

The Last Hour

1 John 2:18-27

“God calls his church, in every generation, to live in light of this remarkable truth: nothing now stands in the way of Jesus’s return. After his perfect life, sacrificial death for us, resurrection from the grave, and ascension to heaven to pour out his Spirit on his church, the next major movement in the history of the world is the second coming of Christ. In the church age, we Christians have no definite unfulfilled list of events which must transpire before his return. What the Bible promises will happen at the end is already happening, in significant measure, around the world today — and has been happening, in some sense, since the earliest days of the church. As long as Jesus tarries, we do indeed have the concrete directives of the church age to continue pursuing, like the evangelization of the nations (Matthew 28:19) and the hastening of his coming through holy living (2 Peter 3:11–12). And yet we have no firm, certain list of unfulfilled conditions about which Jesus could not surprise us. His coming is the next big thing and could happen at any moment. That’s what the New Testament means when it says his return is near. (David Mathis –Desiring God)

- I. A **true believer** remains **firmly committed** to the truth of God because it is the **last hour**. Believers, from the time of Christ up to the present, have been living in the “**last days**.”

1 John 2:18a

- A. The **last hour** is a **kind of time**, not a duration of time, that will last until the Lord Jesus Christ returns to usher in his millennial reign here on earth.

Matthew 24:3

1. Jesus tells us that it is a time when many will come in his name to deceive people into following them (Satan) instead of Christ.

1 John 2:26

Matt 24:4

2. It is a time when there will be wars and rumors of wars, natural disasters such as famines, earthquakes, plagues, and nation rising against nation.

Matt 24:6-8

3. Jesus tells us that the day and hour of his return (**Parousia**) is unknown. Matt 24:36

4. Jesus assures us that true believers will be raptured, so that we will not go through the Great Tribulation Period of God's wrath against sin and Satan.

1 Thess 4:16-18
Matt 24:37-40
Matt 24:21-22

1 Thessalonians 5:9 *For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our LORD Jesus Christ.*

- B. The last hour means that believers **must keep watch** morally and doctrinally so that we don't fall prey to Satan's deception.

Matt 24:42-44

- II. A **true believer** in Jesus Christ remains **firmly committed** to the truth of God to keep themselves from being deceived by those who put themselves in the place of Christ (antichrist).

1 John 2:18b

- A. The deception of those who put themselves in the place of Christ will often come from those who claim to know Christ.

1 John 2:19

- B. The deception of those who put themselves in the place of Christ is based on hostility toward the truth of His existence and purpose as the Messiah.

1 John 2:22-23
Matt 24:4-5
2 Thessalonians 2:7-12

- III. A **true believer** remains **firmly committed** to the truth of God because they hold in high regard their anointing by the Holy Spirit.

1 John 2:20-21,27
1 Cor 2:14-16

1 John 2:28 *And now, dear children, continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming (παρουσία parousía).*