**Lessons from a Lockdown**

**Volume II**

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**Day 67**

**1 John 2:18-27**

Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know it is the last hour. They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us; but their going showed that none of them belonged to us.

But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth. I do not write to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it and because no lie comes from the truth. Who is the liar? It is whoever denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a person is the antichrist—denying the Father and the Son. No one who denies the Son has the Father; whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also.

As for you, see that what you have heard from the beginning remains in you. If it does, you also will remain in the Son and in the Father. And this is what he promised us—eternal life.

I am writing these things to you about those who are trying to lead you astray. As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit—just as it has taught you, remain in him.

***Questions for Personal Reflection:***

1. Why is it a serious matter to deny Jesus is the Christ?
2. What is the Holy Spirit teaching me?
3. Why is it important for me to remember that I know the truth?
4. How do I remain in Jesus?
5. If we are living in the “last hour” am I prepared for end? Why?

***Insight:***

The antichrist is the person who denies that Jesus is the Christ. When someone denies Jesus, they deny the Father as well. John also says that the antichrist is the one who does not acknowledge that Jesus has come in the flesh (2 John 7). A biblical view of Jesus is non-negotiable. We need to make sure that our own personal convictions about Jesus accurately reflects what the Word of God says. We cannot simply assume that what we have always believed is true without comparing what we believe with the Word of God. Sincerely believing in Jesus is not enough if what we believe is contrary to what the Bible says. People can be sincerely wrong.

In John’s letter, the antichrists were former members of the church. Even Paul warned the Ephesian elders that from their own number some will rise and distort the truth “in order to draw disciples after them.” There may be people who will try to persuade us to leave the church and follow them or be like them. The enticement may be in the form of sin or false doctrine. In any case it will be an appeal to our sinful nature so that it should be easy to identify. But what makes it difficult to resist is the fact that those who entice us may be former members of the church we have a close relationship with. They may even be charismatic leaders. But we should never give in to them.

John said that the disciples had an anointing from the Holy One. The anointing may be referring to the Holy Spirit or at least the knowledge that the Holy Spirit gives us. Because of this anointing, we know the truth and it teaches us all things. Although we know the truth, sometimes we are tempted to doubt what we believe in because majority of the people in the world believe or teach otherwise. But truth is not a popularity contest.

Sometimes we doubt what we know because there are difficult passages of scripture we cannot explain. There are some verses of scripture we may not fully comprehend. There will be things we don’t understand. But we know enough to be disciples of Jesus and that is what matters. As long as we understand the core doctrine – how a person comes to a relationship with God, the fact that we can’t explain peripheral matters should not affect our faith. So let us not feel insecure when other people seem to know more than we do. As long as we know what matters, and put into practice the Word of God, there is no reason for us to feel insecure. But we must see to it that what we have heard from the beginning remains in us. Are we still putting into practice everything we have learned – from the First Principles until now?

John said they were in the “last hour.” Douglas Jacoby explains the meaning of the term is “difficult to pin down.” He explains that it could refer to the end of the world or the end of Jerusalem or the final hour alluded to in the Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard (Matthew 20:12), or Paul’s prophecy (2 Timothy 4:3) or Jesus’ oracle. We may not know exactly what the “last hour” means but the point John is trying to make is clear. A disciple needs to be always ready for the end or the trials to come.

This pandemic we are experiencing is something most of us have never seen. If the virus continues to spread and no vaccine is made available, we may be facing more troubles ahead. Are we prepared?

Let us hold on to the truth and be prepared so that we will not be led astray.