

Apply The Word

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Message Info

Title:

Keep Close to the Truth

Speaker:

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Date:

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Scriptures:

1 John 2:18-27

Theme: Keep close to the truth to hold fast in these hard days.

Introduction: People are fascinated with the idea of the end of the world, whether by alien invasion, or zombies, or by the return of Christ. Many books and movies have been created on the theme; but popularity has not produced clarity. There is much confusion about the end, which is contrary to God's intention. He has given us his word, which has marching orders for us, to help us to endure in faith to the end.

We are called to hold fast through 3 steps:

1. Stay alert (18-21)

John tells his readers that it is the last hour. From the time of Jesus to the end of the world is the last days.

During this time, we need to be alert to 3 things: a) the time—we are on the edge of eternity; b) the opposition—there are false brothers who will turn to evil; and c) your identity—we have confidence and assurance in Christ.

2. Stay sharp (22-23)

John serves the church by offering definition: the antichrist is whoever denies Christ, including distorting or diminishing him.

We need clarity as Christians to differentiate between wolves and shepherds. Much is at stake.

We must stand in the truth about Christ. Orthodoxy is life and heresy is death.

3. Stay calm (24-27)

John gives us perspective for this fight. There are dangers; but God has already given us two provisions for the battle.

We have: a) the Spirit's presence—we have communion with God and his transformative power; and b) the Spirit's teaching—we have God's word, to believe and obey.

These are hard days, and we can have confidence in God.

Questions:

1. How you pursuing growth in the truth?
2. Where and how are you fighting for truth? What are your battles?
3. What are you greatest challenge(s) to persevere in trusting Jesus?