



“Dear Children, It Is the Last Hour”

1 John 2:18-19

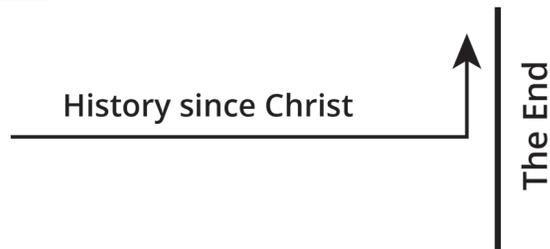
Sunday | January 7th, 2018 | Pastor Patrick Bowler

CONSULT THE SCRIPTURES

1 John 2:18-19

(See also 2 John 7-8; Acts 20:28-31; Gal. 1:6-9; John 8:31-47; 2 Pet. 3:8-10; 1 Pet. 1:10-12; 2 Tim. 3:1-5; James 5:1-6; 2 Pet. 3:1-8; Mark 13:32-36)

CONSULT THE SCHOLARS



[J. H. Newman] “[It] has (if I may so speak) altered its direction, as regards His second coming, and runs, not towards the end, but along it, and on the brink of it; and is at all times near the great event, which, did it run towards it, it would at once run into. Christ, then, is ever at our doors.”¹

DISCUSS

1. Howard Marshall wrote, “*Today’s heresy may well become tomorrow’s orthodoxy.*”² What does that mean and how does it relate to the idea of spiritual drift (See Heb. 2:1)?
2. As a refresher, what is John’s big concern throughout his first letter to his “*be-loved children?*” (See 1 Jn. 1:1-4, 2:265:13, 20)
3. Read 1 John 2:18. What images come to mind when you read “*the last hour*” or “*the antichrist?*” Pastor Patrick cited Martyn Lloyd-Jones, saying that on the subject of biblical prophecy and the end times we should approach it “*with humility, with caution, and with reverence.*” Why is that so important with regards to this particular topic?
4. Using the illustration above, how did Newman define “*the last hour?*” How does his analogy address both the amount of time that has passed since Christ’s ascension and the biblical sense of urgency with regard to Christ’s return? Does his analogy help? If so, how?
5. What was John’s point in referencing “*the antichrist?*” Is John talking about the end times?
6. Pastor Patrick mentioned that there are really only two kingdoms, two families (see John 8:31-47). How does that relate to John’s point in 1 Jn. 2:18-19 (and the rest of 1 Jn. for that matter)?
7. Read Mark 13:32-36. What does it mean to “*stay awake?*” What might this mean for us practically?

¹Cited by I. Howard Marshall, *The New International Commentary on the New Testament: The Epistles of John* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Pub., 1978), p. 149. (NOTE: Both Marshall [re: quote] and Burge [above illustration] cited Newman analogy)

²I. Howard Marshall, *The New International Commentary on the New Testament: The Epistles of John* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Pub. Co., 1978), p. 74