



NEW TESTAMENT SURVEYS

1 John

By

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Dear Saints in Christ Jesus,

These notes were taken from our Old Testament and New Testament Bible surveys at Koinonia on Wednesday and Sunday evenings. The intention was to give an overview of the entire Bible and see how the two testaments “connect.” Within the notes, practical truths were brought out because we know that the study of Scripture without application is like a vehicle without gas...going nowhere.

If the Holy Spirit can use these simply truths to draw you closer to Jesus Christ and develop a more mature love of God the Father, then this booklet will have accomplished its task.

May the blessing of God be shed upon you as you receive, with meekness, His engrafted Word.

Selah,

Pastor Ray

* Portions of these notes were downloaded from Quick Verse and Online Bible study notes.

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1 John

John was the last living apostle, the only one who wasn't martyred for Christ. The heresy of gnosticism was gaining a foothold in the Church when John wrote this letter. The Gnostics didn't believe that God created the "evil" material world, but that a distant emanation of Him did. They believed that Jesus was a phantom when He lived on the earth and didn't have a body of flesh. Gnosticism was further developed by Arias, who started the Arian heresy. Arias denied the deity of Christ and claimed that He was only a created being. The Arian heresy is the basis of the Watchtower Society's (Jehovah's Witnesses) belief system. John sought to correct the heresy by emphasizing the deity of Jesus Christ in his writings.

There does not appear to be a serious problem with persecution at this point in time; however, as already stated, there was a serious problem with the seduction of the saints with these new and novel doctrines of the Gnostics. The Gnostic heretics elevated head and philosophical knowledge over a heart relationship with God. We will see some of their false teachings as we go along, but to mention a few, they denied:

1. The reality of the Incarnation;
2. The universal depravity of man (humanism), thus the need to be born again by the Spirit of God;
3. Jesus as the Messiah (teaching He was simply one of the messengers of God);
4. The Biblical view of the members of the Trinity;
5. The literal second coming of Jesus;
6. The personality of the Holy Spirit.

Gnosticism also taught the duality of flesh and spirit. They taught that the spirit was all that mattered and that the flesh was insignificant. This branched out into 2 extreme interpretations.

1. If matter were essentially evil, then there had to be the strictest abstinence from any pleasure of the flesh whatsoever, including the sexual abstinence of husband and wife!

Col 2:20 Therefore, if you died with Christ from the basic principles of the world, why, as *though* living in the world, are you subject to regulations—

:21 "Do not touch; do not taste; do not handle,"

:22 which all concern things which are to perish with the using— according to the commandments and doctrines of men?

:23 These things have indeed an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, *false* humility, and neglect of the body; *but are* of no value against the indulgence of the flesh.

- This would be construed as earning the grace of God through Christ because of my self sacrifices. This is why John writes so clearly about how eternal life comes through the person of Jesus Christ, agreeing

with Paul that it is a gift that is given to those that reach out to Christ by faith, apart from works, so no man should boast (**Eph 2:8-9**).

2. The other extreme was that if the flesh did not matter, it wasn't wrong to indulge it because all that God was concerned with was the spirit.

Rom 6:1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?

:2 God forbid! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?

:3 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into His death?

:4 Therefore we were buried with Him by baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

- The view that grace means “anything goes” is an abuse of what grace really means. Grace isn't a license to indulge in sin; it is a message of deliverance from the power of sin. John will explain how a true child of God will not be a practitioner of sin. He/she will purify themselves as Jesus is pure.

The date of the epistle is around 90 AD. This is a general epistle written to 2nd and possibly 3rd generation churches. One of the problems that crept into the church was that the early “glow” factor had ended. The faith had become for some of these people a hand-me-down creed, instead of a vital relationship with the living Christ. There were people making the right professions of faith, but their lives did not reflect that they were genuine possessors of faith in Jesus Christ.

Another truth that is revealed in this letter is the rebuke of fruitless professors of Jesus. For example:

(1) 1 John 1:6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

- We are to be doers of the word (**James 1:22**). If we say that we are walking in fellowship with Jesus, then our lives should be reflecting His light, and not darkness.

Psalm 5:4 For You are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness, nor shall evil dwell with You.

:5 The boastful shall not stand in Your sight; You hate all workers of iniquity.

John 3:19 And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

:20 For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

(2) 1 John 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

- This is a denial of the sinful root. To say that there is no root of sin in

us is the height to arrogance. Until we enter into our glorified state, we will possess this body of flesh with its propensity towards sin.

Humanism denies this very fact. They have redefined sin.

Prov 20:9 Who can say, "I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin"?

Ecc1 7:20 For *there is* not a just man on earth who does good and does not sin.

Isaiah 53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

Psalm 130:3 If You, LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?

(3) **1 John 1:10** If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

- There were those who were actually claiming to be sinlessly perfect. To say this was in reality claiming God to be a liar.

Rom 3:10 As it is written, "There is none righteous, no, not one;

:11 There is none who understands; there is none who seeks after God."

(referenced from **Psalm 14:1-3**)

(4) **1 John 2:4** He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

- A life of disobedience to the revealed will of God is a lie. Simply talking obedience is not obedience.

John 14:15 "If you love Me, keep My commandments."

John 14:21 "He who has My commandments and keeps them, he it is that loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him, and will manifest Myself to him."

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

:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not grievous.

(5) **1 John 2:6** He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.

- In other words, we are to be following the example of Jesus and how He submitted all to His Father while on earth.

John 13:15 "For I have given you an example that you should do as I have done to you."

1 Cor 11:1 "Be followers of me, just as I also am of Christ."

(6) **1 John 4:20** If a man says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does love not his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?

- You cannot love Jesus and hate your brother or sister in Christ.

John 13:35 "By this shall all men know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

Rom 12:10 Be kindly affectionate one to another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another.

Heb 13:1 Let brotherly love continue.

1 John 3:14 We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love *his* brother abides in death.

Let's look at the things that the Holy Spirit had placed upon John's heart and mind to write to us about.

(1) 1 John 1:3 That which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship *is* with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

:4 And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.

- He wrote to remind them that Jesus Christ came to bring us into a joyful fellowship with our Father and one another.

(2) 1 John 2:1 My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

- He wrote to remind us that we can "walk in newness of life" (**Rom 6:4**)! We can indeed, overcome sin by the power of God's Holy Spirit. And, when we do fall into sin, Jesus is our Advocate who is there to plead our cause before the Father.

(3) 1 John 2:12 I write to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake.

:13 I write to you, fathers, because you have known Him *who is* from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you have overcome the wicked one. I write to you, little children, because you have known the Father.

:14 I have written to you, fathers, because you have known Him *who is* from beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the wicked one.

- He wrote about our forgiveness of sin and our victory through Christ over the powers of the wicked one. He mentions the strength for spiritual warfare that is found in the word of God.

(4) 1 John 2:26 These things have I written to you concerning those who *try to* seduce you.

- He wrote to remind us about the false teachers who are in the world to try to turn our hearts away from a simple faith in Jesus Christ. He also hinted (in **2:15-17**) at how the world itself has a seductive element to it that we must avoid.

(5) 1 John 5:13 These things have I written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may *continue to* believe in the name of the Son of God.

- He wrote to remind us that we have eternal life right now through faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ. In a time of uncertainty about life after death, John assures us of the fact of eternal life through Jesus Christ Our Lord.

Chapter 1

John was the last of the 12 apostles alive at the time of this writing. Tradition tells us that he left Jerusalem and ministered around Ephesus. The 7 churches listed in the first chapter of **The Revelation** were a part of his ministry. It is very likely that these churches, and others in the area, were the recipients of this letter.

Remember that the Gnostic heresy taught that matter is inherently evil, and a divine being therefore could not take on human flesh. This resulted in the distinction (still held today by many religious cults) between the man Jesus and the spiritual Christ who supposedly came upon Jesus at His baptism but departed from Him prior to His crucifixion. Another heresy was called Docetism (meaning “to seem”). This doctrine taught that Jesus only seemed to have a human body. Both of these heresies led to the denial of the literal and physical first and second comings of Jesus Christ.

