

WHEN HE APPEARS!

1 John 2:28-3:3

A Text for the Times

I am so thankful today because God has put before us a text that is perfectly fitting our day!

So the application of the text today is so very relevant and helpful to the times in which we live.

So, what are the times in which we live?

- Remember back in chapter 2 verse 18 – *“Children, it is the last hour...we know that it is the last hour.”*

- What John calls the “last hour” is what Paul and Peter call the “last days” –

- 2 Tim. 3:1; 2 Pet. 3:3

- You may well ask, “How could they say it was the ‘last hour’ and the ‘last days’ 2,000 years ago?

- Because according to the Scripture’s timeline, the time between Christ’s first coming –

- Which includes His death, resurrection and commissioning...

- And His second coming –

- When He will redeem His people and the whole earth

- Are the last days.

- Everything, biblically speaking, that needs to be fulfilled...they needs to happen...that needs to be in place – is!

So, when people ask (and usually with a sense of hysteria) “Are we in the lasts days?”

- The answer is “yes we are...and we have been for over 2,000 years!”

HOW ARE WE TO LIVE IN THOSE LAST DAYS (LAST HOUR)?

Read 1 John 2:28-3:3

Pray

When He Appears

John is clearly writing these words in light of the Second Coming or the Return of Jesus Christ –

- 2:28 – *“...when he appears”*

- 2:28 – *“...at his coming”*

- 3:2 – *“...when he appears”*

Right here, let’s make this connection –

- It is amazing how John most often refers to the coming of Jesus as His “appearing”.

- Paul does the same thing in Titus 2, although he uses a different word but it means and is translated with the same English word “appear”.

- When they think about and write about the Coming of Jesus, they describe it as His “appearing”!

- Because the main attraction is Jesus!

- We will glorify Him as we have a sensory response to Him – we shall see Him!

- Notice 3:2 – *“...we shall see him as he is”!*

- We will see the glory of His beauty –

- We will see the glory of His holiness –

- We will see the glory of His majesty – Because we will see Him!

This is one of the reasons that when John begins this letter he says –

- 1:1 – *“That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands...”*

- At His first coming He was a real flesh and blood person – not a philosophy – not a metaphor – not a mere belief – but a real human!

- And when He comes again – We will see Him!

- 2 Thess. 1:5-10

His Appearing – Our Hope

1 – The hope of His appearing gives assurance that you belong to God.

- Abide in Him
 - 2:28 – *“And now, little children, abide in him...”*
- Confidence not fear at His coming
 - 2:28 – *“...so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming.”*
- Righteous because He is righteous
 - 2:29 – *“If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him.”*
- You are loved by God
 - 3:1 – *“See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.”*
- You belong to God not the world
 - 3:1b – *“...The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him.”*

2 – The hope of His appearing gives you incentive to grow in holiness.

- Christlikeness is the goal
 - 3:2 – *“Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared...”*
- You will reach the goal
 - 3:2b – *“...but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.”*
- Hope produces holiness
 - 3:3 – *“And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.”*