

1, 2, and 3 John

Class One

AUTHORSHIP OF 1, 2, 3 JOHN

It is generally believed that the Apostle John not only wrote these three letters but also the Gospel of John and Revelation. However, John nowhere states that he is the writer. But there is an abundance of external evidence that verifies his authorship. Time of writing of all five books are generally dated from 80 to 96 AD.

OCCASIONS FOR WRITING THESE THREE LETTERS

Historical references are made to John being located in the area of Ephesus and of Asia Minor from about 70 AD onward. He probably left Jerusalem about the time of its destruction. He may have been one of the Apostles to help Christians to know when to leave the city. Teachers were arising in the churches who were not content with just the message of the Apostles.

The first were the Jewish converts who tried to bind circumcision and the Law on Gentiles. But once the Temple was destroyed—this would help to deal with such teachers. But others were also trying to mix their teachings with other philosophies. They also desired to make their own following. John does not name these people, but does give much about them in his writings. He uses such expressions as the following to identify them:

- False teachers or prophets (4:1)
- Anti-Christ (2:22-25; 2:18; 4:3; 2 John 7)
- Deceivers (2 John 7)

He strongly indicated that their teachings resulted in the denial of both the Father and the Son (2:22; 2 John 9). These teachers were taking advantage of the hospitality of Christians as they traveled about advocating their doctrines. John said, “Try the spirits” (1 John 4:1). If they don’t bring the true doctrine of Christ—don’t accept them into your house or bid them God speed. (2 John 10). This and his other writings were for the purpose to help Christians to deal with these false concepts.

IDENTIFICATION OF THEIR FALSE TEACHINGS

When we compare the N.T. writings with early church history—we can get a good insight as to what they were teaching and who they were. Paul stated in his letters: •That men would arise in midst of

church to draw away disciples after them. (Acts 20:28-32) •That some would depart from the faith giving heed to doctrines of demons. (1 Tim. 4:1-5). •That all of this would eventually lead to a great apostasy. (2 Thess. 2:1-12). And history reveals that it was well underway by the last half of the 2nd century. Various names have been connected with these heresies: Cerinthus (who lived in Ephesus the same time John did), Marcion, Valentinus, Arius, Sabellius, Apollinaris, Nestorius, etc., were some of the prominent names among this number. Names have been given to identify these doctrines: Ebionites, Docetists, Arians, Antinomianism, Apollinarians, Nestorians.

The general term “Gnostic” is used to identify these various sects. Gnosticism was really trying to make Christianity conform to the mold of the Oriental, Greek, and Jewish philosophies to be acceptable to them all. Emphasis was placed on knowledge—“The knowing ones.” The Greek word means “knowledge.” They exalted their knowledge and insights above the Apostles. There was an arrogance, pride, superior intellectual attainments pointed out by these false 1,2, and 3rd John was written to address, and warn, the Christians about these false teachings.

1, 2, and 3 John

Lesson Two

1 John chapter One

The Word of Life

1Jn 1:1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life;

1Jn 1:2 (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)

1Jn 1:3 That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

1Jn 1:4 And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.

Walking in the Light

1Jn 1:5 This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

1Jn 1:6 If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:

1Jn 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

1Jn 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

1Jn 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1Jn 1:10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

John opens up this section with the affirmation that the disciples not only knew about Jesus, but that they had seen Him, heard Him, and touched Him. They knew that in Him was eternal life, and that He came from the father. There was no doubt in their minds at all that Jesus Christ was the Messiah, the saviour of mankind. Furthermore, in verses 1-4 they declare (announce) that what they are about to report is exactly what they seen and heard. There were many witnesses regarding the works, words, and deeds of Jesus while on Earth, and we would be a fool to disregard God's Words as untrustworthy.

