

Royal Vision

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**FORGIVING
OTHERS**

THE LAST HOUR

ROYAL VISION

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About the cover New revelation from the epistles of John tells us that we have entered the "last hour" before Christ's return to this Earth (see article, p. 2). (Illustration by Steve Wilkins)

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Greetings, Brethren and Co-Workers! . . .

We have decided to call our new building the John Amos Field House. We thought about giving it another name, but none of the ideas seemed better than field house. Herbert W. Armstrong had a beautiful field house built on the Big Sandy college campus. So we believe that is an appropriate name.

However, God is far more concerned about how we *use* that inspiring structure. Anciently, God used the temple to serve all Israel spiritually. That nation set an *example* for the whole world—both good and bad. The purpose was to show the world how God would bless the nations, if they obeyed Him.

Today this building serves God's *spiritual* Israel—the Church. We also have a message that we make available to the world. In the process of doing this work, God is *preparing* His bride to teach the world in the near future. We will help Christ beautify and rebuild the Earth—much like what we are doing on the 160 acres.

The building is already paid for, and we have one last payment on the land next April. How God has blessed His Philadelphia Church, which started only 12 years ago!

Our local church meets in the field house each Sabbath. We also have two Bible studies a month there. Around 800 or 900 people will meet there annually for the Feast of Tabernacles. It's conceivable we may have public Bible lectures there. So this building helps us serve spiritually beyond what most people could imagine. The fruits already show that God's Spirit is flowing from there.

This building also serves a more focused educational purpose. Our Imperial College students have classes in this fabulous field house. They and our local people play basketball, volleyball and other games in the building. Almost all of our physically active people—boys, girls, men, women and even small children—are now playing basketball there each week. And SINCE IT IS GOD'S FIELD HOUSE, WE PLAY BALL GOD'S WAY. A big part of the sports education is manifesting God's attitude and character. There is no arguing with the referees. If any corrections need to be made, that can be done privately after the game. Saturday night basketball is a wonderful time to build our families. We encourage family participation. Small children play during the half-time at the games. It is all great family fun. The exercise strengthens our families physically.

We recently had a Sunday brunch for our senior citizens. They were inspired by the activity. All the members get involved in the activities that flow through this exciting new structure.

This is a powerful way to build God family *unity*. *Such family activities will soon fill the Earth and eventually have a vast impact on the universe!*

This field house is nothing without God's mind-dazzling vision! With this vision, God's Spirit is going to flow mightily. It is all starting with the firstfruits. A building can be used for life-enhancing goodness, or deadly evil. When God directs the building's use, it is hard to calculate the impact it will have for good.

The John Amos Field House has become the hub and center of most of our activities, apart from the administrative work. We educate our students to help us take this spirit into church areas around the world.

This building is giving our Church a more intense collective focus. This strengthens God's worldwide work. Our people know that God has given this building to each one of us. After all, God built it through them! And with God's help, our leaders will never betray the members' trust as the Worldwide Church of God leadership did.

Our young people around the world have more *hope* because of Imperial College and the Philadelphia Youth Camp plans for the new building. They see how important they are in God's master plan. All of our activities here remind me so much of Ambassador College in the past. And that is the way it should be.

God's firstfruits are going to help change and educate the world. This building and the 160 acres are a small type of our future work in the Millennium. We are *preparing* to build and beautify this Earth and the universe! It all starts infinitesimally small (Zech. 4:9-10). But when God is the Author, it grows to fill the galaxies!

THE SPIRIT OF GOD'S WORK THROUGH MR. ARMSTRONG HOVERS OVER OUR CHURCH LIKE THE FIERY CLOUD IN ANCIENT ISRAEL! We have a God-inspired *history* that must be remembered. That history gives us a vision into an eternal future of exhilarating joy for all mankind!



Gerald Flurry
Editor in Chief

THE EPISTLES OF JOHN

PART ONE

We Are in “the Last Hour”

On May 5, 2001, God signaled the beginning of a new phase in this rapidly fading age of man. This new phase is described in vivid detail by the Apostle John in his epistles. You need to understand this deeply to know how imminent Christ's return truly is!

BY GERALD FLURRY

JOHNSON WAS THE DISCIPLE “WHOM JESUS loved” (see John 13:23; 20:2; 21:7, 20). He was somehow more compatible in certain ways with Christ, and Christ could talk about the truth to John in a more profound way than He could with the other disciples. He was closer to Christ in understanding, it appears, because of this special relationship and his living so much longer than the other apostles. He received all kinds of truth and information from Christ that the other disciples did not—as is evidenced in his writings, his unique terms and phrases. Imagine the conversations between Jesus and John. What must Christ have told him?

