

The following content is based on the message on 11/29/20 at New City Church in Phoenix, AZ. It is not meant to be a full synopsis, but rather a resource to help you analyze and apply the main ideas. To use this devotional effectively, please listen to the message found at <http://newcityphx.com/sermons/>.

MONDAY // THE LAST HOUR

Read 1 John 2:18. John says that it is the “last hour.” He wrote this in the first century. You might say that it’s been a long last hour. This is a spiritual “last hour” which probably refers to: the time between Jesus’ first and second coming. At Jesus’ second coming it will be the fulfillment of all time. It will be the final redemption and salvation. In this “last hour,” there will be signs that show us that the final redemption is coming. John tells us that one of the sure signs of the last days is that there will be antichrists. What the apostles warned of is now being fulfilled.

The spirit of the antichrist is present in the world—not just John’s world, but our world too!

- *Why do you think it John uses words like “last hour” and antichrist?*
- *Why is it important to be aware of both the coming of Jesus and those who are against Jesus?*
- *Set a timer and reflect on the trustworthiness of Jesus coming back for you.*

TUESDAY // ANTICHRISTS STRAYED FROM THE CHURCH

Read 1 John 2:19. Some people have different ideas of an antichrist. So what are traits of an antichrist? John gives us a few. Here is the first one: antichrists stray from the church. These antichrists were a part of the church. They hung around the church. But they left—they did not continue in fellowship. This may seem strange because people leave churches all the time. John is not necessarily referring to someone changing churches. Ultimately he is referring to a character trait of one who denies fellowship with those who confess that Jesus is the Christ. They deny that Jesus is the Savior.

Antichrists stray from the church.

- *How could those who stray away from the fellowship of the church begin to stray away from following Jesus?*
- *Set a timer. Use this time to reflect on how Jesus is building His Church through people.*

WEDNESDAY // STRAYING AND LEADING AWAY

Read 1 John 2:22-23 and 2 John 7. John tells us that more about antichrists. They aren’t people who just decided to leave the church. They also are people who strayed

from the truth about Jesus. They don’t believe foundational principles about Jesus and they lead other people away from Jesus. Antichrists deny that Jesus is the Christ. They deny that Jesus was ever God or ever human. They deny that Jesus is who he said he was. By definition, they are anti-Christ. However, many people deny Jesus. The people to whom John are referring to also lead people away from Jesus.

Antichrists try to deceive others from following Jesus.

- *How have you seen someone disbelieving truth about Jesus lead that person to lead others astray?*
- *Set a timer. Use this time to reflect on how Jesus treated those who denied Him, like the apostle Peter.*

THURSDAY // KNOWLEDGE AND THE HOLY SPIRIT

Read 1 John 2:20-21, 24. We have to be aware of these antichrists. We must be able to defend ourselves and our church from these people who would try to deceive us. John tells the church that they already possess two things which will prevent them from falling into the trap of false teaching—knowledge of God’s words and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Abiding in the Word of God enables us to abide in God. The moment you place your trust in Jesus, you receive the Holy Spirit. He dwells in us, teaches us, guides us, illuminates the truth in us. He helps us comprehend difficult spiritual truths.

Knowledge of truth and abiding in the Holy Spirit remind us of our relationship with God.

- *How has the Holy Spirit brought to your mind the truth about Jesus in moments when you most needed it?*
- *Set a timer and reflect on how the Holy Spirit—the God of the universe—is currently indwelling you.*

FRIDAY // ETERNAL LIFE NOW

Read John 17:3. Abiding in our relationship with the Father leads us to eternal life. But eternal life doesn’t just start after we die. Eternal life begins now. We can know Jesus and the Father right now. When we abide in Jesus, we get eternal life, which is perfect abiding in Jesus. The reward of a life spent following Jesus is getting more Jesus. We will be able to see Jesus more clearly. We will get to know Jesus more fully. Our sin will no longer cloud our hearts and our minds. This is what we get to look forward to, but we also get to experience it today.

We get a taste of eternal life today when we abide in Jesus.

- *How can you have confidence that you can rest in Jesus today?*
- *Set a timer. Use this time to rest in the presence of Jesus.*