

# That our joy may be complete – 1 John

1 John 2:18-27

"The hour of the antichrist" – March 15, 2020



## Introduction

John's purpose in writing 1 John is to help the Christian know that they have eternal life ([1 John 5:13](#)). To help us know if we know God, John's already established the moral test (if we keep his commandments) and the social test (if we love our brother/sister in Christ). Now John introduces us to the third test: the truth test. When we use this spiritual stethoscope, we find that life in Christ knows certain unnegotiable truths about Jesus.

## Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response. To help, use [Psalm 119:33-40](#) as a prayer for God to open His word up to you.

## Sermon Outline

- I. Know the time (2:18-19)
- II. Know the truth (2:20-23)
- III. Abide in truth (2:24-27)

## Read & Discuss

- 1) Read [1 John 2:18-19](#)

The 'last hour' is the period between Jesus' first and second coming ([Heb. 1:1-2](#), [Acts 2:17](#)). What should we expect during this time? How does knowing the time help us avoid being unsettled or alarmed?

One of the evidences of the last hour is the presence of many antichrists – those who are opposed to the truth of Jesus being the Christ, the Son of God (2:22, 4:2-3). Sadly, they were at one point a part of the church John writes to, only to drift away and leave the faith (v19). In what way does the church help to define what a Christian is (or isn't)? How is God's design for the church aimed at helping us grow in assurance of our faith?

Additional Reading: Hebrews 1:1-2, 2 Timothy 3:1-9

- 2) Read [1 John 2:20-23](#)

The truth that the antichrists had denied, leading them to come out from the church they were once a part of is the truth about Jesus. The idea of the Christ (meaning 'the anointed one') stretches back to the hope and promise of a Savior in the Old Testament. Ever since God promised a descendent of Eve who would crush the head of the serpent ([Gen. 3:15](#)),

God's people have longed for the Christ to come: to defeat the enemy ([Col. 2:13-15](#)), rescue His people ([1 Jn. 4:14](#)), and make all things new ([Rev. 21:4-5](#)). Jesus is the Christ – the Savior who is both fully God and fully man. Presuming the physical world was inherently evil, the false teachers denied that Jesus was the Christ and offered other ways to God.

What does John say about other ways to be right with God in [v23](#)? How might we be tempted to water down or deny certain truths about the exclusivity of Jesus in a world that assumes every truth claim is relative or compatible? Why are John's (and the Christian today) confident claims about Jesus and His identity not a claim made in arrogance?

Additional Reading: John 14:6

3) Read [1 John 2:24-27](#)

The 'anointing' John mentions in [v20](#) and [v27](#) is a reference to the Holy Spirit which God gives to every believer (see [Rom. 8:9](#)). John's point is not that the anointing reveals new or hidden truths apart from God's word – rather, He helps us to understand, believe and treasure the truths we heard 'from the beginning' ([v24](#)) – truths we see in Scripture.

To abide means to remain, continue or keep going. It's not enough to just start the race, we must finish it. In a world filled with distractions, hardships and lies John reminds us what we need to make it: God's word and God's anointing. What does it look like for us to hold fast to God's word lest we drift away from what we heard ([Heb. 2:1](#))? How can we help each other to remember?

Additional Reading: Acts 2:17, 1 Corinthians 1:21-22

\*As a reminder, we've provided specific things to be praying for during the quarantine, Scripture to focus on and a song playlist for our edification and encouragement. You can find the list [here](#).

### **Prayer of Response**

1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to *confess*? From what do I need to *repent*?

2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand*, *believe*, *desire*, or *do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come.

If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at <https://fbcum.org/sermons-new/>

<b>*Next week's sermon text:</b> we turn to <b>1 John 2:28-3:10 "Called children of God"</b>
--