Surely this revelation about the “last hour” was part of those discussions.

I John 2:18 in the Revised Standard Version (RSV) reads, “Children, *it is the*

last hour; and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come; therefore we know that *it is the last hour*.” *Last hour* is the correct translation of the Greek in that verse, rather than *last time*, as it reads in the King James Version.

When he wrote this epistle, John thought it was the “last hour” before Christ's Second Coming. But in fact, that was only a *type* of today. EVERY DETAIL OF WHAT JOHN WROTE IS NOW BEING FULFILLED! In A.D. 70 John experienced a *type* of the end time we now live in. This is PROPHECY for today! In speaking of the “last hour” of the last day, John was talking primarily about the end-time Philadelphians.

I believe the last hour BEGAN when God revealed this truth to the Philadelphia Church of God (PCG) on May 5. About four months later came the

September 11 terrorist attacks on the U.S. I also believe God gave or allowed us to receive this physical sign that we have entered the *last hour*. This powerfully reinforced our *new revelation* about the *last hour*.

We are now living in a *dramatically new* and far more dangerous time on this Earth. It will be the worst hour ever in man's history. The danger will acutely intensify until the hour is over. Thankfully, it will only last a very short time before Christ returns.

We Know It Is the Last Hour

The phrase “last hour” (Greek: *eschatos hora*) is used only in John's epistles. Christ likely talked about this at length with John. However, He didn't want him to know the time element until a few years later, when the book of Revelation was revealed. But

Christ did reveal what it would be like in this last hour. He wanted to get a message to us today that is critical as we prepare for His Second Coming.

ONCE THE LAST HOUR STRIKES, WE CAN BE ASSURED THAT AT THE END OF IT WILL BE CHRIST'S RETURN TO EARTH! That is how imminent this greatest of all events is. In God's mind, we are now less than *one hour* away from the Second Coming of Jesus Christ!

The antichrist subject also is discussed *only* in the epistles of John. It is discussed nowhere else in the Bible.

So where did these people hear about antichrist, as John mentioned? Probably from John himself, who no doubt heard it personally from Christ. Perhaps only John had this revealed to him, since he is the only person to write about it in the Bible.

"Children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come; *therefore we know that it is the last hour.*" JOHN IS TELLING US HOW TO KNOW IT IS THE LAST HOUR. Don't overlook this extremely critical point.

He continued, "THEY WENT OUT FROM US, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us ..." (1 John 2:19; RSV). The antichrists went out from us, he said. If they were of us, they would have continued—they would have gone right on doing "the continual," or the work of God, with us. (Our *Daniel* booklet explains the term "continual.") Have we witnessed anything like this in these end times?

The verse concludes, "but they went out, that it might be plain that they all are not of us." God wants to educate us about something. He wants to make it plain.

Is it plain? The Worldwide Church of God (WCG), after Mr. Armstrong's death, rejected his teachings and discontinued printing his writings, which were inspired by Jesus Christ. The WCG fights in court to destroy Mr. Armstrong's books and booklets—revelation from God! How many of the Laodicean churches rally to support our effort? None. Some of them even fight against us behind the scenes. The rest remain *neutral*.

Where are the defenders of the faith? God and all of His people will see who is who. The distinction between the inner and outer courts is becoming painfully clear. And God is judging every one of us (1 Pet. 4:17).

We didn't come out of them. They

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came out of us. We have difficulty getting the court to see this.

Is this only history, as some Bible commentaries state?

Antichrists Fight Christ

Consider how *urgent* John is about this. Having antichrists coming right out of God's own Church isn't something you would take casually. John is discussing *the* most serious matter, IN THE MIDDLE OF THE GRAVEST OF TIMES EVER TO THAT POINT. John thought it would all be fulfilled in his time. But it is specifically for now. We are about to see the worst time of suffering ever to come upon mankind—period. This is another indication that the first century is a *type* of the last century. What John is warning about here absolutely will happen. We cannot treat this warning lightly. It didn't come from John's mind—it came from CHRIST'S MIND!

HAVE WE SEEN PEOPLE FIGHTING CHRIST IN THIS END TIME? WE HAVE NEVER THOUGHT, BEFORE NOW, THAT THE ANTICHRISTS WOULD COME FROM WITHIN GOD'S CHURCH!