1:2 “**The Word became flesh and dwelt (tabernacled) among us**” (**John 1:14**). The eternal God has become flesh, and has been experienced through the senses (heard, seen, touched) by mortal men! This stunning message - a message rejected by the false teachers that infect the church (**1 John 4:2-3; 2 John 7**) - is the central truth of the Gospel.

With these introductory words the apostle directed his first rebuttal at the heresies which he was concerned were affecting the sheep. The spirit of antichrist presented incorrect or incomplete teachings about Jesus Christ. The denial of the reality of the Incarnation of Jesus Christ could be countered by the experiences of the eyewitnesses whose testimony was founded on actual hearing, seeing, and touching (“Behold” and “Handle” in **Luke 24:39**). John’s message is solidly based both upon Scriptural and historical reality. Jesus Christ is fully God and fully Man, completely divine and completely human.

Jesus Christ is God Incarnate.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

:2 He was in the beginning with God.

Col 1:16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.

:17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.

Rev 1:10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s Day, and I heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,

:11 saying, “I am Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last”.

Also note **Isaiah 9:6; Micah 5:2; John 8:58**.

Jesus Christ took upon Himself the humanity for the purpose of redemption.

Phil 2:6 who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God,

:7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men.

:8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

Heb 2:14 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise took part in the same, that through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil,

:15 and deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

:16 For indeed He took not on him the nature of angels; but He took on him the seed of Abraham (lit., "...He did not take hold of the nature of angels, but He took hold of the seed...").

:17 Therefore, in all things He had to be made like *His* brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things *pertaining* to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

Also note **John 1:14**, **1 Tim 3:16**, and references in **Titus** to God/Christ our Savior in every chapter.

- Any Jesus that is not God and man is not the Jesus of the Scriptures.

This revelation of Jesus Christ provides the answer to man's question, "If there is a God, what is He like?" Jesus said that to see Him was to see His Father (**John 14:9**). When Jesus spoke, people heard the voice of God. The Incarnation of Jesus reveals the chasm that exists between Christianity and all other religions. Religions are the futile attempts of finite man trying to reach the infinite God based upon their efforts. Christianity is the result of the infinite God coming to this earth to reach out to finite man and provide forgiveness and fellowship.

1:3 One of the reasons for writing this epistle was to announce the message of fellowship with the Lord and one another.

Fellowship with the living God means that I have eternal life.

John 17:3 And this is life eternal, that they might know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

1 Cor 1:9 God *is* faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

2 Cor 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost *be* with you all. Amen.

- Jesus is the true Vine and we are His branches (**John 15:1,5**). All that we need for life and godliness comes from Him (**2 Peter 1:2,3**).

It also means we have fellowship with one another.

Acts 2:42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Heb 10:24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works,

:25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

The Greek word for fellowship: #2842 koinonia (koy-nohn-ee'-ah); partnership, i.e. (literally) participation, or (social) intercourse, or (pecuniary) benefaction: communicate (-ation), communion, (contri-) distribution.

- All of these words are verbs. The Christian faith itself is a verb! So, John reminds us that our walk includes both vertical and horizontal fellowship. The will of God is that we have fellowship one with another, sharing and exchanging the various gifts and talents that the Lord has equipped us with.

1:4 A second reason for John writing this epistle was to fill the hearts of the saints with joy. The message of the false teachers was creating a kind of hopelessness and gloom. This isn't the fruit of God's Spirit at all (**Gal 5:22,23**)! The Greek word for joy indicates a gladness, a calm delight, a cheerfulness.

Isaiah 61:10 I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks *himself* with ornaments, and as a bride adorns *herself* with her jewels.

- Note that this joy was foretold in the Old Testament.

Hab 3:17 Though the fig tree may not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines; though the labor of the olive may fail, and the fields yield no food; though the flock may be cut off from the fold, and there be no herd in the stalls —

:18 Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation.

- This joy that we have been given through faith in Jesus Christ is not dependent upon outward things.

John 15:11 These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and *that* your joy may be full.

- The Word of God is a cause of great joy.

John 16:24 Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you shall receive, that your joy may be full.

- Prayer is a cause for great joy.

2 Cor 1:24 Not for that we have dominion over your faith, but are fellow workers for your joy; for by faith you stand.

- Ministry is intended to help God's people experience the joy of their

salvation.

Eph 3:19 and to know the love of Christ, which passes knowledge, that you might be filled with all the fullness of God.

- It is this experiencing the love of Jesus Christ that is the basis of joy.

1:5 John introduced us to the image of light (**John 1:4**). “**God is light**”, and Satan is the prince of darkness (**Luke 22:53**).

- The Lord Jesus is our Light. He is not only our Example, but He is also the One that reveals to us the path that we are to walk upon.

John 8:12 Then Jesus spoke again to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.”

Psalm 27:1 The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

Psalm 36:9 For with You *is* the fountain of life; in Your light we see light.

- The revelation that God is light also implies His purity of character. He would never say or do anything out of a motive of deceit. He would never command anything that would be harmful to us.

1:6 The Greek phrase **ean eipomen**, “**If we say**”, or “**should we claim**”, is repeated three times (**vv. 6,8,10**) in this short section. In each case the “claim” is set against a reality that exposes the claim as false. For example, the darkness of sin has no part in God’s existence. We must realize that we cannot be in fellowship with God when we are doing or thinking those things that are evil. To claim to walk with God and yet be in darkness is a contradiction.

To obey Him is to walk in the light; to disobey is to walk in darkness.

Keep in mind that fellowship is a matter of light and darkness.

Rom 13:12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.

:13 Let us walk properly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy.

:14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to *fulfill* the lusts thereof.

- To walk in the light is synonymous with walking in the Spirit or walking in holiness.

1:7 Scripture frequently sets light and darkness in contrast with each other. Here light and darkness represent an honest vs. a dishonest appraisal of one’s own self. When we “**walk in the light**” (i.e., in the spiritual knowledge God gives us), and are honest with God and with ourselves, the Lord works within us those changes in our lives, conforming us to the image of Jesus Christ.

The person who walks in the light is not sinless, for the text says such a person still needs forgiveness and purification. “**Purifies us**” is

katharise, meaning to cleanse or purify. The tense indicates an ongoing, continuous process by which God deals not just with acts of sin, but with the very principle of sin in our lives. The power to cleanse us is in the blood of Jesus Christ. This cleansing is absolutely vital for communion with our Lord and with one another.

1:8 Every person without exception sins. The phrase **harmartian echein**, “**have no sin,**” draws attention not to acts of sin, but to the principle of sin, the propensity to sin, residing in our fallen human nature (**Romans 7:14-23**). Any claim that a believer is unaffected by sin, or that the principle of sin has no presence within the believer, is utterly false. Such a claim is a delusion, for anyone who holds this belief must explain away sinful emotions such as lust, anger, self righteousness, prejudice, hatred. That was exactly what Jesus taught in the Sermon on the Mount. He particularly addressed the Pharisees on this point because they thought that as long as they didn’t commit the act of murder or the act of adultery they were “off the hook” (**Matt 5:20-22,27,28**).

It is impossible for anyone in the grasp of such a delusion to open his or her life to any true work of the Holy Spirit. The false teachers, like many New Age proponents today, were denying their sinful nature (**Eph 2:1-3**). They were redefining sin with soft terms. For them, the issue wasn’t sin, but a lack of knowledge of the “god” within them.

1:9 The Biblical call is to confess and repent of sin, not to deny sin. “**Confess**” (**homologeō**) means “to acknowledge.” The point is well expressed by Augustine, who says, “He who confesses and condemns his sins already acts with God.” To confess sins is to condemn our sins by labeling them for what they are, sins. God promises forgiveness of sins and purification from all unrighteousness to those who acknowledge their sins. (Read **Psalm 51** for an example of true confession, repentance.)

1:10 To hide, ignore, or claim we do not have sin is to deceive ourselves and lie to God. Such deception denies the truth of God’s Word, and thus calls God a liar. However, it is impossible for God to lie (**Num 23:19**, **Heb 6:18**). Also, such deception destroys any possibility for true fellowship with others.

Chapter 2

2:1 Listen to the tenderness of the Holy Spirit here in addressing the body of Christ: “**My little children**”. It is a term of endearment, not one of age. John uses this phrase “**little children**” nine times in this epistle. Every time we find this phrase, our Lord says something to exhort or warn us. Here was another reason for writing this epistle: that we sin not. Grace isn’t freedom to live after the flesh (**Rom 6:15**), but the power of God’s Spirit enabling us both to will and to do of His good pleasure (**Phil 2:13**).

