

Light, Love, & Life Series:
How The Incarnation Helps Us Live Out The Sacred
It Is The Last Hour
1 John 2:18-24

- I. It Is The Last Hour (18)
 - A. What does this mean?
 - 1. The coming of Jesus began what is formally understood as “the end times”
 - 2. The time frame between His first and second coming is the time and age of “the spirit of Antichrist” (1 John 4:2-3)
 - B. Why does this matter?
 - 1. We must know what sort of world we are living in
 - 2. We must know what sort of trials we will face
 - 3. We must know why this world is passing away and why we should not love it (1 John 2:15-17)
- II. Antichrist and Antichrists (18-19)
 - A. How have people in history viewed “the Antichrist”
 - 1. Preterist – someone from 1st century Rome; candidates vary, but the idea is that the concept has already been fulfilled in history
 - 2. Historicist – certain people and/or systems fulfill “the Antichrist” throughout history. An example would be during the Protestant Reformation – the entire papacy was viewed as “the Antichrist”
 - 3. Futurist – an individual coming at some point in the future, just prior to the actual Second Coming of Jesus (many have been offered up; all have been wrong so far).
 - 4. Idealist – Antichrist, the beast, the man of lawlessness, etc. should not be viewed as

one person, but metaphors for a prevailing worldview – one which gains in intensity and rebellion as time moves on

- B. Many that are already here
 - 1. Anti-Christ can mean “against Christ”
 - 2. Anti-Christ can mean “in place of Christ”
 - 3. There are many false teachers that have (and still) teach against Christ or put themselves in place of Christ (Matthew 24:23-25)
- C. Why does this matter
 - 1. John just told us not to love the world, and that it is passing away
 - 2. We must be prepared to endure hardship because of this world system
 - 3. We do not know how long that endurance must last in this “last hour”
 - 4. We must know what to look for...
- III. Perseverance In The Last Days (20-24)
 - A. Being set apart by the Holy One
 - B. Knowing the truth
 - C. Not denying that Jesus is the Christ
 - D. Abiding in God through Jesus by way of faithfulness to gospel truth and gospel living