Verses 5-10 breaks down this message. First, the message is that God (Jesus Christ), is light, and in Him is no darkness. This goes along with what Jesus said many times, that HE I the light of the World (see John 8:12 and John 9:5 to name a few). Further, John goes on to say that if we claim to be a child of God, and walk in darkness (walk in sin), we are liar's, and the truth is not in us. But if we walk with God in light (truth), then we will have fellowship with each other. Have you ever wondered why there is so many fights and arguments among so called Christians? Well, here is the answer... they are not all walking in God's truth (light). They have changed God's Word. They have denied God's Word, and replaced it with their own. God's Word is not to be tampered with. It was meant to change us, not us change it.

Verses 8 and 10 reminds us that even as Children of God, we still sin. If we say we don't sin, we

deceive ourselves. So, what is the difference then between a lost person and a child of God, if both sin? The answer to this is the intent of the heart. A lost person will sin, and won't care. They love their sin and have no desire to change. Sin does not convict them. A child of God who sins will fight and struggle over it. They hate it and never want to do it again. They feel remorse for their actions and desire God to remove it from them. And, over time, God will cleans them of those sins. A child of God will not want to continue sinning. A lost person will not care.

Verse 9 tells us that confession is the key to forgiveness as a Child of God. This is NOT talking about confessing to a Priest or a "Father" within a church. The word "confess" means literally to "acknowledge". It means to align our thoughts with God's Word and agree that our actions is sin, and it is against God and His Word. Once we come to an agreement with God, then and only then can the cleansing take place. Our problem is that we like to compare our sins with other sins, or with other people.... "I'm not as bad as that person". "I know its wrong, but it's not that bad." "It was wrong once, but now it's legal." These are some of the thought processes that keep us from being cleansed of our sins. We justify our sins, instead of crucifying them.

1, 2, and 3 John

Lesson Three

1 John Chapter 2

Christ Our Advocate

1Jn 2:1 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

1Jn 2:2 And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

1Jn 2:3 And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.

1Jn 2:4 He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

1Jn 2:5 But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.

1Jn 2:6 He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.

Continuing the thought that even as children of God, we can still sin, John now goes on to give us hope. That hope is found in the fact that we have an advocate. The word “advocate” literally means, “intercessor”. If, and when, we do sin, we have someone who “intercedes” on our behalf, and that person is Jesus Christ. Jesus paid the price for ALL sins, for ALL people, for ALL times. When we do sin, if we confess (acknowledge) that it is sin, Jesus comes to our aid and fights our case for us. He reminds the Father that those sins are forgiven. He becomes our “propitiation” or atonement for those sins. He paid the price, and as a result, we don't have to. But, as verse 2 tells us, not only us, but the whole world. The truth is, Jesus paid the price for all sins. There is only ONE sin that is not forgiven, and that sin is the rejection of God's Salvation. No person will ever be in hell because he sinned. The only sin anyone in hell is there for, is because they sinned the unpardonable sin...the sin unto death. They rejected God's Salvation through Jesus Christ (Romans 6:16, 1 John 5:16, Mark 3:28,29)

And then we learn yet another truth in verses 3-6. If we say we are God's Children and don't keep his commandment (His Word), we are lying. If we are truly born again, Spirit God lives in us, and we will desire to live for Him and follow His Word... Not the words of the “church”, or a priest, or prophet, but God's Word. We will reject anything that does not line up with Scripture. This is how we know that Catholicism, Mormonism, Jehovah witnesses, Christian Science, and many other so called christian religions are not of God. They all change God's Word, and follow the teachings of some man...not God. Don't get caught up in this. Follow God's Word, and His teachings alone.

The New Commandment

1Jn 2:7 Brethren, I write no new commandment unto you, but an old commandment which ye had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which ye have heard from the beginning.

1Jn 2:8 Again, a new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in him and in you: because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth.

1Jn 2:9 He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now.

1Jn 2:10 He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him.

1Jn 2:11 But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes.

1Jn 2:12 I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake.

1Jn 2:13 I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I write unto you, young men, because ye have overcome the wicked one. I write unto you, little children, because ye have known the Father.

1Jn 2:14 I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one.