Rom 6:1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?

:2 God forbid! How shall we, who are dead to sin, live any longer in it?

:3 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?

:4 Therefore we are buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Titus 2:11 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men,

:12 teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present age,

:13 looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,

:14 who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all lawlessness, and purify for Himself a peculiar people, zealous for good works.

- Remember, one extreme of Gnosticism taught that the physical did not matter; only the spiritual was important. Oftentimes, this would inspire people to live ungodly, immoral lives. John was reminding them of the same thing that Paul stated in **1 Cor 3:16,17**, and that is that our bodies are the temples of the Holy Spirit, and we are to be holy as He is holy.

Jesus Christ is our Advocate.

The Greek word for advocate is “par-ak'-lay-tos”, meaning: “*intercessor, consoler*:—advocate, comforter”. This is the very same word used to describe the Holy Spirit. While the Holy Spirit is Jesus’ Advocate on earth, Jesus is the Advocate of believers in heaven. The term “advocate” portrays Jesus as both a Divine Attorney and an Intercessor, One who represents the cause of believers in the presence of the Father. An advocate is one who pleads in another’s behalf. It means to speak in favor of another. Jesus is our personal Attorney in heaven when we “miss the mark”. When we sin and confess our sins to Him, He pleads our case as our defense Attorney. Satan is the accuser of the brethren (**Rev 12:10**), the prosecuting attorney.

Rom 8:34 Who *is* he that condemns? *It is* Christ who died, yea rather, who is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.

Heb 7:25 Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God by Him, since He ever lives to make intercession for them.

- Mankind needs an Advocate because we cannot plead our own case before a Holy God and win. We need no earthly priest to deal with our sins because we have “**Jesus Christ the Righteous.**”

2:2 The universal extent of the atonement of Christ is nowhere made clearer than here. (See also **John 1:29**; **2 Cor 5:14-15a, 19**; **Heb 2:9**.) **Isaiah (53:6c)** wrote: “the LORD laid upon (Jesus) the iniquity of us all” (even false teachers who deny “the Lord who bought them” - **2 Peter 2:1**). But this does not guarantee that everyone’s sin is automatically forgiven for Christ’s work applies only to those who believe in Him (cf. **4:15**; **John 5:24**).

PROPIITIATION

This is never a word used to describe any act whereby man brings God into a favorable attitude or gracious disposition. Never is God said to be “reconciled” to man. It is the sinner who needs to be reconciled to God. It is God who is “propitiated” by the vindication of His holy and righteous character, whereby through the provision He has made in the vicarious and expiatory sacrifice of Christ, He has so dealt with sin that He can show mercy to the believing sinner in the removal of his guilt and the remission of his sins.

Through the propitiatory sacrifice of Christ, he who believes in Him is by God’s own act delivered from justly deserved wrath, and comes under the covenant of grace. By the giving up of His sinless life sacrificially, Jesus annulled the power of sin to separate God and the believer (**Col 1:22**).

In the Old Testament the Hebrew verb “kaphar” is connected with “kopher”, “a covering” (the MERCY SEAT), and is used in connection with the burnt offering (e.g., **Lev 1:4**; **14:20**; **16:24**), the guilt or trespass offering (e.g., **Lev 5:16,18**), the sin offering (e.g., **Lev 4:20,26,31,35**), the sin offering and burnt offering together (e.g., **Lev 5:9,10**; **9:7**), the meal offering and peace offering (e.g., **Ezek 45:15, 17**), as well as in other respects. It is used of the ram offered at the consecration of the high priest (**Ex 29:31-33**) and of the blood which God gave upon the altar to make propitiation for the souls because it is the blood that makes atonement.

Lev 17:11: For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it *is* the blood *that* makes atonement for the soul.

- All of these Old Testament sacrifices appointed by God were foreshadowings of the perfect Lamb of God (**John 1:29**).

In **verses 3 through 11**, John continues to distinguish between true and false Christianity, and he reminds his readers that there are indicators that provide Christians with assurance. For example, “**we know that we know Him**”: (1) “**if we keep His commandments**” (v 3); (2) if we reflect the character of Christ (v 6); and (3) if we love one another (v 10). In each case, John shows that obedience provides grounds for assurance. While this does not mean that salvation is earned, **1 John** consistently argues that genuine regeneration should be outwardly evident. The

internal work of the Spirit produces external results. **James** sums it up this way: “**faith without works** (corresponding actions) **is dead**” (2:26). The works aren’t the cause of one’s salvation; they are the fruit of it.

2:3 We know that we have come to know God if we follow His commands. Obedience is the condition for such knowledge (cf. **John 14:21-23**). It is also the means by which a Christian can be sure that he has really come to know his Lord. However, this knowing of Jesus is also a progressive revelation. Paul still hungered for that intimate knowledge of the Lord Jesus 30 years after he was born again (**Phil 3:8-14**).

- To walk in obedience to Jesus is equivalent to walking in ways that please Him.

Rom 12:2 And be not conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

1 Thess 4:1 Finally then, brethren, we beseech and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as you have received of us how you ought to walk and to please God, *so* you would abound more and more.

2:4 This echoes the previous verse. If a person says that they are following the Lord Jesus, but they are walking in continual, deliberate opposition to the will of God, this person is living a lie. A true Christian will progressively be putting off the old man and putting on the new man in righteousness and holiness (**Eph 4:22-24**).

2:5 The Greek word for “perfected” here speaks of maturity. Obedience increases one’s love for Jesus and closeness with Jesus. Not only does one’s love for Jesus grow by being obedient, but **James 2:22** says that our faith is also perfected.

2:6 To say that we are abiding in Jesus means that we are following His example. After Jesus gave the invitation to come to Him, He then said that we were to learn of Him (**Matt 11:28,29**). This is a lifelong process. **John 13:15** For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.

1 Peter 2:21 For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps.

1 Cor 11:1 Be followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.

- The teaching on the Vine and the branches illustrates this abiding principle perfectly (**John 15:1-5**).
- This also demonstrates how Jesus is more than our example; He is also the Source of all of the power and fruit in our lives.

2:7-10 This new commandment that is old is the commandment to love one another. Jesus said that this special kind of love would prove to all men that we are His disciples (**John 13:34,35**).

- Love is the fruit of the Spirit (**Gal 5:22**).

- Love is the most excellent way (**1 Cor 12:31-13:13**).

In **verse ten** we find that if we are truly walking in love towards one another, then we will not consciously be doing things that would stumble or offend our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Rom 14:13 Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or an occasion to fall in *our* brother's way.

:14 I know and am persuaded by the Lord Jesus that *there is* nothing unclean of itself; but to him that considers anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean.

:15 But if your brother is grieved because of *your* food, you are no longer walking in love. Do not destroy with your food the one for whom Christ died.

:21 *It is* good neither to eat flesh nor drink wine nor *do anything* whereby your brother stumbles or is offended or is made weak.

1 Cor 8:9 But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak.

:10 For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating at an idol's temple, will not the conscience of him who is weak be emboldened to eat those things which are offered to idols?

:11 And because of your knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died?

:12 But when you thus sin against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ.

:13 Therefore, if meat makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

- The Greek word for stumbling describes a snare or trap that is used to catch animals. However, it is also used to describe something that is used to entice or lure someone into a compromising or spiritually destructive situation. Further definitions describe a tree that has been felled and laid across a road to block it, thus blocking the pathway to goodness. In all cases, the words mean that every Christian should avoid doing something which stops, impedes, or trips up another Christian's growth in Christ.
- Agape considers the effect of its choices and how they will affect others in the body of Christ, positively or negatively.

2:11 This repeats what John wrote in **verse nine**. Heart hatred in **chapter three** is called murder. It is the Cain state of heart (**verses 11-12**).

1 John 3:14 We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love *his* brother abides in death.

Titus 3:3 For we ourselves also were once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another. (This was prior to our regeneration.)

