

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: Living in the Last Days

SERMON REFERENCE: 1 John 2:18-29

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #2112

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) Education is costly, but ignorance will cost you far more.
 - i) No child of God can afford to be ignorant in these dynamic days in which we're living.
- b) Many feel that history as we know it is headed for a climax.
 - i) If this is true, then the time is ripe for the appearance of a person the Bible calls the Antichrist.
- c) The Bible says that perilous times will come, and those times are here.
 - i) 2 Timothy 3:1
 - ii) The days are numbered, and we need to be ready.
- d) There are several reasons why we need to be ready:
 - i) The intercession factor
 - (1) We need to be praying for this world and this generation.
 - ii) The soul-winning factor
 - (1) If we're living for this world only, then all we are doing is rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic.
 - (2) We need to get people into the lifeboats by introducing them to Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior.
 - iii) The family preparation factor
 - (1) Living in the last days is dangerous.
 - (2) We need to instill values and truths into the hearts, minds and lives of our children and grandchildren.
 - iv) The comfort factor
 - (1) We don't go around wringing our hands and worrying when we know what the Bible says.
 - (2) We don't ask, "What is this world coming to?"
 - (a) We say, "Look who's coming to the world."
 - (b) We understand that Jesus Christ is coming again.
- e) 1 John 2:18-23
- f) In today's message, we will learn more about the time, the tyrant and the triumph.

2) THE TIME IS THE LAST DAYS – BE AWAKE (1 JOHN 2:18)

- a) We are living in the last days, and we need to be awake.
- b) 1 John 2:18
 - i) "The last time" may literally be translated "the last hour."
 - (1) Ever since Jesus Christ ascended into glory, it has been the last time.
- c) The Old Testament (the former time) was preparing for the coming of Jesus Christ.
- d) After the death, burial, resurrection and ascension of the Lord Jesus Christ, we entered into a period of time called "the last time."
 - i) From the time that Jesus ascended until the time that He comes back is known as "the last time," "the last hour."
 - (1) Any time in this interval, Jesus Christ could come again.

- ii) All Christians from the time of John to this time are to be living with the expectancy that Jesus may come at any moment.
- iii) We are not moving toward the last days, but we're living on the edge of the last days.
- e) The second coming of Jesus Christ is imminent.
 - i) We're not waiting for any sign.
 - ii) There is no event in history that we are waiting for.
 - iii) We are on the very edge and the very brink of His coming; therefore, we should be yearning and not yawning.
 - iv) We should be ready for the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- f) There are signs of the times, but these are not the times of the signs.
 - i) The coming of the Lord Jesus Christ will be in two stages:
 - (1) The Lord Jesus comes for His church.
 - (a) This is the rapture.
 - (i) We will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air.
 - (ii) This will be suddenly, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye.
 - (b) Then, there will be the Great Tribulation here on this Earth.
 - (2) Then, Jesus Christ will come back with His saints to rule and to reign for 1,000 years.
 - (a) This is called the Millennium.
 - ii) The rapture has no signs and could happen at any moment.
 - iii) There are many signs for the revelation, when Jesus Christ comes back in glory and power with His saints (not for His saints).
- g) We can read the signs of the times, and there is an intensity that foreshadows the coming of Christ.
 - i) Coming events cast their shadows ahead of time.
 - ii) If Jesus Christ could have come back in John's day, then how much more should we be ready in these days when we see those signs that are gathering and coming.
- h) The Lord Jesus Christ may come at any moment.
 - i) 1 Thessalonians 1:10
 - (1) The Apostle Paul told these early Christians to wait for Jesus.
 - (2) The word "wait" here is a present infinitive, which means to be constantly waiting.
 - ii) Philippians 3:20
 - (1) The word "conversation" here means "behavior."
 - (2) The people in Philippi were to be looking for the Savior.
 - (a) The Lord Jesus had already come in redemption, but they were waiting for Him to come in rapture.
 - iii) 1 Corinthians 1:7
 - iv) Hebrews 9:28
 - v) We are to be:
 - (1) Learning of His coming.
 - (2) Living for His coming.

