

Attacks on the Fellowship **1 John 2:18-27**

I. "The Last Time" – 2:18

1. "Last Time" - final period of revelation
God revealed truth over many generations
God spoke through prophets – Heb. 1:1
2. Final revelation in His Son – Heb.1:2-3
He is the brightness of His glory
He is the express image of his person
The full & final revelation of God – Jn. 14:7-9
3. Next time He speaks will be in judgment
4. "Last Time" refers to this church age
From the Coming of Christ to His return

II. Apostasy & Antichrist – 2:18-19

1. In "last time" Satan's opposition increases
He will oppose truth that is in Jesus Christ
Knowing his end is near opposition intensifies
Revelation 12:7-13
2. Many will arise in opposition to Christ – 18
This opposition is seen in Gen. 3:15 & Psa. 2
Satan attacked the "seed line" up to birth of Jesus
Antichrist will be the final one to oppose
Jesus spoke of this in Matthew 24:4-5; 24:23-26
Paul wrote of this in 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12
John wrote of this in the Book of Revelation
But many oppose throughout this period
"Even now are there many antichrists"
"Anti" refers to false – in stead of Christ
Or against - in opposition to Christ
Will be much opposition to Christ & the Truth
3. Opposition will arise from within – 19
Within the church but not true believers
Apostasy proves they were not true believers
Jesus spoke of "tares among the wheat" Matt. 13
Paul warned of this in Acts 20:28-30
Christ's evaluation of churches shows this – Rev. 2-3
Satan opposes Person & Work of Christ
That is the real issue in salvation

III. Armed Against Error – 2:20-23

1. Teaching ministry of Holy Spirit – 20
Teaches & gives discernment – John 16:13
2. Truth guards us against error – 21
Measure everything by God's revealed truth
3. Person/work of Christ is at issue – 22-23
This is where Satan will focus his attack
That Jesus is promised Messiah – Redeemer
Those who deny Christ also deny the Father
If you deny Christ you cannot have the Father
This is how we identify the spirit of antichrist

IV. Assured in Truth – 2:24-27

1. Kept secure in God's Truth – 24-26
Hold on to truth you embraced in Christ
Truth assures us of a relationship with God
That relationship with God is found in His Son
He has promised us eternal life in Jesus Christ
This truth protects us from those who seduce
2. Holy Spirit assures us of God's truth – 27
Indwelling Holy Spirit is present to teach us
We are not dependent on human teachers
Holy Spirit affirms when humans speak