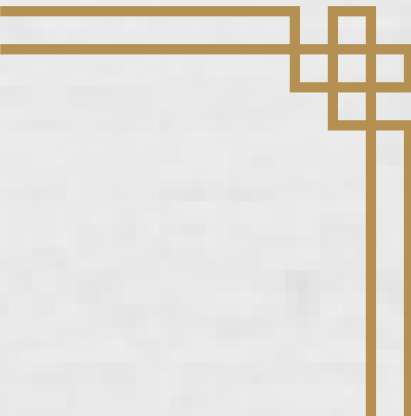
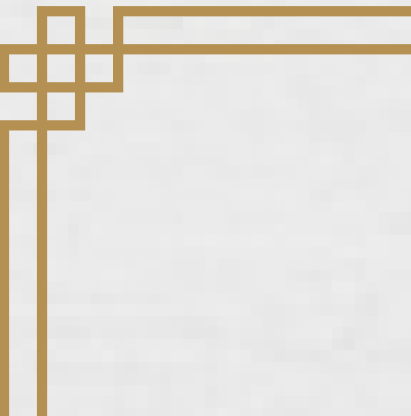
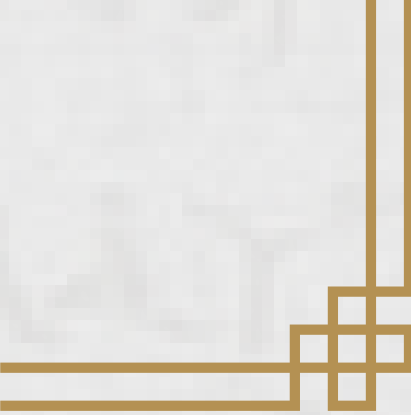
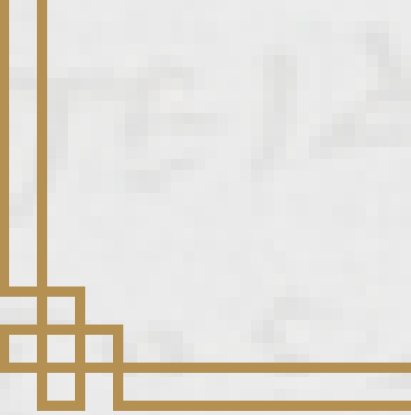




1 John

An Exegetical Series

**1 John 2:18-28: Remain in the Truth During
the Last Hour**



Summary of 1 John 2:12-14

- ▶ John challenges us, as believers, to consider what we place our value upon: The world or the Father. The love we have for either the world or the Father will show itself somehow and in some way—either by our desires, our wants, or our status/possessions/wealth, etc.
- ▶ The reality is, however, that the world is passing away and so is the values it places upon things that *can* be good—but the value it produces will be destroyed. Only the Father and the Gospel truth will remain

Closing Questions

- Where are you most tempted to replace God's authority with your own preferences because you think your way will bring greater happiness or security?
- Knowing that "the world is passing away, along with its desires" (1 John 2:17), what would it look like this week to live as someone whose greatest affection is the Father rather than the world?

1 John

1 John 2:18-19; 22-23

Remain in the Truth During the Last Hour:

Part 1: Recognizing the Antichrist(s)

Three Areas of Focus

Remember! Here, we will *only* cover: 1 John 2:18-19; 22-23

1. The Last Hour (v. 18)
2. The Antichrist or Antichrists (v. 18; v. 22)
3. Remained With Us/Denies the Son (v. 23)

➡ In other words, we want to first understand who the antichrists *are* and what they (a) *believe* and (b) what they don't believe or *deny*, and where we are in the *timeline* of redemptive history [or *The Last Hour*]

The Last Hour

- What do you think the last hour is?
- What do you picture when you think of the “last hour”?

The Last Hour

- The “Last Hour” in John’s Gospel

- ▶ Of Jesus’ death and glorification (2:4; 7:30; 8:20; 12:23, 12:27; 13:1; 17:1)
- ▶ Action/culmination of *something* resulting from Jesus life (4:21; 16:2, 4)
- ▶ Eschatological *already* and *not yet*, “Very truly I tell you, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live” (5:25 — see also 4:23; 5:28)

The Last Hour

John 6:39: “And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day”

- ▶ The last hour is that final period of time before Christ’s return—It is *inauguration* awaiting *consummation*
- ▶ The “Last Hour,” we must recognize, is that Christ’s life, death, burial, and resurrection, we were ushered into a new era in redemptive history in which we await Christ’s return in glory and judgement (Rev 19; 20:11-15)

The Last Hour

- This is how John knows it is the last hour—2:18
 - ▶ In context, John knows the last hour is here and among us because we are recipients of the truth (1 John 1:1-4) and now there are some who have defected from this truth!
 - ▶ The very existence of those who left the church shows that Jesus is saving those who are his and will raise them up on the last day (John 6:44) but those who do not *remain* are antichrists!

The Antichrist(s)

- What do you think of when you think of the Antichrist?
- Are you surprised to see Scripture says there is, technically, more than one antichrist?

The Antichrist(s)

- Three Marks of the Antichrist(s) (2:19; 22-23)

- ▶ They went out from us!
- ▶ They did not remain with us!
- ▶ They deny the Son in some way

➡ In other words, an antichrist is someone who is in this “contrast” John has drawn throughout the letter—to be an antichrist is to be identified by these “marks,” or indicators of *not* “remaining in” and “denial” of the Lord Jesus Christ

Remain/Deny

- (1) They went out from us (2:19)

- ▶ In context, this was church division and a church split—
Yet, John clues us into something deeper at hand
- ▶ It was the manner in which these “secessionists”
departed from the church that caused John to speak so
strongly on them
- ▶ They left the church because they showed that they (a)
did not belong to the church *because* (b) they did not
remain “with us.”

Remain/Deny

- (2) They did not remain with us (2:19)
 - ▶ This “remain” aspect of John’s language should cause us to stop and ask questions when we read our bibles—Hasn’t John used this language before? If so, what did he mean?
 - ▶ *Remain* and *fellowship* are closely linked together—if we are in fellowship with God (1 John 1:3), we remain in Christ because we walk as he walked, love as he loved, and believe his message (1 John 1:1-3; 2:6, 10)

Remain/Deny

- (3) They Deny the Son (2:22-23)

- ▶ Could be Greek philosophical views about Jesus unknown to us today
- ▶ Could be “Docetism” or the idea that Jesus was only a “Spirit” and not a man, as that was an “illusion”
- ▶ Could be Jewish heretical groups such as the “Ebonites” who rejected Jesus’ divinity wholesale only accepting that he was the “messiah” in so far as he was a human being only and obeyed the Jewish Law

The Fearful Result

John ends this idea about the Antichrists with a stunning, yet familiar warning:

- ▶ Denying Jesus in any way condemns you—John 3:36, “The one who believes in the Son has eternal life, but the one who rejects the Son will not see life; instead, the wrath of God remains on him.”
- ▶ See also implications of who Christ is in John 1:1-4, 14, 18)
- ▶ Especially, 1 John 1:1-3 and the concept of fellowship!

1 John

1 John 2:18-28:

Remain in the Truth During the Last Hour:

Part 1: Recognizing the Antichrist(s)