

## The Last Days, the Last Hour

1 Jn 2:18 — John saw the last days, the last hour. We can see by this that the church failed to produce the fruit of the Kingdom (Mt 21:43; 24:14). Rev 11:15 was put off, it went in abeyance, as well as 1 Pet 2:9. Christianity was the outcome or outgrowth of the failure of the each part as Eph 4:15-16 says. Verse 14, however, was not stopped. They were still infants (1 Cor 3:1). False apostles were on the rise (1 Jn 2:18; 2 Cor 11:3,4,13-15; Eph 4:14). If they had obeyed Eph 4:15 or verse 13 the church would not have fallen, but love was lacking (Rev 2:4).

Acts 20:28-30 was the state of the Ephesians (Eph 6:24; Rev 2:4). Eph 4:17 became their state, as it is today (Rev 18:2-5). So, right up to the last hours, before the church was filled with false workers, Eph 4:14 was never dealt with. But those men filled the ranks of the Christian church. The love of the Ephesians (Rev 2:4) was not as Jn 13:34-35. They had not obeyed 1 Jn 2:7-8. Jn 5:24 was not authenticated by 1 Jn 3:14,23.

1 Jn 2:18 — The few overcomers were waiting for the return of Messiah. This is John's writing. Remember John (Jn 21:22), “If I want him to live until I return, what is that to you? You follow me.” John may have concluded that he was going to live until He returned. The rumor spread that John would not die. But He said, “If I want him to live and not die...” The early church, as 1 Ths 4:15 and 17 seem to indicate, based on Heb 10:13 and Dan 2:44 and Mt 21:43 and 24:14 and Isa 49:6, that Isa 49:6 must be the fulfillment of the restoration spoken of in Acts 3:21 and Mal 4:6, etc. So, the book of Daniel was not opened up in those days (Dan 12:9-10). So if they could read they may have thought that it was the time of the end. Jn 21:22-23 is a direct quotation from His mouth that He will return, but Isa 53:10, Mt 24:14, and Isa 59:21 all tie the first generation to the third and fourth generation.

So, Christianity began in the first century. The first (church) community failed because it failed to make up that corporate reality of Eph 4:16, which can only come about when all are obedient to love and good deeds, to loving as Jn 13:34. Being zealous for good works (Eph 2:10

*and* Eph 4:12) is doing these works *and* equipping the saints to do their good works. Eph 4:13 — Until we all reach maturity, corporately attaining to the whole measure of the fulness of Messiah.

Eph 4:14 — Something they never attained to, and even today this is the same story, but it waits until verse 15 so verse 16 can come about, if every part does its work. Acts 2:42 waits to be renewed. This is why each person is chosen (Eph 1:4) to be blameless in His sight. 1 Jn 3:22-23 means we are to live in Him (1 Jn 3:6). Eph 1:11 — We have been chosen to fulfill His plan, by doing Eph 2:10. We have been chosen to do good works, and Eph 4:12 is how we do them orderly within the Body, the Community, so that Eph 4:16 can be done. It is progressive from Eph 4:11 to 12 to 13, so we won't be like verse 14 — this is restoration from Christianity, which had its beginnings there, in verse 14 (2 Cor 11:3,4,13-15; Acts 20:28-30; 2 Tim 2:26).

Col 2:19 says we are finally to grow with a growth from God if everyone who was chosen (like Abraham, Gal 3:16,29) would do their part being blameless in doing those works, their part (Eph 2:10; 4:16). Then the whole Body would not fail — but the Body is just as good as its FAILING PARTS. This is why we do Heb 3:13, so Heb 3:6 will stand and the house would not be forsaken (Heb 10:24 and 12:15).

Eph 5:6 — says the wrath of God comes upon the disobedient those who are disobedient (verse 12).