*“With the Master Before the Mirror of God’s Word”* by Susan Heck

A Ladies Bible Study on First John

Tuesday, March 12, 2019

*“Susan helps us transition into this next portion of scripture by reminding us that “John has just mentioned in 1 John 2:17 that the world is passing away, and the lust of it. He is writing of the world which is passing away, which is a reminder that there is a last hour soon to come. And so he warns the little children, “Little children, the world is passing away; it is the last hour; beware of antichrists!” (pg.109)*

**Susan’s Summary** of Chapter 8– “The Character of Antichrist” – 1 John 2:18-22 (pg. 118)

“The last hour or the last time, began with the first coming of Christ and will end with His second coming. When John wrote this epistle, they were already in the last hour. And yet, right now, you and I are also living in the last hour. When you think about it, every hour is the last hour, and one of these days will be the final hour!” (pg. 110)

“So, what are *The Characteristics of the Last Hour (v 18*)? Antichrist and many antichrists will arise on the scene, giving special risk to immature little children in the faith.

“So, what does *antichrist* mean?  *Anti*- means against or instead of. So an *antichrist* is one who is against Christ or one who tries to take the place of Christ or one who opposes Christ. In fact, any person, thing, doctrine, or system of religion which is opposed to Christ is antichrist.” (pg. 111)

What are *The Characteristics of Antichrists (vv 19,22)*? They do not continue in the faith; they deny that Jesus is the Christ; and they deny the Father and the Son.

What are *The Characteristics of the Lovers of God (vv 20-21)*? They have an anointing from the Holy One (they have received the Holy Spirit who has set them apart for service to Christ); they know all things (the law of God is written on their hearts and minds); and they know the truth (Jesus is the Christ).

In closing let me ask you: Do you believe that Jesus is the Christ? Do you really? How has it affected the way you have lived this week? Do you have a spirit of antichrist? Do you set yourself up against God in any form?

Loving the world as we saw in our last lesson would be a form of setting yourself against God. Are you against any of the things He has laid forth for you in His Word? Do you place yourself in His stead? Do you think you have a better idea?

Another question to ponder is this: Are you in a church where the leaders are discerning and can discern false doctrine and teachers? Is false teaching being tolerated in your church? Are false teachers allowed to remain in your fellowship? If so, why are you worshiping there and what are you doing about it?

We must guard our hearts and our minds against anything that is opposed to Christ and we must make sure that we as individuals are not setting ourselves up against Christ in any form, whether it is in our attitudes or our actions. How terrible and dreadful it would be to be among those who went out from us, because they were never of us!”