- (3) Longing for His coming.
 - (4) Looking for His coming.
 - i) Titus 2:13
 - i) Look for Jesus.
 - (1) We're not looking for some event.
 - (2) We're not looking for the Antichrist to appear.
 - (3) We're not looking for earthquakes, famines, etc.
 - (4) We're looking for Jesus.
 - j) 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17
 - k) Matthew 24:44
- 3) THE TYRANT IS THE COMING ANTICHRIST – BE AWARE (1 JOHN 2:18-19)
- a) The Antichrist is coming, and we need to be aware.
 - b) 1 John 2:18
 - c) There is a world ruler who is waiting in the wings, ready to step onto center stage.
 - i) His title is “Antichrist.”
 - ii) The Bible describes the Antichrist in many ways, but John is the only one who calls him “Antichrist.”
 - d) The Antichrist has many aliases:
 - i) The son of perdition
 - ii) The man of sin
 - iii) The wicked one
 - iv) The lawless one
 - v) The beast
 - vi) The Antichrist
 - e) 2 Thessalonians 2:3
 - i) This man is so wicked that he is literally called “the man of sin.”
 - (1) This speaks of his character.
 - ii) In other translations, he is called:
 - (1) “The man of lawlessness”
 - (2) “The incarnation of wickedness”
 - (3) “The champion of wickedness”
 - (4) “Wickedness in human form”
 - iii) The Antichrist will be the epitome of evil.
 - iv) He is also called in this passage “the son of perdition.”
 - (1) “Perdition” means “judgment.”
 - (2) It speaks of the judgment that is awaiting him as he is going to be cast into the lake of fire.
 - f) Revelation 13:1
 - i) In this verse, he is referred to as “the beast.”
 - (1) This speaks of his cruelty and his fierce and ferocious nature that would devour, shred and tear.
 - g) The Apostle John calls him “the Antichrist.”

- i) The prefix “anti” has two meanings:
 - (1) “Against”
 - (2) “Instead of”
- ii) The Antichrist is coming against Christ by substituting himself for Christ and instead of Christ.
 - (1) He will come as the devil’s messiah.
 - (2) He is the one who opposes Christ.
- h) There are certain attributes of the Antichrist:
 - i) He is devilish.
 - (1) The Bible says that he opposes God and exalts himself above God.
 - (a) He is anti-Christ.
 - (2) When the Lord Jesus was here in the flesh, He could say, “He that hath seen Me hath seen the Father.”
 - (a) John 14:9
 - (b) Jesus was the visible expression of the invisible God.
 - (3) The Antichrist will be the visible expression of the invisible devil.
 - (a) As Jesus is to the Father, so the Antichrist will be to Satan.
 - (4) Satan desires worship, and he wants not only casualties but converts.
 - (a) He will receive that worship through his messiah.
 - ii) He is divisive.
 - (1) 1 John 2:19
 - (a) The Apostle John here is speaking of other antichrists.
 - (b) Almost all of these apostate cults began in the true church.
 - (i) These people were not truly saved.
 - 1. We have all seen people join our churches who have never received the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior.
 - (ii) They did not lose their salvation; they never had it.
 - (2) These anti-Christian cults are a fulfillment of Bible prophecy.
 - (a) It has not taken God by surprise.
 - (b) 1 Timothy 4:1
 - (3) We see these people today.
 - (a) They may not be leading antichrist movements, but they just fall away.
 - (i) They were not of us.
 - (ii) Had they been of us and had they had the Holy Spirit, then they would no doubt have continued with us.
 - iii) He is deceptive.
 - (1) 1 John 2:20-23, 26
 - (2) He is the master liar.
 - (a) He learns this from his father, the devil, who is a liar and the father of lies.
 - (3) He will deceive people primarily about who Jesus is.
 - (a) Antichrist is against us understanding who Jesus is.