:4 But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared,

:5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,
:6 whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior;

2:12-14 In these three verses we find comforting words from John about :

- 1) the certainty of our forgiveness - our sins are forgiven on account of the name of Jesus Christ; His name saves (**Matt 1:21; Acts 4:12**);
- 2) the reality of our victory over the wicked one; and
- 3) the reminder that we have actually come into this personal relationship with the Lord God through Jesus Christ.

2:15-17 The encouragement of **vv. 12-14** is balanced by a warning against worldliness. In this context “world” (“*kosmos*” in Greek) does not describe a physical entity; rather, it portrays the created organization of the universe in rebellion against God. The command not to love the world is supported by two points: (1) love for the world is incompatible with love for God (v. 15), and (2) the world is only temporary (**v.17**). The author depicts three facets of worldliness (**v.16**): (1) “**the lust of the flesh,**” (2) “**the lust of the eyes,**” and (3) “**the pride of life**”. Note the same general areas of appeal to Eve in **Gen 3:6** and to the Lord Jesus in **Matt 4:1-11**.

Rom 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Col 3:1 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.

:2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

2:18 “**Little children**” is literally, “my precious little ones”. At the time of John’s writing, believers were living in the last times. Other New Testament writings reveal last days characteristics.

First of all, we know that the event that reveals that we are in the last days of man upon the earth was the coming of Jesus Christ in fulfillment of Bible prophecy.

Heb 1:1 God, who at various times and in divers manners spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets,

:2 has in these last days spoken to us by *His* Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, by whom also He made the worlds;

There are other passages that reveal to us the attitudes that will prevail in these last days.

2 Tim 3:1 This know also, that in the last days perilous times will come.

- One reason why the last days will be perilous is because men will be lovers of self. Albert Einstein once said that he did not fear the atomic bomb as much as he feared the evil in the heart of man.

2 Peter 3:3 knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,

- People will be mocking the doctrine of the Living Creator and the Second Coming of Jesus Christ to this earth.

Jude 1:18 how they told you that there would be mockers in the last time who would walk after their own ungodly lusts.

- In other words, there is going to be a full, blown-out explosion of ungodly, immoral lusts throughout the earth.

John writes to inform us that in these last days the spirit of antichrist will be very evident.

Surely we see the spirit of antichrist in the world today. It was evident in John's day and, of course, here in the United States today there are many antichrists. "Antichrist" is a combination of two Greek words: "anti", meaning "instead of" or "against", and "christos", meaning "anointed one". The word "antichrist", therefore, can denote anyone who either is or claims to be in the place of Christ, or one who, for any cause, is in opposition to Him. The many antichrists include not only the false teachers John opposed in this letter (**2:22, 4:3; 2 John 7**), but they are also the false christs Jesus warned the disciples about (**Matt 24:24**). All of these are the forerunners of the future Antichrist, also known as the first beast in the Book of **Revelation (13:1–18)**, who will exalt himself above God (see **Dan 9:27, 11:31, 12:11; Matt 24:15**).

2:19 Thus when John says these false teachers were not of us, he means they did not agree with the teaching of the apostles. This passage proves that these persons, whatever their pretensions and professions may have been, were never sincere Christians. The same remark may be made of all who apostatize from the faith and become teachers of error; that is, they never were truly converted. They never really belonged to the body of Christ.

Acts 20:30 Also from among yourselves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.

1 Cor 11:19 For there must also be factions (heresies) among you, that those who are approved may be made manifest among you.

- It is interesting how many cult leaders at one time professed to be members of orthodox Christian denominations. Wherever there are sheep, you are sure to find wolves.

2:20 The anointing (or "unction") here refers to the indwelling Holy Spirit. This anointing is the protection that believers have against the false teachers. One of the main heresies the first century Church faced was Gnosticism, whose followers claimed to have secret knowledge of the truth that led to salvation. Here John was opposing this teaching by asserting that all believers know the truth.

As Christians now indwelt by the Holy Spirit, we are joined to the Anointed One and share in His anointing.

2 Cor 1:21 Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has

anointed us *is* God;

:22 who has also sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a Guarantee.

- Therefore we can know all things with respect to truth and falsehood. Because the Spirit lives within us, we know all that we need to know in order to resist the temptations of false teachers and to live godly lives in this world.

2:21 No lie can have its foundation in truth. There is the responsibility that we have to study, meditate on, and apply God's Word in our hearts. We need to saturate our lives with the truth of the Word of the Lord.

2:22 The spirit of antichrist is the denial of the Father and the Son. That is really coming down to the denial of the divinity of Jesus Christ, that the Father and the Son are One. As Jesus said, "I and *My* Father are One" (**John 10:30**). If you honor Jesus, you honor the Father also. "He who has seen Me has seen the Father also" (**John 14:9**). So denying the deity of Jesus is the same as denying the Father and the Son.

- In John's epistles, denying that Jesus is the Christ includes denying that He came in the flesh (**1:1-3, 4:3; 2 John 7**). A person cannot worship God while denying Jesus' full deity and full humanity.

John 8:44 You are of *your* father the devil, and the lusts of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and *does not* stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *nature*, for he is a liar and the father of it.

- Any and every lie that is made regarding the Person of Jesus Christ finds a direct line to the devil himself.

2:23 There is an unbreakable connection between the revelation of Jesus and the Father.

Luke 10:22 All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father; and who the Father is except the Son, and *the one* to whom the Son wills to reveal *Him*.

John 5:23 that all *men* should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.

John 8:19 Then they said to Him, "Where is Your Father?" Jesus answered, "You know neither Me nor my Father. If you had known Me, you would have known my Father also."

John 10:30 I and *My* Father are One.

John 14:9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

- To disbelieve the things that Jesus said about Himself and His Father is essentially the same as calling Him a liar, and to do so is the equivalent of calling the Father a liar also. Thus, to deny the com-

plete Biblical revelation of Jesus Christ is to reject the Father as well.

2:24 That which they had “**from the beginning**” was what is written about — Jesus Christ in the Scriptures themselves.

2:25 Note that eternal life is a promise. The value of any promise that is made can only be measured by the one giving the promise. Who has promised to us eternal life? God Himself!

John 6:47 Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life.

John 10:28 And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone pluck them out of My hand.

Rom 5:21 so that as sin reigned to death, even so might grace reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

2:26 Not only were these false teachers attempting to seduce the saints regarding the correct identity of Jesus Christ, they were also attempting to twist the doctrine of salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ our Lord. This seductive, deceptive element is another sign of the last days.

1 Tim 4:1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in the latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils;

Matt 24:4 And Jesus answered and said to them: “Take heed that no one deceives you.

:5 For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many.”

Mark 13:22 For false christs and false prophets will rise, and show signs and wonders to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect.

- In some cases, part of the seduction occurs because of their ability to display demonic feats of the miraculous. Remember, Satan has the capacity to perform lying signs and wonders.

2 Cor 11:13 For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ.

:14 And no wonder; for Satan transforms himself into an angel of light.

:15 Therefore *it is* no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.

- Another part of the seduction is due to the outward appearance of righteousness. Mormons are very good on the outside, but the doctrine that they bring is like wormwood

Col 2:8 Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.

- Another form of last days seduction is secular, Christless philosophy.

2:27 If we have need that no man should teach us, why do we have preachers? Again, we must compare Scripture with Scripture. “...When He ascended He led the captives from their captivity and gave gifts to

men. (Now this, 'He ascended' - what does it mean but that He who has ascended is the same One who first descended into the lower parts of the earth?) ... And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the building up of the body of Christ" (**Ephesians 4:8-12**). So God has set in the church pastors/teachers, as myself. I can teach you the truth as I teach God's word. God's word is true (**John 17:17b**), but unless the Holy Spirit reveals it to your heart, you can't learn it. The Holy Spirit is the One who takes the truth and applies it to your own heart. There are those who hear and the truth will ring in their heart and bear witness through the work of the Holy Spirit (**John 15:26**). And there are others who'll hear the same message and they'll say, "I don't know; I sure didn't get anything out of that." And so, unless the Holy Spirit really teaches and brings the truth to you, you can read and hear the truth, but it won't have an impact. The Holy Spirit must bring the understanding and apply the truth to your own heart.