Now, we learn yet another truth about whether a person is truly saved or not. In chapter one it was revealed that if you said you didn't sin, you were a liar and the truth was not in you. Then in the first part of this chapter we learned that if you are truly a child of God, you will strive to keep God's Words, not mans. Now in verses 7-11 we learn that if we say we are God's Children and don't keep his commandment (His Word), we are lying. If we are truly born again, Spirit God lives in us, and we will have fellowship with other Children of God. Why is there so much fighting within the so called Church? Because Spirit God is not in them. Where God is, there is peace. Where God is, there is no strife and fighting and confusion. You show me someone who claims to be a child of God, but does not want to be around other Godly people, they are lying. Spirit God living in you will want to connect to other people with Spirit God in them.

Do Not Love the World

1Jn 2:15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

1Jn 2:16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

1Jn 2:17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

As we get to verses 15-17 we are now presented with a warning. DON'T LOVE THE WORLD OR THE THINGS OF THE WORLD. This becomes the fourth test whether or not you are a true child of God or not. First, if you think you are without sin, the truth is not in you. Secondly, if you don't keep God's Word, but follow after mans doctrines, the truth is not in you. Thirdly, if you don't love other godly men and women (people who are following God's Word), then the truth is not in you. And finally, if you love this world and the things of this world more then the things of God, the truth is not in you. We have to live in this world, but we are not to be part of this world. We are to store up treasures in heaven (Matthew 6:20) because this world and the things of this world will pass away. Get your eyes off of this sinful, doomed world, and get them fastened on Jesus Christ.

Warning Concerning Antichrists

1Jn 2:18 Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.

1Jn 2:19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.

1Jn 2:20 But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things.

1Jn 2:21 I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth.

1Jn 2:22 Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.

1Jn 2:23 Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: (but) he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also.

1Jn 2:24 Let that therefore abide in you, which ye have heard from the beginning. If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall continue in the Son, and in the Father.

1Jn 2:25 And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life.

1Jn 2:26 These things have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you.

1Jn 2:27 But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.

Now, this next section would seem out of place if you think that “Antichrist” is some mean guy that is going to show up at the end of the world and make you put a “666” on your forehead. But this is NOT who “Antichrist” is. Notice in verse 8 that John says there are “many Antichrist”, and that they are already here. The truth is, “Antichrist” is mentioned only four times in Scripture (1 and 2 John), and in every case, “Antichrist” is mentioned in a present tense, not a future tense. Notice also what John says in verse 9... “They went out from us, but they were not of us...”. Who are “they” mentioned in this verse? “They” are the “Antichrist” mentioned in verse 8. “Antichrist” was part of their group for a while, but they left the followers of Christ, and John says it is because they were “never” part of them. To understand what is being said here, we must understand what the word “Antichrist” means. In the original Greek, it simply meant “to oppose, or stand against Christ the Messiah.” Antichrist is ANYONE who is against Jesus Christ, His Teachings or His Work. Antichrist is a spirit that opposes Christ, and can be found anywhere. It could be your neighbor who does not want to have anything to do with the Gospel of Christ. It could be your co-worker who claims to believe in no God at all. It could be your Pastor who has taken up another Gospel and is preaching the doctrines of man and not of Christ. Antichrist could even be you. You believe in many gods, so you follow whatever teaching that makes you feel good at the moment. Antichrist is a spirit that opposes Christ, not one certain man that is suppose to come at the end of times.

John tells us a little more about Antichrist in verse 22, “Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son” (read also John 8:44). So, the spirit of Antichrist can be ANYONE...anyone who denies God and who opposes the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This is why it is so important to make certain the person who you are learning from, truly believes and

accepts the Gospel of Christ, and the Word of God without compromise, without adding to it, or taking away from it. In verse 26, John goes on to say these Antichrist “seduce” you into believing their lies. Don't fall for it. Study to show yourself approved unto God, rightly dividing the Word of Truth.

Children of God

1Jn 2:28 And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.

1Jn 2:29 If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him.

As John concludes this portion of his writings he reminds us to “abide in him”. This simply means to walk in God's light...the light of His Word. If we do, we have confidence that we are His children and we will live righteously and godly in this present world.

