

# A WALK THROUGH LENT

with 1 John

- |                          |           |                |                      |
|--------------------------|-----------|----------------|----------------------|
| 1) Walking in the light  | 1:1 - 2:2 | week beginning | 23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb |
| 2) Walking in fellowship | 2:3-17    | week beginning | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Mar  |

## 3) Walking in the truth

**1 John 2:18-29** week beginning **9<sup>th</sup> Mar**

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|------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 4) Walking in love (1) | 3:1 - 4:6                     | week beginning       | 16 <sup>th</sup> Mar  |
| 5) Walking in love (2) | 4:7-21                        | week beginning       | 23 <sup>rd</sup> Mar  |
| 6) Walking in life     | 5:1-21                        | <b>Joint Service</b> | 2 <sup>nd</sup> April |
|                        | <i><b>Maundy Thursday</b></i> | 7.30pm               | St Andrew's           |



## **READ:** 1 John 2:18-29 (NIV)

<sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> 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.

<sup>20</sup> But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth. <sup>21</sup> 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.

<sup>22</sup> Who is the liar? It is the man who denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a man is the antichrist—he denies the Father and the Son. <sup>23</sup> No-one who denies the Son has the Father; whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also.

<sup>24</sup> 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. <sup>25</sup> And this is what he promised us—even eternal life.

<sup>26</sup> I am writing these things to you about those who are trying to lead you astray. <sup>27</sup> 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. <sup>28</sup> And now, dear children, continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming. <sup>29</sup> If you know that he is righteous, you know that everyone who does what is right has been born of him.

## **INTRODUCTION:**

John tells his readers this is the ‘last hour’ in verse 18. By the last hour, John does not necessarily mean Christ’s return is imminent (although it could be for us today!). He means that they are in the final period of the gospel age, before Christ returns. The phrase probably corresponds to the Old Testament’s phrase ‘the last days.’ In these last days we

desperately need God's truth.

*'For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect.'* (Matthew 24:24).

## **REFLECT:**

### **1 John 2:18-19**

1. It is fairly obvious who the anti-Christ is, but who might be the 'antichrists' in v18?

### **1 John 2:20-23**

2. Who is the liar in vv22-23?
3. What about the claim this person may make to know God, even though they deny Jesus? (vv22-23)
4. It is sometimes assumed by Christians that other monotheistic faiths share the same god as Christians (but without the other persons of the Trinity). Is that the case from what we have looked at?
5. We are sometimes reluctant to talk about what we believe in church with new leaders or when recruiting for positions of responsibility. It is easier to look at whether they have a good personality for children's work or whatever the role may be. Why is it important to ask questions about belief?
6. John recognises that the challengers to truth have left and distanced themselves from orthodox (sound) teaching. However, what do you notice about where they originated?

7. From vv20-21 how has God equipped us from the youngest Christian to the oldest?
8. Given that John recognises a pattern of false teachers distancing themselves from the fellowship, what part does church community play in staying on the side of truth?

## 1 John 2:24-29

9. “Let God’s truth remain in you!” John uses the verb ‘remain’ six times in six verses (vv24-29). It means to ‘take up permanent address’ or ‘to make a settled home.’  
In the modern day, does the idea of remaining in 2000year+ truths sound attractive or unattractive?
10. From vv26-27, why is there awesome consolation for the new believer who becomes a Christian even in the most hostile country, without access to Bible teaching?
11. From v28, what must your greatest priority be?

## RESPOND:

12. Why would it be a mistake to make Sunday mornings simply about Christian testimony, in place of a Bible sermon?
13. Truth and love are intricately bound together. But why is it a mistake to assume that anyone who seems loving has something to offer us of spiritual value?
14. What one thing can you do better to stay on the side of truth?

**PRAY:** Pray for wisdom in facing subtle opposition from people who are winsome and loving. Pray for clarity about who God is and how he cares for us. Pray for people who are suffering particularly difficult situations.