2:28 The basic message of the Spirit is to "**abide in** (Christ)". Jesus said, "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask whatever you desire, and it shall be done for you." (**John 15:7**)
And we know He's going to appear. "**When He shall appear**", not *if*. We don't know when He's coming. "In an hour that you think not", He said He is coming (**Matt 24:44**). And I'll tell you what, there's a lot of things I really would not want to be doing at the time of the Rapture. I surely wouldn't want to be in some theater watching an X-rated or an R-rated movie. Nor would I want to be sitting at home looking at some racy stuff on the Internet, or, having rented an X-rated video, watching that in my home. I don't want to be hiding magazines, or fumbling and trying to find the buttons to turn off or mute the TV.
"**Ashamed at His coming**." What we need more than anything else is that consciousness of the presence of Christ with us at all times. So abide in Him, "**little children**," my little blessed ones - expressing endearment. "**That when He appears**," we'll be in agreement with Him.
Jesus said, "Blessed *is* that servant whom, when his Lord comes, He finds him so doing" (**Matthew 24:46**). That is, doing the will of the Lord. When Jesus comes I want to be found "occupying" (**Luke 19:13**) in something that He considers to be upright.

2:29 The world is going to pass away (**v.17a**). Let's invest in things that are eternal. Let's have the proper perspective toward material things (**Matt 6:25-33**) because it's so easy for us to get caught up in materialism. Believing, like John did, that we are living in the last days gives us a desire for purity. I don't know when the Lord is going to come, but when He comes, I want Him to find me walking in righteousness and in holiness.

Chapter 3

3:1 John begins with a sense of wonder and amazement at the fact that we are called “**children of God**”. In **verses one** and **two** we are called “**children**” or “**sons of God**”. We belong to the family of God. That is why we can call God “Our Father” (**Matt 6:9**).

John 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name:

Rom 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

:15 For you have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but you have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, “Abba, Father.”

Phil 2:14 Do all things without murmuring and disputing,

:15 that you may be blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world;

- We become sons of God by placing faith in the Lord Jesus Christ’s finished work of atonement, and belief that He has risen from the dead (**Rom 10:9**).
- We know that we are the sons of God because He has given us His Holy Spirit (**Rom 8:16, 2 Cor 5:5**).
- We have the responsibility to live in this world as representatives of the Kingdom of God (**2 Cor 5:20, Rom 14:17-19**).
- On a linguistic note, when Paul wrote about being the sons of God, he used the Greek term for an adopted son. When John wrote about being a son of God, he used the Greek term to describe a natural child.

3:2 We are sons of God right now! The discussion of Christ’s return reveals two important truths: (1) believers do not reach their final state of glory until Christ is revealed (**v. 2**); and, (2) the hope of this event produces a desire for personal purity (**v. 3**).

“**It has not yet been revealed what we shall be**”. However, Scripture tells us that when we are with Jesus, we will undergo a glorious transformation.

1 Cor 15:49 And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.

Phil 3:21 who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working whereby He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

3:3 The return of Jesus Christ is a purifying hope. Biblical hope is that confident expectation in something which is sure to come to pass. Those who are children of God and expecting the return of their Lord will be living a lifestyle of purity. The Greek word for purity found here is also used to describe the ritual purifications observed by the Jews. We call

this purifying work, sanctification. The very same Greek word is found in these other texts.

James 4:8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *you* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *you* double-minded.

1 Peter 1:22 Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart :

- It has been said that nothing will make you a more careful driver than discovering that your license has expired. Likewise, nothing will inspire you to live a holy life more than the belief that the end is near. The major thought behind all of Jesus' teachings about the end times is that we are to be ready and watchful. To truly expect Jesus to return today will effect the way that I respond to temptation, and it will effect the way that I treat other people.

Since Jesus is pure, purity is required to be like Him.

The goal for believers is to become increasingly Christlike. The appeal for purity in God's people is based upon the holiness of God.

Acts 15:9 and make no distinction between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith. (Faith purifies our lives.)

2 Cor 7:1 Having therefore these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

- 3:4** The basic meaning of the word "commits" here means , "to practice." The present participle tense indicates John is looking at lifestyle. He is concerned about the one habitually practicing sin. In calling sin "lawlessness" or "the transgression", John explains the idea of practicing sin. This is a description of the unregenerate. John is not talking here about a Christian who is struggling with sin, but a person who is habitually engaged in their sin. What John is citing here is a rebellious attitude. It is a lifestyle of lawlessness that is at heart in rebellion against God.

We must be careful as we chart through the next few verses in this chapter. John does not teach that it is impossible for believers to sin. Indeed, earlier in **1:8** he makes it clear that believers will sin at times, and must be ready to acknowledge it when they do. Believers can be overtaken for we still have the old man that must be put to death daily (**Luke 9:23**). But when we look at lifestyle, at the whole pattern of a person's life, we realize that it is impossible for a true believer to make sinning a habit.

- 3:5** The phrase "take away" means, "bear (up), carry, lift up, loose, put away, remove."

Matt 1:21 And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.

John 1:29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”

Heb 9:26 He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.

- The idea here is not only one of atonement for our sins, as the verses above declare; it also includes the thought that in that atonement there is the power of God which now resides in every child of God to bring deliverance from the bondage of sin and death.

3:6 This verse does not teach that a Christian will never commit an act of sin. The verb employed in the Greek is in the present tense, which indicates continual action. As mentioned earlier, these verses, therefore, do not teach that a Christian will never sin after conversion, nor, for that matter, that a believer will ever reach perfection in his life. The present tense, in this context, indicates the breaking of the perpetual hold of sin in the life of the disciple. Thus the verse can be understood to mean, “Whoever abides in Him does not continually and habitually sin.” Again, the idea is that no one who is abiding in Jesus Christ (staying in communion with Him and in obedience to Him) will habitually practice sin.

3:7 In other words, you can tell a tree by its fruit. Earlier John wrote almost the same words.

1 John 2:29 If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him.

It is the old “The proof is in the pudding” adage. Paul put it this way:

1 Cor 6:9 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor those who practice homosexuality,

:10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.

:11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

3:8 Habitual sinners are under Satan’s control and are his children. Satan’s existence is and always has been characterized by sin and rebellion against God. Scripture clearly teaches that there are two spiritual “seeds” of people upon the earth.

Matt 13:38 The field is the world; the good seeds are the children of the kingdom, but the weeds are the children of the wicked *one*.

John 8:44 You are of *your* father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and *does not* stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *nature*, for he is a liar and the father of it.

Jesus Christ came to “destroy the works of the devil” in our lives.

Acts 10:38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

Luke 10:18 And He said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.

:19 Behold, I give you the authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

:20 Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you; but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven.”

- We find in **verses 3:5,8** and **4:14** three reasons for Christ’s coming: to pay the price for our sins; to destroy the power of sin in our life; to be our Savior.

3:9 The person who has been born into God’s family does not make a practice of sinning because now God’s life is in him. He can’t keep on sinning for this new life has been born into him and controls him - he has been born again. God’s seed (“sperma” in Gk.) represents the new life which results from spiritual regeneration. This life is vitalized by the Spirit and prevents slavery to Satan and sin. Peter put it this way:

1 Peter 1:23 having been born again, not of corruptible seed but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which lives and abides forever. (The seed is God’s Word - **Luke 8:11**.)

- Oswald Chambers, writing in his devotional about this verse said, “**1 John 3:9** does not mean that we cannot sin - it simply means that if we will obey the life of God in us, that we do not have to sin.”
- God’s Spirit and God’s Word will keep you from sin.

3:10 Because we are saved by grace, does this mean that we can simply live any way that we choose? Of course not, the child of God lives differently than does the unsaved person.

Rom 6:1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?

:2 God forbid! How shall we who are dead to sin live any longer in it?

:3 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?

:4 Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

3:11-12 The love mentioned here is a love expressed in concrete acts for others and characterized by right motives. Why did Cain slay Abel? He was envious of him, bitter towards him. Instead of getting his heart right with God, Cain took out his anger on his brother. Who do people hate? Slay? Those they envy, disapprove of,

are jealous of or challenged by.

We must beware of nurturing the Cain state of mind, saints. Beware of allowing mental and verbal slayings of another Christian!
Cain serves as a picture of the person who cannot claim to be a Christian.

Why did Cain slay Abel?

“Because his works were evil and his brother’s righteous.”