1, 2, and 3 John

Class Four

1 John Chapter 3

1Jn 3:1 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

“For God so loved the world...” (John 3:16a). God saves us, because He loves us. “God is Love” (1 John 4:8,16). He did not save us because we had any merit within us. The only reason He came to earth, died on the cross, arose from the grave, went back into heaven to prepare a place for us, and is planning on coming back again to get us is very simply, because he loves us. The World can not understand this, because they don't know Him. But He died for them as well and is longsuffering, not wanting anyone to perish (2 Peter 3:9)

1Jn 3:2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

Many people say that we “are” in the image of Christ now, but we are NOT. Mankind was made in the image and likeness of God, but when we sinned, we lost that image. We are not in the image of mankind. When we get saved, our Spirit is reborn, but our bodies are still earthly, sinful, corruptible. But, when Christ comes back, we will be changed, in the twinkling of an eye (1 Cor. 15:52), and made back into the image and likeness of God. We don't know what that is yet, but we know it is going to happen.. God told us so.

1Jn 3:3 And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

Knowing this, we should strive to be “Christ like” as much as possible. We should strive to be “holy (1 Peter 1:14) even as He is.

1Jn 3:4 Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

1Jn 3:5 And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin.

1Jn 3:6 Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him.

Now, we just read a few verses ago that if we say we don't have sin, we lie. Here it says if we abide in Him, we don't sin. Is this a contradiction? NO. When it says we all have sinned, it is talking about in the flesh. Here, Scripture is talking about abiding in Christ. This is speaking about our Spirit self. Our spirit does not sin, because we are in Christ. This again goes back to the difference between a Child of God, and a lost person... the heart or inner spirit being. The lost do not care, they sin, and have no remorse for it. The child of God may sin in the flesh, but the spirit inside grieves and repents and purifies itself. In Christ, it can not sin, even though the flesh may.

1Jn 3:7 Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.

1Jn 3:8 He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.

The word “committeth” carries the meaning of “continuing”. It is the prolonged version of the word “to do”. Literally it means to continue sinning. He that (continues to sin) is of the devil. We are still sinners, but we strive to be more and more like Christ daily.

1Jn 3:9 Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

1Jn 3:10 In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.

Love One Another

1Jn 3:11 For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.

1Jn 3:12 Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous.

1Jn 3:13 Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you.

Here again is the difference between a child of God, and the lost world. We have Spirit God living within us. God is love, therefore, we should also have a spirit of love towards others. The lost world does not have this. Hate and evil lives within their hearts. Even though sometimes they may seem to love, they hate God (antichrist), and therefore, they hate you.

1Jn 3:14 We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.

1Jn 3:15 Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.

1Jn 3:16 Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

1Jn 3:17 But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?

1Jn 3:18 My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

Again, if God dwells within you, it should manifest as love for others.

1Jn 3:19 And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him.

1Jn 3:20 For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things.

1Jn 3:21 Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God.

1Jn 3:22 And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.

1Jn 3:23 And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment.

1Jn 3:24 And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.

As you can see, loving one another, keeping God's Word, and confessing that we are sinners are all signs that God truly does dwell within us. Those things being absent... One should do some serious searching of their heart.

1, 2, and 3 John

Lesson Five

1 John Chapter 4

Test the Spirits

1Jn 4:1 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

How does one “try the spirits” to know if something is of God? The answer is simple, does it line up with God's revealed Word. God has already told us everything we need to know and he warned us not to add or take away from it (Proverbs 30:5,6, Deu. 4:2, 12:32, and Revelation 22:18,19). Furthermore,

He has told us that if ANYONE, even an angel from heaven preach anything other than what the disciples taught, let them be cursed (Galatians 1:8,9). So, when someone comes and tries to tell you something, test that spirit to see if it is really of God. Does it line up with His revealed word? Does it add something to His Word, or change His Word? If so, it is not of God. Many people today follow religions that claim to have “another gospel”, or who claim to have gotten their teachings from another “angel”, or even in the case of the Catholic church, believe that THEY are the voice of God, and what they say is as authoritative as God. These false prophets ARE NOT of God, and are cursed. DO NOT LISTEN TO THEM. Mormonism, Jehovah Witnesses, Christian Science, Catholicism, and many others all fall into this category. They are all false religions, they are all false prophets, and they are all accursed of God. But many others out there preaching today are also false prophets. Test what they say with Scripture.

