

## **In the last hour, our culture has become hostile towards Jesus.** 1 John 2:18-19

*“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.” (v. 18)*

- **John was taught by Jesus Himself that we are living in the last hour**  
Matthew 24
- **The New Testament writers knew they were living in the last hour**  
Acts 2:16-17, 1 Corinthians 10:11, Hebrews 1:1-2, Hebrews 9:26, 1 Peter 1:20
- **The last hour is marked by the rise of antichrists (v. 18-19)**
  - Many will abandon the faith (1 John 2:19 - 1st Century Gnosticism)
  - Jesus becomes the main target of hatred in the last hour (John 15:18-27)
  - The final antichrist (2 Thessalonians 2, Revelation 13)

## **In the last hour, the crucial question is: What do you believe about Jesus?** 1 John 2:20-23

*“Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also.” (1 John 2:23)*

- **1st Century truth and lies about Jesus (v.20-22)**
- **Jesus (+) plus, Jesus (-) minus or simply Jesus? (v.23)**

## **In the last hour, we are called to live with a daily connection to Jesus.** 1 John 2:24-27

*“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)*

- **By actively abiding (noun: abode) in God’s Word (v. 24)**
- **By being hopeful in what is to come at the end of the hour (v. 25)**
- **By surrendering to the leading of the Holy Spirit (v. 26-27)**

## Digging Deeper: Abiding

John walked closely with Jesus for 3+ years. John knew first hand, the incredible life transformation that took place when he spent time with Jesus. So it makes sense that the theme of abiding in Jesus is a common theme in John's writings. In fact the word "abide" is mentioned 18 times in the book of 1 John! The word "abide" simply means, "to dwell or live with." The noun form of abide is "abode", a synonym of the word, "home." So when we say "abiding in Christ" what we mean is, to make your home in Jesus.

During the course of this week, we invite you to spend time doing a word study on John's mentions of the word "abide" in his biblical letters. As you read and re-read these passages, pray that you will grow more and more comfortable in making your home in Jesus as you live the daily Christian life. The time to abide is now; we are in the last hour!

- John 15:4-10
- 1 John 2:6-14
- 1 John 2:24-28
- 1 John 3:6-24
- 1 John 4:12-16
- 2 John 1:9

## LifeGroup Discussion

1. **Read 1 John 1:18-19.**

As we live in the last hour, we live in a culture that is increasingly hostile towards Jesus. How does this hostility towards Jesus impact your day to day life? How do we live in the midst of such hostility, yet maintain love for our neighbor, city and world?

2. **Read 1 John 1:20-23.**

When did you first confess Jesus as the Savior and Lord of your life? What were the steps that led up to your belief? Who do you want to pray for this week that has not confessed and believed in Jesus as Savior and Lord?

3. **Read 1 John 1:24-27.**

In the last hour, we are called to abide (make our home) in God and His word (the Bible). How does the Holy Spirit guide and strengthen our daily effort to do this? What are the daily benefits of finding your home in God's word? What steps can you take when you feel far away from God and His word?

## Next Steps

1. **Place your faith in Jesus Christ** as your Savior (the forgiver and cleanser of your sins) and your Lord (the leader, master, chief decision maker of your life). Use the booklet in the seat rack in front of you called "The Way to Connect with God" to help guide you through this process, or visit a Prayer Point by the stage during our response time today to invite an experienced Christian to assist you in placing your faith in Jesus.
2. **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](http://calvarylife.org/discover)
3. **Invite any kids up to 6<sup>th</sup> grade age to join the Everest VBS at Calvary, July 27 - 31 from 9:00 am - noon each day.** Kids will embark on an "icy" mountain adventure, right in our church! At Everest VBS (Vacation Bible School), you'll explore one of the most majestic, beautiful (and sometimes dangerous!) places on earth. Kids will join Climbing Crews to "trek" through Everest VBS, discovering God's power and promises all along the way. Learn more and register for free at [calvarylife.org/vbs](http://calvarylife.org/vbs)