Ingredients behind Cain’s slaying:

1. Envy

Prov 14:30 A sound heart is life to the flesh, but envy is rottenness to the bones.

Envy was the very same reason why their brethren rejected both Joseph (**Gen 37:5,11**) and Jesus (**Mark 15:9,10**).

2. Jealousy

Prov 6:34 For jealousy is the rage of a man; therefore he will not spare in the day of vengeance.

3. Bitterness

Heb 12:15 looking diligently lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many be defiled;

- These are Cain-like attitudes that must be banished from our ways of thinking and acting, for these are the attitudes of the unregenerate.

3:13 Do not be surprised when the world hates you.

A. Why does the world hate the true Christians?

1. **John 15:18** If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you.

2. **John 17:14** I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

3. **Rom 8:7** Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.

B. We are hated because

1. The world system hates Jesus for who He really is. They accept the “Jesus” that allows them to do whatever they like regardless of what Scripture says. They hate the Jesus who is Holy and the only Way to heaven.

2. As we follow Jesus, our lives are going to reflect His character of purity, honesty, and truth, but light and darkness cannot coexist without conflict - **2 Cor 6:14-16**.

3. The unsaved man’s thinking is carnal, both hating and opposing the word and will of God.

- John’s readers anticipated persecution and the possibility of death. Refusal to participate in the worship of the emperor would brand them as seditious, thus worthy of death.

3:14 15 times we find the claim “we know” in **1 John**; 8 times we find the phrase “you know”. Browse through the epistle and find out where they are and what they reveal to us.

Love is the proof of regeneration.

John 13:34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

:35 By this will all men know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another

The Holy Spirit is going to write how this love is proof of a regeneration that is very practical. Love is a verb (**1 Cor 13**).

3:15 Please note that hatred in the heart constitutes murder just as much as lust in the eyes and heart constitutes adultery and requires repentance.

Matt 5:21 You have heard that it was said to those of old, “You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.”

:22 But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, “Raca!” shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, “You fool!” shall be in danger of hell fire.

- Jesus gave us further details of murderous or Cain-like attitudes.
- No one that normally and regularly lives their lives in this fashion can claim to have God’s eternal life operating in his/her life.

3:16 The proof of God’s love for us was displayed upon the cross. Likewise, the proof of our love for one another is by laying down our lives for our brothers and sisters in Christ. Whenever you doubt the love of God for you, meditate upon the cross of Jesus Christ until the Holy Spirit whispers into your soul, “I love you, and this is when and where I proved it.”

1. God’s goodness and grace are expressed in our day-to-day lives, but the proof of His love was demonstrated upon Calvary.
2. Never look for ultimate proof of God’s love in your circumstances because they are subject to change.
3. Never look for ultimate proof of God’s love in your feelings for they are subject to frequent changes.
4. The sacrificial death of Christ defines what love is. True love can only be defined in action.

3:17,18 While it certainly is good to express our love for one another, it is far better to demonstrate it by our actions. To love in deeds is to love in truth. Ancient literature often coupled “word” and “deed” (e.g., in writings of Demosthenes, Quintilian, and Seneca). The one who did both was praised, but the one who only spoke and did not act accordingly was viewed as a hypocrite.

It’s very easy to talk about love.

1 Cor 4:20 For the kingdom of God is not in word but in power.

James 2:15 If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food,
:16 and one of you says to them, “Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,” but you do not give them those things which are needed for the body; what does it profit?

:17 Even so faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

:18 But many may say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith without your works and I will show you my faith by my works.

:19 You believe that there is one God; you do well. The demons also believe, and tremble.

:20 But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?

- James argued against a false definition of faith, a definition with intellectual content but no consequences for practical daily life. Faith is commitment to Christ, depending on Him and not on human achievement for salvation, but also serving Him as directed by His Spirit.
- The proof of the validity of our faith is by the demonstration of our love for one another in practical ways. Cards. Calls. Babysitting to give a couple with a newborn a night out. Helping the elderly with yard work, etc.
- I need to add here that our caring for one another does not necessarily mean that it is our obligation to cover for one’s irresponsibility.

3:19 When we are walking in this practical agape, our hearts are assured that we are of the truth.

Rom 8:16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.

3:20,21 Matthew Henry splendidly made this comment, “Every instance of this selfishness must weaken the evidences of a man’s conversion; when habitual and allowed, it must decide against him. If conscience condemn us in known sin, or the neglect of known duty, God does so too. Let conscience therefore be well-informed, be heard, and diligently attended to.”

What wonderful confidence we can have as we walk in obedience to the Spirit of God.

2 Cor 1:12 For our rejoicing is this: the testimony of our conscience that we conducted ourselves in the world in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom but by the grace of God, and more abundantly toward you.

3:22 A condition of prayer is that the petitioner be obedient to the known will of God and seek to do those things that are pleasing in His sight. The purpose of prayer is to accomplish the will of God on earth, not to get our

wills done upon the earth. We do not walk in obedience in order to obtain what we want from God; we walk in obedience that we might walk in compliance with God's will.

3:23,34 Note that the word "commandments" in **verse 22** is in the singular here, even though it has a two-fold meaning:

1. The commandment to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation;
2. The commandment to love one another in the Body of Christ.
3. It is by our walking in obedience to the above commands that we abide in Christ, the Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are the children of the Living God.
4. And what is the primary evidence of the Spirit of God at work in our lives? Agape (**Gal 5:22-23**).

1 Tim 1:5 Now the end of the commandments is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of sincere faith,

Chapter 4

4:1 John here tells us that we are not to believe every spirit. We are told to try, or more literally "test the spirits" to see whether or not they are of God. We have been given this responsibility. In **Acts 17**, the Bereans were the people that listened to the things that they were taught and then went back to the Scriptures to see if what they heard lined up with the Word of God. That is the idea here. Cults have capitalized on the ignorance of Christians in their lack of understanding of the Bible. Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount warned of false prophets.

Matt 7:15 Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.

:16 You will know them by their fruits.

Throughout the New Testament, the writers warned of the false prophets that would come: **2 Cor 11:1-15; 2 Peter 2; Matt 24:3-5,11,23-27**.

Jesus said that in the last days many deceivers would come. And what is the test by which we try the spirits?

4:2 The word "Christ" is the Greek for Messiah. So every spirit that confesses that Jesus the Messiah is come in the flesh is of God. In those days, there was a sect that arose in the early church that was known as the Gnostic sect. This sect denied that Jesus had come in the flesh. They said that the Spirit of God actually left Him in the garden of Gethsemane because it was impossible that God could die. And there was the denial that He had come in the flesh because the Gnostics felt that everything that was material was evil, so God could not have created the material universe because material is evil. Thus God could not have come in the flesh because the flesh is totally evil.

- And so John is saying that if anybody denies that Jesus is the Messiah, and that He came in the flesh, they are not of God. "By

this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God”.

4:3 Note here that John makes mention both of the Antichrist and the spirit of Antichrist, which was already in the world in John’s day. The spirit of antichrist is evidenced in one who announces himself as a substitute or a replacement for Christ, or who flat out lives in opposition to and hatred of Jesus Christ.

- The spirit of antichrist is growing in our society every day. It is growing in America’s school systems. It certainly is demonstrated in our media and entertainment industry. People who are wanting to live a life of sin, following after hedonistic pleasures, are opposed to the teaching of Jesus Christ—His teaching of purity and righteousness. And thus they have set themselves against Him - antichrist.

The Antichrist is identified as “the man of sin” who is going to arise in these last days as one “who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped”. He will one day sit in the rebuilt temple of God and declare that he is God. (**2 Thess 2:3-4**)

- John is the only one who calls him the Antichrist, and he does four times in his letters. This man in other passages is called “the beast” (**Rev 13:1-4**), “the son of perdition” (**2 Thess 2:3**), and “the wicked one” (**Matt 13:19,38**).

So not only will this coming Antichrist be in opposition to Jesus Christ, but he will also announce himself as the world’s deliverer. And most of humanity will be so deceived by this man that they will actually hail him as their savior. During the early part of his reign there will be tremendous economic benefits and prosperity. There will be a time of so-called “peace and safety”. And we’ve already seen how a person can live a very wicked life but as long as the nation is in an economic period of prosperity, people are willing to accept any kind of behavior.