- (b) The battle in every age and in every year always centers on the person and the work of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - (c) If we are wrong about Jesus, then it doesn't matter what we're right about.
 - (i) 1 John 2:22
 - (ii) If we are wrong about the Son, then we have missed the Father.
 - (4) 1 John 4:1-3
 - (5) 2 John 7-11
 - (a) If someone comes to your door and wants to give you religious literature or have a Bible study in your home, first find out what they believe about Jesus Christ.
 - (b) If they don't believe that Jesus is the Son of God and God the Son, co-equal and co-eternal with Almighty God, then witness to them and show them love, but don't let them in your home to propagate their beliefs.
 - (i) Don't lie to them and tell them that we are all headed toward the same place.
 1. They are not headed to Heaven if they don't know Jesus Christ.
 - iv) He is destructive.
 - (1) 1 John 2:24-25
 - (a) The implication is that a person who doesn't abide in the Word and continue in the Son and in the Father will miss eternal life.
 - (i) He or she will be everlastingly destroyed.
 - (2) Everlasting life does not mean eternal existence.
 - (a) We already have that.
 - (b) When God made us, we became a living soul.
 - (c) Our soul will be in existence somewhere when the sun, moon and stars have grown cold.
 - (3) We have everlasting existence, but what we need is everlasting life.
 - (a) Where will you spend eternity?
 - (4) The Antichrist wants to wreck, ruin and condemn your soul.
- 4) THE TRIUMPH IS THAT JESUS IS COMING – BE ABIDING (1 JOHN 2:24-28)
- a) Our Lord is on His way, and we need to be abiding.
 - b) 1 John 2:24
 - c) 1 John 2:27-28
 - d) When we are awake and aware, we then abide.
 - e) How are we to live in these last days?
 - i) We need to abide in the Word of God.
 - (1) 1 John 2:24
 - (a) The word “abide” means “to settle down,” “to be at home,” “to remain.”

- (2) Let the Word of God be at home in you and you at home in the Word of God.
 - (a) Learn to appreciate the Word of God.
 - (b) Learn to appropriate the Word of God.
 - (c) Learn to apply the Word of God.
- (3) The way we know the Father and the Son is through the Word of God.
- (4) We need to put the Word of God into the hearts and minds of our children and grandchildren.
 - (a) They're not going to get it just in Sunday school; we must do it.
- ii) We must abide in the Spirit of God.
 - (1) 1 John 2:27
 - (a) The Holy Spirit of God abides in us, and we abide in Him.
 - (b) The word "anointing" is also the word "charisma."
 - (2) 1 John 2:20
 - (a) The word "unction" in this verse is also the word "charisma."
 - (3) In the Old Testament when a prophet, priest or king was prepared for service, they would pour oil on him.
 - (a) This was called a christening, an anointing.
 - (b) The oil was an emblem, a symbol of the Holy Spirit.
 - (4) We are the New Testament prophets, priests and kings, and we have been anointed with the Holy Ghost.
 - (a) When we get saved, the Holy Spirit comes to abide in us; therefore, we need to abide in Him.
 - (b) He is resident in us, and we need to make Him president in us.
 - (5) In 1 John 2:27, it states that we don't need anyone to teach us.
 - (a) We need to understand the meaning of this passage.
 - (b) The Bible is not against human teachers.
 - (i) Ephesians 4:11-12
 - (c) The Bible is not against study.
 - (i) 2 Timothy 2:15
 - (d) But with all of this, we would never know apart from the Holy Spirit.
 - (e) It is the Holy Spirit of God who teaches us.
 - (i) John 14:26
 - (ii) He is the divine teacher who speaks to our hearts.
 - (f) Preachers can preach truth, but only the Holy Spirit of God can impart truth.
 - (i) He opens our understanding and helps us to know.
 - (6) If it were not for the Holy Spirit, the Antichrist would deceive the very elect.
 - (a) Matthew 24:24
 - (7) We have an unction from the Holy One.
 - (a) The Holy Spirit of God in our hearts is there to affirm the truth.

- (b) It is the Spirit of God who applies the Word of God, and both go together to reveal the Son of God.
- iii) We must abide in the Son of God.
 - (1) 1 John 2:28-29
 - (2) If the Word of God abides in us and we abide in it, and if the Spirit of God abides in us and we abide in Him, then the Son of God will be revealed in us; and we will be at home in Jesus, and Jesus will be at home with us.
 - (a) And when Jesus Christ comes, we will not be alarmed or frightened.
 - (i) We will meet Him with anticipation, boldness and gladness.
 - (b) If we are abiding in Him and obeying Him, then we will meet Him with boldness and joy.

5) CONCLUSION

- a) When the Antichrist comes, he will turn this world into a vast concentration camp.
- b) Do you know Jesus?
 - i) 1 Thessalonians 4:17
- c) Be awake, for the Antichrist is coming.
- d) Be aware, for our Lord is on His way.
- e) Be abiding.
 - i) Abide in the Word of God.
 - ii) Abide in the Spirit of God, for He is the inner teacher.
 - iii) Abide in the Son of God so that when He appears, you will have confidence and not be ashamed at His coming.
- f) Are you ready for the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ?
 - i) Are you saved?
- g) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- h) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16