

Directional Church

1 John 2:18-27

11/29/15

Last Hour Deception

v.18 Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.

Here we see the urgency of salvation because *it is the last time*.

2 Cor 6:2 *“For He says: (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)*

Heb 3:15 *While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.*

Why the urgency? You may not be here tomorrow.

Cf. The Parable of the Rich Fool in Luke 12:13-21.

James 4:13-15 *Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: (14) Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. (15) For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.*

Illustration: I saw a bumper sticker yesterday that said, “Sin now. Pray later.” The problem is that there may not be a later.

The biggest lie of the devil is tomorrow.

Antichrist

John also reminds us in this verse that we can know that we are in the last days because of the demonic work of antichrists. Notice descriptions of these “antichrists”:

- (1) they have a faulty understanding of Jesus Christ and are liars (v. 22; 4:3)
- (2) they have no relationship with the Father (v. 23)
- (3) and deceivers (2 John 7)

These references refer to men who had left the church (v.19) and were now aggressively promoting the heretical doctrine that Jesus was not the Christ (4:1).

Cf. John 1:1-5, 14; I John 4:1-2

Cf. Peter's response in Matt. 16:13-18

Antichrists in the Church

v.19 *They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.*

John is saying that there are some who profess to be Christians, go to church, take the Lord's Supper, get baptized, go through all of the motions, but are not truly Christians.

The proof is that they left, because *if they had been of us, they would no doubt continued with us.*

Of these people Peter says in II Peter 2:21-22 *For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. (22) But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.*

Illustration: J. Vernon McGee said, "You can wash a pig, put a little bow around his neck, polish his toes, brush his teeth, and take him into your home, but it's still a pig! In the end, it will go right back to the mud hole it came from."

In John 6:64, 70 when Jesus spoke of Judas said, *...there are some of you that believe not...Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil?*

True Colors through Factions

As a matter of fact, Paul said in I Cor. 11:19 *For there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you.*

An Anointing

v.20 *But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things.*

This verse now turns to the true Christians.

The word **know** here comes from a Greek word meaning to know by intuition.

We know some things intuitively by the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

Cf. v.27

Jesus taught in John 16:13-14 *Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. (14) He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.*

Cf. I Cor. 2:9-12

The Truth

v.21 *I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth.*

Lies were already creeping into the first century church about who Jesus was.

Gnosticism was gaining a foothold in the church.

The Gnostics initially taught that Jesus was a phantom when He lived on the earth and didn't have a body of flesh, but it was later developed by a man named Arias who taught that Jesus was not really God, but a created being.

Arias taught that Jesus was not really God, but a created being. This heresy later became the basis for the Watchtower Society or Jehovah's Witnesses.

Who is a Liar?

vv.22-23 *Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son. (23) Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: (but) he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also.*

Strong language! *Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ?*

To deny that Jesus is the Christ is to deny the Father and that makes one antichrist.

Illustration: All of the "isms" and cults today have one thing in common. They deny the deity of Jesus Christ. The JW's say that He is Michael the Archangel. Mormons say that He is the older brother of Satan.

Stick to Truth

v.24 *Let that therefore abide in you, which ye have heard from the beginning. If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall continue in the Son, and in the Father.*

Stick to the truth. So many come into the church long enough to hear the truth and then get lured away into error.

They start out well, but then they take a detour.

Gal 3:3 *Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?*

It is a big deal who you believe Jesus is. Was He just a great man or the Christ? It's the difference between heaven and hell.

Josh McDowell says that each person has to decide whether He was Lord, Liar, or Lunatic.

Eternal Life – The Reward

v.25 *And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life.*

Stay faithful and eternal life will be the reward.

If you could lose eternal life tomorrow, it wouldn't be eternal.

v.26 *These things have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you.*

To be deceived is to be led away from the truth.

Deceivers are those who knock on your door every Saturday morning.

II John 7-11

v.27 *But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.*

There's the word "anointed" again.

The word here means to "smear on".

In other words, the anointing of the Holy Spirit enables the believer to distinguish the truth of Christianity from the heretical deceit of the devil.