This is new revelation from God!

The PCG is in the midst of a terrible court battle over the right to print God's truth. It is an eternal-life and -death struggle. We have worked to continue right on with the work God gave Mr. Armstrong to do. We printed many of his books and booklets and began giving them away free of charge. And although the WCG clearly had no interest in that material other than to suppress it, they *sued* us over the rights to it!

The WCG leaders and members have shown by their actions that they were *not of us*. If they were, they would be PROCLAIMING those truths of Christ, not fighting against them!

At present, the WCG has succeeded in stopping our presses. In other words, all that wonderful revelation from Jesus Christ is *being* SUPPRESSED by

the very Church He raised up to proclaim and disseminate it! That is FIGHTING CHRIST. ANTI-CHRIST! All this has been made *abundantly plain* by their actions.

Some could look at the situation and say that many of them are neutral. But those who are neutral are still assisting Satan as he fights God. They make it easier for Satan to war against God's very elect.

THIS SPIRITUAL STRUGGLE, ACCORDING TO JOHN, IS THE PRIMARY BATTLE IN THE LAST HOUR!

God's very elect will be fighting Satan as he fights against Christ and His revelation. The court case gives a vivid illustration of the spirit of antichrist. We are FIGHTING FOR CHRIST! The Laodiceans are FIGHTING CHRIST! They are instruments in the hands of the devil. Those fighting FOR Christ have a real *battle* on their hands. THESE ANTICHRISTS ARE A SIGN FOR GOD'S PEOPLE THAT IT IS THE LAST HOUR!

These antichrists were once a part of Christ's body. They knew Christ, then left Him and started fighting against Him. That is what an antichrist is!

Remember what Mr. Armstrong said about *Mystery of the Ages*: "Since last December I have been working diligently on the largest and most important book in my life. In real fact, I feel I, myself, *did not write it*. Rather I believe God used me in writing it. I candidly feel it may be the most important book since the Bible." Christ was deeply involved with authoring *Mystery of the Ages*.

Now contrast that with what Joseph Tkach Jr. wrote: "We feel it is our Christian duty to keep this book [*Mystery of the Ages*] out of print ... because we believe Mr. Armstrong's doctrinal errors are better left out of circulation." That is exactly the way Satan thinks: He wants Christ's book locked up forever! That is ANTI-CHRIST!

Our court case with the WCG is the number-one sign of the antichrist war! But there are other signs. Christ's bride is at war!

We must clearly see this war raging between those fighting for Christ and those fighting against Him. And we must deeply know who represents Christ!

We are fighting the same war that Daniel fought in Daniel 10. Michael and Gabriel helped Daniel fight against Satan. God gives us support from the highest level. God's angels are led by

the most exalted archangels. Satan is leading his demons. It is a war for the minds of God's people. We must use God's power or lose that war!

II Thessalonians 2 describes a great falling away as being a sign of the end time (v. 3). Zechariah 3 shows that Joshua and his fellows are a sign (v. 8—"men wondered at" should be translated "men of sign") that we are astonishingly close to the end.

"Little children, it is the last [hour]: and as ye have heard that *antichrist* shall come ..." (1 John 2:18). This prophecy begins with *one* antichrist. The *Anchor Bible* says of that first antichrist, "Others are right in arguing for capitalization, for the author is thinking of a specific expectation"—*one man* who would fulfill that role—the Antichrist. This is the same man II Thessalonians 2:3 calls "the son of perdition," or *destruction!* He is destroying God's truth!

"They Were Not of Us"

I John 2:19 says the antichrists didn't *continue* with us. *Continue*, according to *Thayer's Lexicon*, means not to depart, to continue to be present, to maintain unbroken fellowship with one, to help one of the Holy Spirit. It speaks of one who cleaves, holds fast to a thing; it means not to perish, to last, to endure, to survive. *Strong's* defines it, to stay in a given state or relation, to abide, endure, remain.

God's Philadelphians have done all those things! We stayed right where we were. The antichrists did not. They went out from us. At that point, there was an inner court and an outer court (Rev. 11:1-2). And they didn't just go find another church. They began working their agenda—fighting Christ and trying to destroy the truth of God. When God calls them *anti-Christ*, that is just what He means! We must call them what they are. The term *antichrist* is the LANGUAGE OF WAR.

