

I John 2:18
IT IS THE LAST HOUR

- I. What it is.
 - A. "Time" is literally "hour," and refers to a period of time.
 - B. The "last" hour implies that there are preceding hours, periods, dispensations.
 - C. The "last" hour implies that there will be no more hours.
 - 1. This last hour is from Jesus' coming from first appearance until His second, ending with the judgment and the renewal.
 - 2. That it is the "last" hour implies increasing intensity and urgency.
- II. Our text teaches that the evidence that we are in the last hour is the presence of "antichrist."
 - A. "Antichrist" is a political/religious individual/group who "apes" Christ, is a false Christ and is opposed to Christ.
 - 1. He opposes Christ, God, by appearing as a substitute or replacement for Christ.
 - 2. He deceives with lies (II Thess. 2:10; Rev. 13:14; 16:13; 19:20) and miracles (Matt.24:24; II Thess. 2:9; Rev. 13:13,14).
 - B. There were manifestations of antichrist in the previous hours, but they were fore-shadows.
 - C. The last hour is characterized by antichrist himself appearing.
- III. Our text conveys an admonition to "little children."
 - A. Keep your eyes open to the development of sin and to worldliness in general.
 - B. Positively, it is a time to watch and pray, lest we fall into temptation (Matt. 26:41).
 - C. Scripture teaches that antichrist's presence indicates that Jesus' return is near at hand.