1Jn 4:2 Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:

1Jn 4:3 And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.

These verses say far more than most people realize. I think it's safe to say that most people believe there was a man who walked the earth 2000 years ago named Jesus. That in and of itself can not be disputed. However, these verses are saying far more than that. The word “confesseth” means to “covenant” together. This means “a binding agreement”. So first off, this person not only believes that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh, but they literally join together (similar to marriage) and become one with Him. Secondly, the name also means a lot.... Jesus Christ. This name means “Jesus the anointed Messiah”. This name means that Jesus is the promised Messiah from God, and that He died on the cross for our sins. But it means more than that. In Malachi 3:1, Jehovah God tells us that the coming Messiah would be He Himself. So, this verse tells us that every person who believes that Jesus Christ is the Promised Messiah, and that He died for our sins, and that He is God Himself, and this person accepts this, and joins together with God in this assurance... that person is of God. Anyone who teaches anything other than that is NOT of God.

1Jn 4:4 Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you,

than he that is in the world.

Satan is in the world, Satan and the flesh. But God is greater than all.

1Jn 4:5 They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them.

1Jn 4:6 We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.

The word “they” in verse 5 is referring to the false prophets, and those who do not believe that Jesus Christ is the God Himself, the promised Messiah. These false prophets, these that are cursed of God, are of the world and the world hears them and follows them. What is this verse saying? Lets make it plain and simple. Mormans are false prophets. They are of the world, and those that follow them are of the world...Not of God. The same can be said of Jehovah Witnesses, Catholics and every other man made religion that does not follow Scripture. And as the verse 6 ends, this is how we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

God Is Love

1Jn 4:7 Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.

1Jn 4:8 He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

1Jn 4:9 In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.

1Jn 4:10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

1Jn 4:11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.

We have already looked at this once before but I will mention it again. Scripture says that “God is love”. If God lives in us, then the spirit of love should be what moves us. God's love should come forth from us. If that love is not there, God is not there.

1Jn 4:12 No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.

1Jn 4:13 Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.

1Jn 4:14 And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world.

1Jn 4:15 Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.

The truth is, if God lives in a person, then that spirit will lead them in the same direction God leads all His Children, as far as biblical truth is concerned. God is not going to tell one person one thing, and then tell someone else something else. The very reason who have so many different biblical teachings is because so many people who are of the world are teachings what THEY want to be true, not what God's Word says.

1Jn 4:16 And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.

1Jn 4:17 Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.

1Jn 4:18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

1Jn 4:19 We love him, because he first loved us.

1Jn 4:20 If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?

1Jn 4:21 And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.

John then closes this section out with a statement that he had made earlier. If you say you love God, but don't love your brother, you are a liar. Now, it should be said that loving your brother is not the same as loving a sin that they may be in. We should love the person as God loved them and gave His life for them. BUT, we are not to love the sin. We are to hate the sin, and stand against the sin. There is a difference.

1, 2, and 3 John

Lesson Six

1 John chapter 5

Overcoming the World

1Jn 5:1 Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.

1Jn 5:2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments.

1Jn 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

1Jn 5:4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

For the most part, John is just going over what he has already said. But here he introduces another thought...overcoming the world. What does it mean to “overcome the world”? Simply put, it means to gain victory over the lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and pride of life. It means that this world and the things it has to offer does not lure you anymore. The things of God, spiritual things, things from above is where your heart is at. And, as verse 4 says, it is our FAITH that brings us to overcoming the world.

If a person professes to be a child of God, professes to be saved and is a Christian, but they love the things of this world more then those of God, then there is a problem with their faith. You say you love God, but you never go to His house on Sunday...you have a faith problem. You say your a Christian, but you never read your bible...you have a faith problem. Simply put, if a person truly has faith in God, and His Word, they will respond as God tells them to. They will not forsake assembling together. They will study His Word. They will love one another, they will purify themselves and strive to be Christ like each day. They will move further and further away from the things of this world, and closer and closer to the tings of God. You show me someone who is not doing these things, and I'll show you someone who has a faith problem.