This is not an insignificant development in God's Church! This is SOUL SCORCHING! There is a *real spiritual war* going on among God's people! God wanted to make it PLAIN that they were NOT OF US! ALL of the Laodiceans are *not of us!* Could it be any plainer? They are not fighting for Christ; they don't even want most, if any, of the revelation of Christ! They left Christ, and now *many of them are fighting Him.*

IF THERE IS AN ANTICHRIST, SOMEONE MUST FIGHT FOR CHRIST, OR IT IS ALL OVER! So this war clearly shows that

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there is a "very elect" fighting for Christ and His revealed truth.

Herbert Armstrong showed us we were in "the latter days." Then God revealed to us when we entered the last era of God's Church—the Laodicean end. After that, God revealed more of Daniel's prophecy about "the last end" (Dan. 8). This was a time when God's truth was being "cast to the ground." Now God reveals "the last hour." Many of the Laodiceans are fighting against Christ—antichrists appear. These antichrists not only "cast down the truth to the ground," they fight against the very elect—the only defenders of God's truth! Antichrists indeed!

God is using the very elect to preserve His truth and way of life. AT THIS TIME, THE PHILADELPHIA CHURCH OF GOD IS THE ONLY CHURCH PREVENTING GOD'S TRUTH FROM BEING COMPLETELY DESTROYED!

Events are moving extremely fast. Christ is giving a *time countdown* in these latter days.

This battle truly reveals who is who. Nothing could be more plain.

Anointed by the Holy One

"But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and you all know" (1 John 2:20, RSV). Do you have God's Holy Spirit? If you do, *you've been anointed by the Holy One!* And if you've remained loyal in this last hour, you must *know* what you are a part of.

The *Anchor Bible* explains the Old Testament counterpart to this anointing: "the description by Josephus of the mixing of oils and perfumes into a

'sweet-smelling *chrisma*' for the anointing of priests."

The *International Critical Commentary* states, "Anointing was the characteristic ceremony of consecrating to an office, and of furnishing the candidate with the power necessary for its administration. It is used of *priests* Those who were so consecrated were regarded as thereby endowed with the Holy Spirit, and with divine gifts."

If you are one of God's Philadelphians, that is talking about YOU! God's Philadelphians have been anointed *king-priests*. This world is falling apart, and God needs a righteous government to take its place soon. That is why God anointed His Philadelphians—they truly are going to rule this world!

The tragedy is that the Laodiceans were anointed too. But are they preparing to be kings and priests right now? They have rebelled against that anointing.

In the King James, 1 John 2:20 reads, "But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and *ye know all things.*" How do we know ALL THINGS? Because *God* reveals these things to us as we need to know them! We can hardly keep up with the revelation we receive!

When we receive revelation, that comes from the HOLY ONE! He lets His kings and priests KNOW, because they fight for Him! He is the Head of the army. Though the whole world is in the dark (Rev. 12:9), there is a select few who know *all things*.

The Holy One lets us know it is right to fight for His revelation given to Mr. Armstrong. THE ANTICHRIST AND ANTICHRISTS FIGHT AGAINST THE HOLY ONE. What could be more deadly? We must *know* who the antichrists are! We must *know* who God's very elect is!

What is it worth to have the Holy One *anoint* you and then reveal *all things* to you?

The Liar

"I write to you, not because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and know that no lie is of the truth. Who is *the liar* but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is *the antichrist*, he who denies the Father and the Son" (1 John 2:21-22; RSV).

John is talking about "the liar." This is the son of perdition, or destruction—the Antichrist—the man of sin who was revealed in the great falling away or apostasy (II Thes. 2:3). He is an antichrist who

fighters against God's people and destroys God's truth.

II Thessalonians 2:4 describes this man as one "who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God." This is the liar who leads the great falling away from God's Church today.

Verses 8-9 show that this man does his work by the power of Satan. So you could say this is a war between Satan and God. Satan has his army, God has His. *The liar* is standing up and representing the devil in this last hour! Identifying this man is not the issue here—the issue is, *will you stand up and fight him?*

People are perishing because of the deception that comes from failing to love the truth (v. 10). How much do you love the truth? How much do you love *Mystery of the Ages* and Mr. Armstrong's other books? YOU WILL HAVE TO FIGHT THE LIAR TO PROVE THAT TO GOD!

"And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe [the] lie" (v. 11). IT SHOULD READ "THE LIE," BECAUSE IT'S COMING FROM THE LIAR, SATAN'S MAN. "The lie" is Satan foisting himself off as God. At the very least, the Laodiceans don't see the devil for who he is.

