

1 John 2:15-27

Verses 15-17

John has been encouraging his readers in the verses just before our section starts that they know God and have been forgiven by him. So this next section may be a bit surprising. How strong would you say John's warning is here?

How does v16 help us understand what he means by it?

Why does it matter so much?

Verses 18-27

Look at verses 18 -19. What does John say is to be expected in the last hour (the time between Jesus' first and second comings)? [Look at Matthew 24:4-5 and 23-24 for what Jesus had to say on this.]

Why is John telling his readers this?

How do those who have departed show that they are opposed to Christ? (See especially verses 19, 22 and 26.)

From the things that John highlights, what sorts of things might they have been teaching? Why might this have been attractive and/or unsettling for the Christians remaining in the church?

How does John combat their lies and assure his readers? (See especially v20, v24-25 and v27.)

Thinking it through

False teaching – denying the Lordship and salvation of Jesus – and worldly attitudes and priorities (v15-17) very often go together.

Think back over the passage. Why is the world and its priorities, even within our churches and Christian lives, so attractive? How might these things reveal themselves in the choices we make, in our priorities as a church? How can we find ways to remind one another of the foolishness of loving the world?

John tells us that there will be those whose teaching and priorities are opposed to Jesus even within bible believing churches. This may feel frightening, but in the face of false teaching what confidence can we as individual believers take from this passage?

Look again at v24. What will it look like for us to remain in the Son and in the Father (try to be practical here)?