

Conclusion

Light, Life, Love (Part 5)

Living in the Last Hour

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Text: 1 John 2:15-29

Introduction: Living in the Last Hour

A constant reminder that time is quickly running out

The world as we know it is soon expiring, and the life of the age to come is already breaking in and ready to take over

LIVE THE STORY

The Gospel is intended to be learned and lived in community.

The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.

Love the Gospel

- How would you explain to someone the fact that Christians believe that it is the last hour (and have believed that for 2,000 years)?
- According to John, how would you identify an 'antichrist'? Why is that important?

Live the Gospel

- How does 1 John 2:15-17 challenge your love of the world specifically?
- What does John mean by 'Jesus is the Christ' in v. 22? How would you talk with another believer who doesn't think belief in the divinity of Jesus is very important?

Advance the Gospel

- How does John's discussion of life in the last hour frame how you would talk to an unbeliever?
- Based on this passage, how should your life and the life of your family look noticeably different to a watching world? So that they would know you believe it is the last hour?

I. Love what Remains (vv. 15-17)

A. Don't love the world?

What about *1 John 2:2* or *John 3:16*?

"In one it is 'the holy love of Redemption'; in the other it is the 'selfish love of participation'." – John Stott

B. "The world" of desires and pride

John's description of "the world" is *1 John 2:16*; cf. *1 John 5:19*

"Unholy desire for things one has not, and unholy pride in things one has." – George G. Findlay

C. The world which passes away

1 John 2:8 could be re-applied to this passage, “The world is already passing away and the life of the age to come is already here for God’s people”

D. Rooting out competing loves

Romans 8:13; Hebrews 12:2; Matthew 6:33; John 17:15-17

II. Remain in the Son (vv. 18-26)

A. A loving, fatherly discussion...

B. It is the last hour...how?

The New Testament authors as a whole are in agreement that Jesus’ incarnation, life, death, and resurrection mark the beginning of the end times, which will come to its conclusion at the return of Jesus in all his glory – a date which no one knows

C. Many antichrists...how?

In “the last hour” antichrists will abound: men and women led astray from the faith and practice of the prophets and apostles revealed in Scripture who, in turn, seek to lead believers astray from the truth

D. Sign #1: They went out from us (v. 19b)

E. Sign #2: They deny that Jesus is the Christ (v. 22a)

Who we think Jesus is, is perhaps the most important question we will ever answer – we had better get it right

F. Beware of antichrists

III. Remain in New Life (vv. 25, 27-29)

A. The promise of new life

The promise of eternal life for God’s people is about more than just punching a ticket to heaven when we die, it’s also a promise about the type of life they’ll live in the last hour - now

B. Those who receive an anointing

John 16:13a

C. Those who have confidence when Jesus appears

D. Those who practice righteousness

The thread of Christ-likeness has been woven throughout this section

E. New life in the last hour