



Living the True Life in the Last Times

1 John 2:18-27

July 12, 2015
Celebration | 8:45 am
Pastor David Mitchell

Be aware of false messengers for the faith. | John 2:18

“Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour.”

Signs of an antichrist include:

Be aware of false believers who fall away from the faith. | John 2:19

“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, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us.”

| Timothy 4:1-4; Hebrews 3:12, 13; Matthew 24:10

Be strong in the anointing of the Holy Spirit. | John 2:20

“But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you all know.”

Be knowledgeable in the truth of God’s Word and Christ Jesus. | John 2:21-23

“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. 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. Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also.”

| Corinthians 2:10-14; John 14:26; 16:13

Be faithful in living your life for Christ. | John 2:24-27

- **Be faithful to live according to the basic truths we have known**
“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.” (v.24)
- **Be faithful to pursue God’s highest priority: eternal life**
“This is the promise which He Himself made to us: eternal life.” (v.25)
- **Be faithful to discern deception and lies, which undermine our faith**
“These things I have written to you concerning those who are trying to deceive you. 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.” (v.26-27)

Digging Deeper

John offers us an alert about the condition of the “last hour” in the history of the world. There will be a final “antichrist” then. But there are those that can be considered “antichrist” today. It is important that we are aware of those conditions around us and how we should respond to them as followers of Jesus.

LifeGroup Discussion

Jesus taught about these last times in Matthew 24. In Matthew 24:4-14, describe some of the circumstances in the world and how Christians will be treated. Where do you see some of those circumstances today? What is one way and emphasis we should maintain in vs. 13, 14?

In Matthew 24:11, Jesus states that “false prophets” will arise and mislead many people. They will cause more lawlessness, which can include a disobedience to the laws of God. Where do you see that in today’s world?

Revelation 13 describes the final “antichrist” known as the beast. He has a partner “beast” that is a false prophet. Below are some of the qualities of an “antichrist” from Revelation 13:

- Powerful authoritarian rule. (Revelation 13:1-2)
- Charismatic attraction to one-man rule. (Revelation 13:3-4)
- False teaching to undermine God’s truth. (Revelation 13:5-6)
- Persecute true believers that obey God’s truth, control moral and religious thought and behavior. (Revelation 13:7-8)
- Supernatural power. People led by experience and feelings rather than truth of God. (Revelation 13:11-15)
- Full monetary and religious control of people. (Revelation 13:16-18)

Discuss those qualities and discern where you see them today. How should a believer respond according to Hebrews 3:12, 14?

I John 2:21-23 tell us to “know the truth” and have nothing to do with “lies.” Below are some statements that may be true or false. Can you discern which is true and which is false? Discuss your response to each.

Truth or Lie?

- Money is the root of all evil.
- Everyone is a child of God and going to heaven.
- A good God will not allow us to suffer.
- The Bible needs to be interpreted in light of our present times.
- Two people may have completely different interpretations of the Bible but both can be correct.
- Jesus sinned but was completely forgiven by God.
- Jesus came into existence when He was born.
- The Holy Spirit has a personality and feelings.
- The Holy Spirit may leave me if I sin repeatedly.
- It is more important that we love each other than agree with each other on doctrine.
- Unity of believers is more important than agreement on biblical truth.
- All sins are bad in God’s eyes, but some sins are worse than others.
- It is more important to love and accept someone than tell them the truth.
- Baptism is essential to assure one’s salvation.
- The Bible has one interpretation but many applications.
- Jesus said that God helps those who help themselves.
- Sickness is usually a result of sin in a person’s life.
- The Bible should always be interpreted literally.
- I can pick and choose which Old Testament laws I need to keep today.
- If Jesus did not speak against a certain sin, then that behavior is not a sin.

Next Steps

1. **Join today’s Discover Calvary class to learn about Calvary’s beliefs, purpose, history, ministries, and how to become a member.** The class meets today from 12:15 - 3:45 pm in Fireside and lunch will be provided. Learn more at calvarylife.org/discover
2. **Connect in a LifeGroup** to help you grow in your faith and be encouraged to live faithfully for Jesus. LifeGroups are ongoing small group communities that gather together throughout the week to CONNECT in a smaller setting, GROW together in our faith, and REACH out together to our community. There are many LifeGroups available on Calvary’s campus and in homes across Orange County. Learn more at calvarylife.org/lifegroups