1Jn 5:5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

Testimony Concerning the Son of God

1Jn 5:6 This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth.

Water here refers to the physical birth, and blood of course refers to Jesus shedding His blood for us.

Many have been born, and claim to be the messiah, but only Jesus Christ was born, and then died, shedding his blood for us on Calvary.

1Jn 5:7 For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.

This is a reference to the three ways that God has manifested Himself to us, as the Father, as the Son, and as the Holy Spirit. But, there are not three Gods. Scripture clearly states that there is only ONE God, and here as well, it states that the three are ONE. A good example of this is that, because I am married, my wife calls me “husband”. My children call me “dad”, and my grand kids call me “papa”. Am I three people? NO. I am only one person. This same analogy applies to God. God is known to some as “father”, to others “Jesus”, and to us today as “Holy Spirit”, but God is only one, not three separate people. The “Word” of course refers to Jesus Christ, as in John chapter one where He is called “the Word”.

1Jn 5:8 And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.

God is Spirit (John 4:24), so the “spirit” here refers to God Himself, and of course, as previously noted, the “water and the blood” refers to Jesus Christ. So this verse is stating that Jesus Christ, the messiah is God Himself.

1Jn 5:9 If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son.

1Jn 5:10 He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.

1Jn 5:11 And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

1Jn 5:12 He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

This verse makes salvation as clear as any possible way. If you believe in God, His Word, and His Salvation through Jesus Christ, then you HAVE LIFE. If you don't, YOU DO NOT HAVE LIFE. The gospel message is that simple.

That You May Know

1Jn 5:13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

Very simply put, if you are truly born again, YOU KNOW you are saved and born again. How do you know this, because Spirit God testifies to your spirit that you are a child of God. If you don't know if your saved or not, then you are not.

1Jn 5:14 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:

There are some who teach a “name it and claim it” type of salvation. The claim that if you ask anything of God, He must give it to you. But they overlook a tiny little part of this verse. Did you see the part i'm talking about? “ACCORDING TO HIS WILL”. You see, if we are living for God the way

we should, we are not going to be asking for crazy things that are not in God's plan for us. We will, as lead by Holy Spirit, ask for things in accordance to God's Will. And if we do that, He will hear us.

1Jn 5:15 And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

1Jn 5:16 If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it.

“Sin unto death”... What is this. This is simply another way of saying “blaspheming Holy Spirit” (Mark 3:28,29). As you may recall, I stated earlier that Jesus died for all sins, for all mankind, for all eternity. Nobody would ever be in hell for their sins because Jesus already paid the price for them....all except ONE. That one sin, the only sin, that a person will be in hell for is the sin of rejecting God's Salvation. Blaspheming Holy Spirit is simply the act of ignoring, rejecting, or putting off Spirit's conviction of your need to repent and trust God's Salvation through Jesus Christ. The word “blaspheme” literally means, “to treat ill”. It means to reject or ignore Holy Spirit when He convicts you of your need for salvation. When you do this, and you die, or the rapture takes place, it is too late to repent, and you will die and spend eternity in hell for blaspheming (rejecting) Holy Spirit. That is the sin unto death, or blaspheming Holy Spirit.

1Jn 5:17 All unrighteousness is sin: and there is a sin not unto death.

1Jn 5:18 We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not.

1Jn 5:19 And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness.

1Jn 5:20 And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

1Jn 5:21 Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.

An idol is anything that comes between you and God.

1, 2, and 3 John

Lesson Seven

2nd John

Greeting

2Jn 1:1 The elder unto the elect lady and her children, whom I love in the truth; and not I only, but also all they that have known the truth;

2Jn 1:2 For the truth's sake, which dwelleth in us, and shall be with us for ever.

2Jn 1:3 Grace be with you, mercy, and peace, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.