What the “test” of **verses 2 and 3** boils down to is this: the denial of Jesus Christ as both God and man, not claiming Him to be simply one or the other.

Isaiah 9:6 Unto us a child is born, unto us the Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

- The Bible clearly teaches that Jesus is God who came in human flesh. And this is what John is talking about here - the denial of the deity of Jesus Christ. It was John who wrote in his gospel, “In the beginning was the Word, the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” (**John 1:1**) You can also tell false prophets because of the denial of the deity of Jesus Christ, the denial that He is God come in the flesh.

There are many groups that disguise themselves or masquerade as

legitimate kinds of religious groups, that have wonderful practices, great values, but there is the denial that Jesus is God come in the flesh. They would make Him something less than that, something other than God in the flesh. They would put Him in the category of an angel, such as the Jehovah Witnesses do who declare that He is actually Michael the archangel, or as the Mormons who declare that He is a brother to Lucifer.

- As John said, “By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.” (**1 John 4:6**) “Every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. This is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard it was coming, and is now already in the world.” (**4:3**)

4:4 (Note here saints, the reality of the indwelling Lord Jesus Christ!)

It is interesting that we read in the Bible both in **Daniel (7:21, 8:24)** and in **Revelation (6:9-11, 13:7)** that when the Antichrist comes, he’s going to make war against the saints and prevail against them. But here John says, “You are of God, ...and have overcome them because greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world.” Is the Bible contradictory? Not at all. John is addressing the Church, all those indwelt by the Spirit of God (**1 Cor 3:16**). The Antichrist will make war (**Matt 24:9**) against the nation of Israel and any Gentiles who will be converted after the Rapture of the Church (**1 Thess 5:15-17**). They are saints, but they are not the Church. This persecution will be during the last seven year period of time called the Tribulation.

Jesus said, “Upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” (**Matt 16:18**) Many people make the mistake of not distinguishing between the tribulation saints and the Church.

4:5 This is because the natural man cannot receive the things of the Spirit of God (**1 Cor 2:14**). This is why a cult member can have a wealth of Bible information and still lack a knowledge of the truth.

4:6 Please note here that God makes the distinction between the Spirit of Truth and the spirit of falsehood or error. This is consistently revealed in Scripture. If a person believes that the Word of God (the Bible) is indeed the words of God and follows its teachings, he is believing and following the truth. But to deny that the Word of God is a complete revelation of God’s truth and plan of salvation is the spirit of error.

- For example, there are many people who do not believe in the virgin birth of Jesus Christ. This is the spirit of error, because to deny the virgin birth of Jesus Christ is then to deny that He is the Son of God. Thus, it is to deny the value of His atoning work on Calvary. That’s hitting at the foundation of the gospel: 1) that Jesus was born of a virgin, as was prophesied (**Isaiah 7:14**); 2) that He is the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, and the Prince of Peace (**Isaiah 9:6**);

and, 3) because He is eternal God, His death upon the cross made complete and everlasting atonement for our sins (**1 Cor 15:3; Heb 5:9, 7:25**).

4:7 Up to this point the test of whether or not someone is of the Lord was based upon their view of the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ. Now, once again turning to the issue of mere professors or actual possessors of faith, John presents the second test - love.

- The word that John uses for “love” is “agape” throughout this text. There are other Greek words for love, one of which is “eros”. This word is not used at all in the New Testament (or in the Bible.) Eros is totally self-centered; it is seeking self-gratification. It’s really a love of self, seeking to gratify self and often at the expense of someone else. Many times it is just the opposite of love. It’s the word that is used by the world today when they say, “Let’s make love” - the erotic, or eros.
- The Greeks had three words for love: one for physical love, body love - **Eros**; one for emotional love, or soulful love - **Phileo**; and one for spiritual love, divine love - **Agape**. In fact the word agape was actually invented to describe this degree or quality of love that could not be manufactured upon the earth. This love is a verb, described in **1 Corinthians 13**. Agape, nothing else, is proof of our conversion.

4:8 To say that Jesus Christ is living in me and yet to be living a life of selfishness and unloving attitudes is to be deceived.

4:9 God is love, and how did He manifest that love for us? By sending His Son into the world that we might live through Him. Whenever the Bible shows and demonstrates the fact that God loves you, it’s always by pointing to the cross (**John 3:16**). “For God has manifested His love towards us,” Paul said, “in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for the us.”

(**Romans 5:8**).

- Never look for proof of God’s ultimate love for you in your feelings, emotions, or circumstances. God’s love was proven on Calvary.

4:10 Creation can only bring an awareness and consciousness of the existence of the Creator, but creation has given mankind a very powerful witness of the existence of God. “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork. Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge. There is no speech nor a language where their voice is not heard.” (**Psalm 19:1-3**) However, it is only in the Bible that we get the real revelation that God is love, and the endeavor to prove it is the cross.

This word “propitiation” is an interesting word. It actually is the same as

the Hebrew word “kaphar”, which is a covering. This was the word used to describe the mercy seat in the ancient tabernacle. When the Israelites constructed the ark of the covenant, a rectangular box made of acacia wood covered with gold, on top of that box was placed the mercy seat of pure gold as the lid of the box. On that lid there were carved two golden cherubim facing each other (**Exodus 25:10,11,17-20**). Inside the box, the ark of the covenant, were the two tables of stone upon which God had engraved the ten commandments (**Heb 9:3-5**). And once a year, the high priest would come into the Holy of Holies before the ark of the covenant and he would sprinkle the blood of the sacrifice on the mercy seat, because that is where they made the covering for the sins (**Lev 16:15**). And so as John says, “Herein is love, not that we loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation” (or the mercy seat) “for our sins.” In other words, Jesus Christ became the covering for our sins. He took our sins upon Himself (**2 Cor 5:21**) and God’s justice is satisfied because Jesus bore our sins in His own body on the cross (**1 Peter 2:24**). There’s love! That God made provision for sinful man to be able to have fellowship with Him. However, it was necessary that God’s righteousness be protected, so there had to be a means by which our sins could be covered, put away. And that means was by Jesus Christ, the propitiation for our sins (**Rom 3:23-26**).

4:11 “Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.” That says it all, doesn’t it? And it leaves little room for excuses!

4:12 What does he mean, “NO man has seen God at any time”? Didn’t Moses see God? Didn’t Abraham talk with God? Didn’t Adam walk with God? In his gospel John makes that same statement, “No man has seen God at any time.” But then he adds, “The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has manifested Him.” (**John 1:18**) No man has seen God the Father because God is a Spirit (**John 4:24**) and you can’t see a spirit, but He was manifested in the person of Jesus Christ (**Col 1:19**). Therefore, John could say, “No man has seen God at any time, but the only begotten Son, ... He has manifested Him.” “And we beheld His glory, ...as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.” (**John 1:14**)

4:13 What is the fruit of the Spirit? Love (**Gal 5:22**). Thus, the manifestation of the fruit of the Spirit of God in my life is tangible proof that I am a child of God. The real evidence that your life is filled with the Spirit is not your ability to speak in tongues. It is not your ability to prophesy. It is not your ability to work miracles. It isn’t your ability to understand deep, spiritual mysteries. But it is God’s love manifested in you. That’s what Paul wrote about in **1 Corinthians 13**.

4:14 Not only was Jesus sent to be the propitiation for our sins, He was also

sent to be the Savior of the world. Jesus said, “The Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.” (**Luke 19:10**)

4:15 This is how we’re saved. As Paul wrote to the Romans, “For if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is the Lord, and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.” (**Romans 10:9**)

4:16 The key words are “known and believed the love that God has for us.”

4:17 In other words as we grow in our relationship with Jesus Christ, we become more confident in the work that He has done on our behalf. He gives us, by the Spirit of God, boldness to enter into His throne of grace for help in time of need (**Heb 4:16**). There is a day of judgment coming (**Heb 9:27**), but thank God for the finished work of Jesus Christ (**John 19:30**)! I dread not death nor Satan’s power. Jesus Christ bore my sin and the judgment for my sin!

