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Little Children, it is the Last Hour

This is prophecy, I John 2:18, "Children, it is the last hour, and just as you have heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have arisen; from this we know it is the last hour." It is addressed to the writer's little children (I John 2:1), his beloved (I John 4:1), for the purpose of I John 5:13 - to give assurance of eternal life to those who believe in the name of the Son of God. Just like I John 3:14, 23 gives assurance to those who believe (John 5:24). So if one is not laying down his life for his brothers with whom he must share a common life, he will not have the assurance that he has eternal life, that he has passed out of death into life.

The reason he wrote this epistle is obvious as I John 2:4; 1:6; 2:13-15; 4:20; 4:7-8; 3:9; etc. Gnosticism was the beginning of the religion called *Christianity* at the turn of the first century. So I John 2:18 was and is a future prophecy of when this new religion, which was known as Gnosticism, would have had its opportunity to grow up for 1900 years. That's why he said, "It is the last hour." If it is not prophecy, then the writer of the epistle is a false prophet, or gave a false prophecy.

Gnosticism is a word derived from the Greek *gnosis*, meaning *knowledge*, which was no more than mental enlightenment. The very same *gnosis* that all Christians are converted by today. Christianity, like most other religions, provides a mental enlightenment to their converts. All Christians adhere to a mental belief in the essential gospel, as expressed in I Corinthians 15:1-5. This same Paul wrote by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit in Romans 10:8-17 that salvation must be acquired by the confession from the heart which believes the essential and necessary truths. He wrote exactly how true faith comes - to believe in the heart and to make the confession that seals one who hears and receives the faith to obey the gospel (Ephesians 1:13).

Romans 10:9 refutes any *gnosis* in the mental or intellectual realm. Christianity goes to great lengths to convince one of the resurrection, or the authenticity of Christ, and all the facts about Him, so one can come to grasp it with mental apprehension. When faith comes from one sent by God, through whom Messiah speaks (Romans 10:17), thereby the heart believes (Romans 10:8-10).

The word *believe* (*pisteuo* in Greek) is more than *gnosis* or credence in church doctrines, or articles of faith. Rather, it is as James 2:14 dealt with in the second century, a faith that produces obedience, especially Luke 14:33, or Mark 10:29-30; Matthew 10:37; and Luke 14:26. This kind of obedience to these commandments was to be tantamount to true faith. To believe is to make confession of His sovereignty (Luke 14:31-33; Romans 10:9) from the heart (verse 10). Romans 10:16 documents that the gospel is to be obeyed, and the gospel is Yahshua's Word, Yahshua Himself (John 3:36; Acts 5:32; Hebrews 5:9; etc.).

The gospel of peace (Luke 14:31-33; Romans 10:15; John 7:18; John 13:20; Luke 10:16) produces John 17:18, 20 - with the result of verse 21. The true God is light, and in Him there is no darkness (I John 1:5-6). The writer of I John writes to give assurance to the true believers, while refuting those who only had a *gnosis* (I John 2:4, 5, 15-17, etc., as in I John

3:14). *Gnosis* could not produce the fruit of the Spirit, since the Spirit is not, and could not be imparted by mental apprehension only.

The Christian world has not and cannot produce the fruit of the kingdom (Matthew 21:43) any more than their apostate counterpart Judaism could. I John 2:20, 27 speaks of the *anointing* teaches us all we need to know to prepare us to be His bride (I John 2:28), in anticipation of His return (2 Timothy 4:8, Hebrews 9:28; I John 2:19).

So in the last hour we can expect what is in abeyance here to come about. Then as Matthew 24:10-12 will come about, even as Daniel 12:10 speaks of the wicked who do not understand. They do not understand spiritually, but only mentally. They always had a hard time believing and expressing love and praise for our Master as Psalm 116:1, 2, 12-19.

Gnostic believers loved the world and the things in the world. They had a hard time resisting them, because Romans 5:5 never had a reality to them in their heart. They could only understand with their mind - as I John 2:15 says "...because the love of the Father is not in them."

In the last hour (2 Thessalonians 2:3-9). Acts 2:17 will come about in the again. Hebrews 1:2 - He will again speak by His Son. I Peter 1:20 - These last times were inaugurated by His first coming to begin these last days, but I John 2:18 is the last hour. When our Master spoke of in the last generation in Matthew 24:34 He knew He was speaking about Isaiah 53:10. But He was a prophet, so He prophesied in Matthew 24:34 about His offspring who would carry out His purpose that He died to accomplish (Isaiah 49:6; 52:15; 53:10-11) through His holy nation, His royal priesthood (I Peter 2:9).

Gnostics are in the darkness. Disciples are in the light (I John 2:9-11; 3:10-23; 4:7-21).

The writer of this epistle (I John 1:1) is one who was very near to Yahshua while He was here on earth. This letter was written to a community where loving one another was the only way to exert and maintain a community. Without love there is no community (I John 3:23) and no salvation (John 13:34-35), and there are no disciples of His, and no salvation from Him.

I John 1:3; Acts 2:42 - Fellowship, *koinonia* (2842 Strong's) is distribution, sharing everything, oneness, partnership, participation in every social event and gathering. It is communion, the contribution of all things in common, distribution as Acts 4:34-35 to all who have need, so that there would be no needy among them (fulfilling our Father's heart for His people, Deuteronomy 15:4). This is what the first believers were devoted to. *Koinonia* - the individual does exactly what the gospel commands to prove faith (Mark 10:17-30; Luke 14:31-33). *Koinonia* shares all things in common (Acts 2:44-45). *Koinonia* - the disciple (Luke 14:33) who has become one shares in common all things, a communication of his every thing and possession. *Koinonia* cements the disciples to Yahshua and to one another. Acts 2:42 - they are devoted to the apostles teachings and *koinonia* as Acts 4:35. There would be no fellowship apart from *koinonia*. Matthew 28:18-20 They will be obedient to their commission to the last hour, to the end of this age (Matthew 24:14). To all nations - Isaiah 49:6.

Disciples are to confess openly His sovereignty (Romans 10:9) and their belief that God raised Him from the dead; this confession is from the heart. They are to confess their allegiance to Him by the seal of water baptism into His death and resurrection, under the authority of the entire Godhead, into the reality of the Godhead.
Matthew 28:20 - The content of apostles' teachings comes from what He commanded them. This is the cause of the first community in Jerusalem.