

## I. INTRODUCTION.

### A. Scripture text: **1John 2:18-29.**

Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have arisen; from this we know that it is the last hour. [19] They went out from us, but they were not *really* of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but *they went out*, in order that it might be shown that they all are not of us. [20] But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you all know. [21] I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it, and because no lie is of the truth. [22] Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son. [23] Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also. [24] As for you, let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father. [25] And this is the promise which He Himself made to us: eternal life. [26] These things I have written to you concerning those who are trying to deceive you. [27] And as for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him. [28] And now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming. [29] If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone also who practices righteousness is born of Him.

B. Tonight's lesson is a special interest to all serious Bible students. The concepts of the antichrist and the anointing from 1Jn. 2 are fascinating topics.

 C. Our lesson tonight will cover the text in three main points:

1. The term "last hour" defined.
2. The antichrist defined.
3. The anointing defined.

## II. THE LAST HOUR DEFINED (1Jn. 2:8).

 A. This term generally has reference to eschatological things (end of time, world), but not here.

B. In the gospel of John the term hour is used to indicate a moment of unusual importance in history generally involving change. Notice the following texts, Jn. 4:21,23; 16:2,3.

**(Jn 4:21)** Jesus said<sup>^</sup> to her, "Woman, believe Me, an hour is coming when neither in this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, shall you worship the Father.

**(Jn 4:23)** "But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers.

**(Jn 16:2-3)** "They will make you outcasts from the synagogue, but an hour is coming for everyone who kills you to think that he is offering service to God. [3] "And these things they will do, because they have not known the Father, or Me.

C. Another interesting thing to note is that in the Greek text the definite article 'the' is missing. John is not talking about the last hour, but a time of crisis and change that is about to come upon the Xians he is writing to.

## III. THE ANTICHRIST DEFINED (1Jn. 2:18-29).

 A. Here is John's description of the antichrist:

1. He is already present in John's day (2:18).
2. They are plural in number (2:18).
3. They denied that Jesus is the Christ (2:22).
4. They are the people with the wrong teaching (2:26; 4:1-3; 2Jn. 7).

**(1Jn 4:1-3)** Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. [2] By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God; [3] and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; and this is the *spirit* of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world.

**(2Jn 1:7)** For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist.

- B. The teaching of the antichrist is that Jesus did not come in the flesh.
- C. The proper confession of Jesus includes the fact that one believes that Jesus was the Son of God (deity became flesh).
- D. The proper confession (and belief) in Jesus is seen in 1Jn. 5:9-12.

If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater; for the witness of God is this, that He has borne witness concerning His Son. [10] The one who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; the one who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the witness that God has borne concerning His Son. [11] And the witness is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. [12] He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

#### IV. THE ANOINTING DEFINED (1Jn. 2:18-29).

-  A. John sets up a contrast between the Gnostics and the Xians (see 1Jn. 2:19).
- B. The apostle tells his brethren that they (not the Gnostics) have an anointing.
- C. The anointing, in view here, is not:
  - 1. The anointing of a king.
  - 2. The medicinal anointing of the Samaritan (Lk. 10), Jesus to the blind man (Jn. 9) or by the elders (Jas. 5).
  - 3. The miraculous gift of knowledge given by the laying on of the apostles' hands (see 1Cor. 12).  
In each of these cases, only a select individual or few received the anointing, whereas in 1Jn. 2 all of the brethren have the anointing.
-  D. The anointing John speaks of in 1John is:
  - 1. It is from the Holy One (2:20).
  - 2. It gives all knowledge (2:20).
  - 3. It teaches concerning all things (2:27).
  - 4. It abides in the brethren (2:24,27).
  - 5. Referred to as an "it" not a "he" (2:27).
-  E. The anointing in this context, that fits the above characteristics, is the Scriptures (2Tim. 3:16,17).  
*All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; [17] that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.*  
The word of God is an "it" that is from the Holy One, that gives all knowledge, teaches concerning all things, and abides in the brethren.
- F. This anointing is not the HS, even though many of the commentators think so. If this anointing is the HS, consider the following:
  - 1. Everyone would have his or her own hotline to direct revelation (2:20). Do you claim to know all things?
  - 2. Even those who claim to have direct revelation from the HS never to go 1Jn. 2:20 to prove it. If they did they would have to claim that they know all things!
  - 3. Jesus and the NT writers never refer to the HS as an "it" (Jn. 14:26; 16:13).  
**(Jn 14:26)** "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you."  
**(Jn 16:13)** "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come."
  - 4. The apostle John has yet to mention the HS in 1John; first mentioned in 3:24.
- G. What John is saying is that while the Gnostics claim a special knowledge and anointing that supposedly gives them a great level of spirituality--Xians have their own anointing, the word of God, that gives them the true knowledge of all things pertaining to spirituality.

## V. CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.



- A. In 1Jn. 2:28,29 John encourages the brethren to have confidence in Jesus and His word so that when He truly does appear they can have great confidence in that day. The key to this confidence is to walk in righteousness.
- B. Brief review:
  - 1. The “last hour” in this context means an important moment involving change.
  - 2. The “antichrist” is anyone who will not confess (believe) that Jesus came in the flesh.
  - 3. The “anointing” is the word of God that completely and truly teaches us all things.
- C. Make this your moment of change--your last hour!
- D. Confess your faith in X, and obey the word that teaches all things.
- E. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.