The *Anchor Bible* states, "Thus it is perfectly possible that 'the Antichrist,' 'the Liar,' and 'the Iniquitous One' [or the lawless one], were current titles for the anticipated opponent of the last times." John also calls him a "deceiver" (II John 7).

Denying the Father and the Son

When I John 2:22 says that this liar *denies* the Father and the Son, it means he REJECTS them. He has rejected Christ, and He is fighting Christ!

We must fight back, for Christ, against Satan and HIS LIAR! God will reward His anointed ones for doing that.

The word *denies* carries a much heavier meaning in the Greek than in the English. It means that the antichrists have DESERTED CHRIST'S CAUSE, as *Thayer's* defines it. It also refers to "those who by cherishing and disseminating pernicious opinions and immorality are adjudged to have apostatized from God." To deny means "to renounce a thing, to forsake it."

These people have forsaken God—the God who taught them about *Mystery of the Ages* and all the other writings of Mr. Armstrong. You can't

The word *denieth* carries a much heavier meaning in the Greek than in the English. It means that the antichrists have deserted Christ's cause. The Laodiceans don't honor their Father as the Son did! Christ came to this Earth to declare the Father!

forsake God if you never knew Him.

Who, in the end time, taught us about "the Father and the Son"? Who taught us about the family of God? These people don't want the family of God. They don't want the Father to rule them.

The Father is mentioned first. He is the Head of the family. These antichrists were taught extensively about God's family. God's people were given an incredibly profound understanding of God the Father and His family plan. "The Father and the Son" is the fullest expression of the Godhead.

WE MUST HAMMER THIS POINT HOME. This is where the Laodiceans have failed. They don't honor their Father as the Son did! (Mal. 1:6). CHRIST CAME TO THIS EARTH TO DECLARE THE FATHER! (John 1:18).

The world has never understood these precious truths about "the Father and the Son"—only God's people have. Everything revolves around this awe-inspiring truth. (Write for my new book, *The God Family Vision*. It's free.)

This is at the heart of where Satan always attacks! Any physical father can relate to what a deep wound a son's betrayal would be. That is what these antichrists have done. They betrayed God and then fought against their Father! If they have not committed blasphemy against God, they are frighteningly close!

Thankfully, God does not forsake them. He will never turn His back on us. He will keep nudging us, warning us, trying to wake us up. He will always leave the door open for us. We

are the ones who do the forsaking.

"For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come [coming, it should read] in the flesh. *This is a deceiver and an antichrist*" (II John 7). Jesus Christ is coming in the flesh—meaning He lives in His anointed ones today. If we have Christ living in us, then we can avoid this kind of deception and delusion.

I John 4:3 states, "And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is [coming] in the flesh is not of God: and this is that SPIRIT OF ANTICHRIST, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world."

Of course, the "spirit of antichrist" is in the world, because Satan deceives the whole world (Rev. 12:9). But John is warning of the spirit of antichrist INSIDE GOD'S CHURCH!

One of the leading Laodicean evangelists said that *Christ doesn't directly lead His Church as we believed in the past*. He is saying Christ didn't directly lead Mr. Armstrong, who led God's Church, even though Mr. Armstrong had a Church income of around \$200 million annually—a gigantic work.

That is another way of saying Christ is *not coming in the flesh*, or Christ didn't live in and directly lead Mr. Armstrong.

In his first sermon after Mr. Armstrong died, Joseph Tkach Sr. said, "In the synoptic gospels, our commission is clearly stated, which just means a general view of our responsibilities. Turn to Matthew 28. Here we're told in verse 19 to 'Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.' Our commission here is directly from Christ. We are an extension of the early New Testament Church who never did complete the commission."

That is incorrect. They DID complete their commission. The *Laodiceans* don't complete THEIR commission. Mr. Armstrong had always stated that the Church's commission was Matthew 24:14—to preach the gospel in all the world. Is it not significant that a plotting Satan the devil, through this man, changed the commission of the Church immediately after the death of God's apostle?

CHRIST'S WORK WAS BEING OVERTHROWN. That is the *spirit of antichrist!*

"Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: [but] he that

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One last solution to problems concentrating or staying awake is to get tough with yourself.

I believe the *Good News* explained this point very well: "Apply some of the principles of the seven laws of success to your prayer life. Have a definite goal in mind when you begin. Then stick to your prayer and *don't give up* until you know you have actually prayed TO GOD—not just to the ceiling, the floor, or to yourself—and your prayers HAVE BEEN HEARD! *Force yourself to get down on your knees and stay on them until you have accomplished what you set out to do!* ...

