controlled by His Spirit. God controls all nations for His purpose!

- He used Babylon to punish and refine Israel
- He used Cyrus to build the 2nd Temple
- He used the Greeks to write the NT
- He used Rome to crucify Jesus and fulfill the eternal plan of salvation.
- Then He used Rome to destroy the 2nd Temple and end the Jewish age

Just as He controls nations, He controls events and purposes.

Isaiah 14: The LORD of hosts has sworn, "Surely, as I have thought, so it shall come to pass,
And as I have purposed, so it shall stand:

Jeremiah 4 For this shall the earth mourn, And the heavens above be black,
Because I have spoken. I have purposed & will not relent, Nor will I turn back from it.

1 Jn 3 For this purpose the Son of God was manifested,
that He might destroy the works of the devil.

Romans 8 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God,
to those who are the called according to His purpose.

And I know this for a fact: ***He has purpose in your life, and a PLAN for that purpose!***

BUT Make No Mistake, THERE WILL BE ANTICHRISTS.

1 Cor 16.9

-For a great and effective door has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.

-A huge door of opportunity for good work has opened up here. (There is also mushrooming opposition.)

Satan will do all in his power to frustrate God's appointments!

Do not get bogged down with the coming Antichrist *when you are already surrounded by Antichrists every time you walk out of your house!*

Understand...an antiX is NOT your low-life neighbor; drunk at the bar; heathen cusser...not even a pedophile; drug addict; alcoholic...

CONTEXT: these antiXs were individuals ***in the church*** that were teaching that Jesus was not God; do what you want with your flesh...etc

The antiX ALWAYS begins in the church! Always is a religious system becoming a harlot and riding the back of an imperial system!

Always the Jezebel and Ahab; Hayman; false prophet...

GOOD NEWS!!!!

Make No Mistake, YOU HAVE AN ANOINTING.

The word for "anoint" here means to smear on; to have an unction.

- OT used to appoint kings, priests and prophets.
- Represents the presence of the HS.

Whatever antiX activity is happening around you: *you are anointed!* Covered, sealed, protected, healed...

All authority (all power of absolute rule) in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. I can go and make disciples of all the nations!
I can teach and baptize and rely on Him...because HE SAID "Lo, I am with you always even to the end of the age."

In HIS name I can cast out demons; I can speak with new tongues; I can take up serpents; deadly drink will not harm me
I can lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

"Fear not, for I have redeemed you... sealed you... Anointed... called you by your name: ***You are mine!***