Walking in Truth and Love

2Jn 1:4 I rejoiced greatly that I found of thy children walking in truth, as we have received a commandment from the Father.

2Jn 1:5 And now I beseech thee, lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment unto thee, but that which we had from the beginning, that we love one another.

2Jn 1:6 And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it.

John speaks a lot about “truth”, “love”, and “commandment”. These are all referring to the same things...Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is God, and God is love (1 John 4:8), therefore Jesus Christ is Love.

He is also “truth”, (John 14:6), and He is also the word of God, (John 1) which refers to the commandments as well as the rest of the word.

2Jn 1:7 For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.

Again he brings up antichrist, and connects this term to a spirit of rejection of Jesus Christ, NOT someone who is yet to come. “confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh” means more than what most people think. It does not simply mean that they reject there was a man who once walked the earth named Jesus. It refers to rejecting that Jesus IS God Himself, that God literally came to earth in human form, and that He is the Messiah, the saviour of the World. So “antichrist” is anyone who rejects that Jesus is God Himself, or rejects that God literally came to earth in human form, or who rejects that Jesus Christ is the promised Messiah. Many (if not most) religious denominations fall into one or more of these categories either directly, or indirectly.

2Jn 1:8 Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward.

“Look to yourselves”, simply means examine your beliefs and make sure they line up with God's

Word, not mans teachings.

2Jn 1:9 Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.

2Jn 1:10 If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed:

2Jn 1:11 For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.

This is a hard truth, but one we should all learn. Saying “God bless you”, or “God be with you”, or other such statements to a person who is not following the Biblical doctrines of Christ is the same as partaking in their evil (antichrist) life. Never invoke a blessing upon some one in God's name who you do not know is a Child of God. And, we should not receive them into our homes either.

Final Greetings

2Jn 1:12 Having many things to write unto you, I would not write with paper and ink: but I trust to come unto you, and speak face to face, that our joy may be full.

2Jn 1:13 The children of thy elect sister greet thee. Amen.

1, 2, and 3 John

Lesson Eight

3rd John

Greeting

3Jn 1:1 The elder unto the wellbeloved Gaius, whom I love in the truth.

3Jn 1:2 Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.

3Jn 1:3 For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth.

3Jn 1:4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.

This is a Pastors heart, to see, and hear, that those he has ministered to are living for the Lord, prospering in physical and spiritual matters, and that they have not fallen away or been led astray.

Support and Opposition

3Jn 1:5 Beloved, thou doest faithfully whatsoever thou doest to the brethren, and to strangers;

3Jn 1:6 Which have borne witness of thy charity before the church: whom if thou bring forward on their journey after a godly sort, thou shalt do well:

Gaius was well known for his generous giving to those who ministered in the Lord. Scripture tells us in numerous places, and in different ways, that we should give to those who minister to us (1 Cor. 9:14,

1 Timothy 5:17, Ezekiel 44:30, 1 Cor. 9:11)

3Jn 1:7 Because that for his name's sake they went forth, taking nothing of the Gentiles.

Because Gaius gave, the Evangelist did not have to ask anything of others who may not have been able to give. This lesson would not have been possible to create, put online, and leave it there for years, so others can be blessed by it, except that others have given.

3Jn 1:8 We therefore ought to receive such, that we might be fellowhelpers to the truth.

Sometimes a person may not be able to give money, but by helping others who can give, you become a fellowhelper with them. Giving a helping hand, giving some food, being there in times of need, praying, and going with them to help are all ways you can become part of God's Word, even if you don't have money to give.

3Jn 1:9 I wrote unto the church: but Diotrefes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not.

3Jn 1:10 Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth them out of the church.

3Jn 1:11 Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that doeth good is of God: but he that doeth evil hath not seen God.

3Jn 1:12 Demetrius hath good report of all men, and of the truth itself: yea, and we also bear record; and ye know that our record is true.

Final Greetings

3Jn 1:13 I had many things to write, but I will not with ink and pen write unto thee:

3Jn 1:14 But I trust I shall shortly see thee, and we shall speak face to face. Peace be to thee. Our friends salute thee. Greet the friends by name.