"The Bible shows us that the Kingdom of God will be turned over only to those who are forceful and driving in fulfilling God's will! Wishy-washy, irresolute quitters won't make it! Turn your natural carnal stubbornness in the right direction and *prevail in prayer!*" (Jan.-Feb. 1972).

I remember the time when I got so frustrated with my lack of concentration that I determined to break the bad habit once and for all. Before kneeling down to pray, I would take care of any potential distractions. Then I would set the timer on my watch, get down on my knees, and force myself not to get up until one hour had passed. I got tough with myself—but it didn't take too many of such sessions before I noticed dramatic improvement in my ability to concentrate on my prayers.

Christ set the perfect example in this respect. Read Matthew 26:36-44. This was the night before His crucifixion, when He was under a tremendous amount of mental strain. He earnestly prayed for an hour. Then, as if realizing He needed more, He did it again. That same night He then prayed for yet a third hour—even though the content of what He said was the same.

That is real persistence! That is *breaking through to God*, being sure that His prayers were having the proper effect! What an example.

As you struggle to improve your prayers, you will face problems. Christ is well aware of the difficulties. That final evening of His human life, He said, "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: *the spirit indeed is willing, but THE FLESH IS WEAK*" (v. 41). But determine, as He did, to find a way around whatever obstacle you face. Don't give up until you've placed your prayer life right up at the very top of your priorities!

The blessings that follow will abundantly pay back your efforts! ❖

HOUR from page 5

acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also. Let that therefore abide in you, which ye have heard from the beginning. If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall CONTINUE in the Son, and in the Father" (1 John 2:23-24).

It is so simple, if we will just let what we have heard from the beginning abide in us. It is so simple if we just do the continual. John keeps mentioning "the beginning," because God will hold His people accountable for those things they have been taught—their history.

Though John was off with the timing of the last hour, he was right about every other detail. He did not *speculate* about these details. He received them straight from Jesus Christ.

Eternal Life in God's Family

Verse 25: "And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life." We *have* eternal life. John recorded Christ as saying that in John 6:47. That is the crux of everything we do: It is not about an earthly work or a physical college, but about eternal life!

John says we must watch out for seducers (v. 26), but in verse 27, he confirms: "But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the SAME ANOINTING teacheth you of ALL THINGS, and is TRUTH, and is *no lie*, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him."

This is the second time John has mentioned this "anointing." Use the anointing, the Holy Spirit, to follow Jesus Christ—not any man. Let Christ give you leadership and eternal life. If

John loves this expression "born of God"; he keeps using it all through his writings. We are going to be born as God's sons. We will then be God!

you do, you *have* it—IT IS YOURS!

Notice: This anointing abides in us—it is *the anointing* that taught us all things. We know that Mr. Armstrong restored all things (Matt. 17:10-11). Those things should ABIDE IN US. All the revelation we have received since Mr. Armstrong died should ABIDE IN US as well.

"And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming" (1 John 2:28). "He shall appear" soon! It is the last hour. That should motivate us more. Because what will happen to those anointed ones at Christ's return? "If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness IS BORN OF HIM" (v. 29).

John keeps focusing on eternal life, the love and family of God—being BORN into that family. It is obvious HOW MUCH JOHN LOVES THIS EXPRESSION "BORN OF GOD," because he keeps using it all through his writings. WE ARE GOING TO BE BORN AS GOD'S SONS. WE WILL THEN BE GOD! This is the deepest truth in the Bible.

He continues on with this thought in the next verses: "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure" (1 John 3:1-3).

THIS VISION—OF BEING BORN INTO GOD'S FAMILY, OF BEING CALLED THE SONS OF GOD, OF SEEING GOD AS HE IS—CAN GET US THROUGH ANY TRIAL AND TEST! We can cope with the dreadful time of "no more delay." This is the vision that will prod us to PURIFY ourselves as Christ is pure. This is what awaits us at the end of the last hour if we become pure.

After the last hour, not only will Christ return, but we will be born into the family of God. For us, there will be no more pain, suffering or problems, because we'll be members of God's family for all eternity.

Meanwhile, GOD HAS GIVEN US THIS NEW REVELATION SO WE CAN KEEP TRACK OF TIME—so we can motivate ourselves and always be mindful that we are now in this last hour. ❖