4:18 Note that this doesn’t say that if you have fear you are not saved; but rather, if you are living in fear your fellowship with Jesus Christ is lacking. Christ enables us to live fearless lives because of the reality of His love for us (**Rom 8:28**). If today there are things that trouble you, if you’re fearful or worried, if you find yourself unable to sleep, fully commit that situation to the Lord and recognize that He’s going to take care of you. You’re His child. He loves you! How do you know that when all is falling apart around you? Look to Calvary.

4:19 Respond lovingly to the Lord’s love for you today.

4:21 In the previous chapter John said, “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.” (**1 John 3:23**) John closes this section by saying, “And this commandment we have from Him:” if you love God, love your brother also.

There came to Jesus a lawyer and he said to Him, “What is the greatest commandment?” And Jesus said, “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments are all the Law and the Prophets.” (**Matthew 22:35-40**)

This sums it all up. Love God completely with everything! Love Him preeminently, above everything else! And love your neighbor as yourself. The rest is all taken care of. They’re all fulfilled, all of the law is fulfilled in these. As Paul said, “love is the fulfilling of the law.” (**Rom 13:10**) The law is fulfilled in love. If you confess that you love God and yet you hate your brother, you’re being deceived. The truth isn’t in you. The commandment is, love God. If you do, you must love your brother.

Chapter 5

John's letter here is basically all about our experiencing the love of God, the light of God, and the life of God. All of this, he has told us, comes through our personal experience of the grace of God, which is in and through Jesus Christ.

5:1 First note the phrase, "born of God." Every person who believes in the Person of Jesus Christ as He is revealed in the Scriptures is born again (**John 3:3-7**), or born of God. Every true Christian is a miracle of God. **John 1:12** But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name; **:13** who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. **1 Peter 1:23** being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever

Secondly, every person who claims to love God will love the One begotten of Him, Jesus Christ. It is amazing to me how many religious people hate or attack the Person of Jesus Christ. One example is written on The Dome of The Rock in Jerusalem (one of the holy sites of Islam). There a phrase is written in Arabic, "God is not begotten, neither does He begat." This is a direct attack against the Incarnation of Jesus Christ. Note carefully, if someone claims to love God, they will love Jesus Christ.

5:2 This is pretty self-explanatory. When we are walking in the love of God, doing those things that are pleasing to Him, it stands to reason that our lives will be loving demonstrations of His love towards one another.

5:3 The Greek word for "grievous" can also mean "weighty, burdensome, heavy". Jesus said that His yoke is easy and His burden is light (**Matt 11:30**). Observing God's commandments are not grievous because we love our Lord and one way that we show our love for Him is by our obedience to Him.

Psalms 19:7 The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.

:8 The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.

:9 The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever; the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

:10 More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.

:11 Moreover by them Your servant is warned, and in keeping them there is great reward.

- In these three verses of John, we see that our fellowship is a

fellowship of love (**v. 1**), and a fellowship of obedience (**vs. 2,3**).

5:4 How are we saved? By grace, through faith (**Eph 2:8**). How do we overcome the world and all of its temptations and snares? By grace, through faith. This grace and faith are both supplied from the indwelling Jesus Christ.

5:5 Notice that in **verses 4 and 5**, believers in Jesus Christ are inferred to be “over-comers”. The Bible tells about those who overcome the world and about those who are overcome by the world. We have victory over the world in the sense that we do not love it nor obey its dictates. The Greek verb for “overcomes” is in the present tense and conveys the thought of habitually conquering in a continuous victory through faith centered in the Person of Jesus Christ. This word does not even hint at a trouble free life. Anybody can appear to be an over-comer when they have no struggles or tests, but true over-comers are those who face the trials of life through the Person of Jesus Christ and come out on top. Listen to His Word:

John 16:33 These things I have spoken unto you, that in Me you might have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.

Rom 8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

:36 As it is written, “For Your sake we are killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.”

:37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

5:6 The Gnostics taught that Jesus could not have possibly been a human being. John here, using medical terminology, states that Jesus’ coming into this world was as natural as any other human birth, notwithstanding the miracle of the virgin birth (conception).

Jesus Christ was fully man.

Matt 1:23 “Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a Son, and they shall call his name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.”

Isaiah 9:6 For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

John 1:14 And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

1 Tim 3:16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen by angels,

preached to the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up in glory.

- Jesus was as human as you and I, except without sin (**Heb 4:15**). He grew in wisdom and stature (**Luke 2:52**). In His Incarnation, Jesus emptied Himself, not of His Deity, but of His attribute of omnipresence. As Son of Man, Jesus learned obedience by the things that He suffered (**Heb 5:8**). He wept (**John 11:35**). He slept (**Matt 8:24**). He became hungry (**Matt 21:18**).

The Holy Spirit bore witness to the reality of Jesus' Incarnation because it was written that the Messiah would be God Almighty in human flesh. "If you have seen Me, you have seen the Father." (**John 14:9b**)

- All heresy diminishes Jesus Christ and in doing so distances God, thus making the approach to God according to the "secret knowledge" or revelation of some special group or individual.

5:7 This verse is not included in the actual texts of all of the newer versions of the Bible, yet this is the most powerful passage on the Trinity in the New Testament. The "reason" given for the omission is that it was not found in the oldest manuscripts. However, it is interesting that this verse was quoted by Tertullian in the year 22. Cyprian quoted this verse around 250 A.D., and Jerome actually contained this verse in his translation at the end of the 4th century. Fulgentius, in the beginning of the 6th century quotes this verse without hesitation in his discourse against the Arians.

- Each of these quotes from sermons or letters predated the supposed "oldest manuscripts". What manuscripts did they get this passage from? An older, more authentic text! (Other glaring omissions in these newer versions are **Mark 16:9-20** and **John 7:53-8:11**.)
- One characteristic of every cult is its denial of the Trinity. The doctrine of the Trinity actually begins in the Hebrew of **Gen 1:1** as Elohim ("God") is a plural noun (but not "Gods").

5:8 There is the threefold witness upon earth: the Spirit (seal of salvation - **Eph 1:13**); the water (public expression of salvation in water baptism - **Mark 1:4,5**; **1 Peter 3:21**); the blood (communion being the reminder of salvation - **1 Cor 11:24-26**).

5:9 The witness of God is recorded in the testimony of Scripture concerning His Son Jesus Christ: "This is My beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased." (**Matt 3:17, 17:5**).

5:10 Every true believer has the witness of the Holy Spirit and the witness of Jesus Christ.

Rom 8:16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit, that we are children of God,

Gal 4:6 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!"

5:11 Here is the record of which every Christian has the witness: eternal life is the gift of God that comes from God's Son Jesus Christ.

Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

5:13 The assurance of eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. To believe on His Name means to believe in Who He is and what He has done on my behalf.

John 3:36 He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.

1 John 2:23 Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who acknowledges the Son has the Father also.

5:14,15 We can have confidence in prayer when we submit them to the Father and His will. "Your will be done" in this matter (**Matt 26:42**) is the prayer of faith, not "Bless my way in this matter."

There are reasons why God does not grant our requests.

Psalms 66:18 If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear.

James 4:2 You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask.

:3 You ask and do not receive because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.

1 Peter 3:7 Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.

- When our prayers are not being answered, it isn't because the Lord doesn't hear us for that is impossible! It means that there is something wrong in our walk. Something is out of order, out of line. Jesus said that if we abide in Him and His words abide in us, we can ask what we desire and it will be done for us (**John 15:7**).
- Do not confuse delays in answer to prayer with repeated denials.
- Prayer isn't a blank check from heaven for my will to be done. Prayer is the privilege of approaching the throne of grace with the needs in my life (**Heb 4:16**) and petitioning that God's will be done on earth, as it is in heaven (**Matt 6:10**).

5:16 "If a man sees his brother sinning" makes it rather clear that a brother can be overtaken by sin. The second part of this verse has been the source of great discussion throughout Church history. Part of the difficulty is trying to define what death is spoken about here, spiritual or physical. It would appear in Scripture that the only sin that leads to eternal death is the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit (**Matt 12:31,32**).

The phrase "not leading to death" means the sin described in **Gal 6:1**. In this case the sinners can be restored, and we can pray for them with the assurance that they will be. However in **Heb 6:4-6**, we find the sin that

is evidently unto death. This passage states that there is a line that a person can cross when they have repeatedly rejected the offer of salvation through Jesus Christ, leading him or her to the second death.

- Others point to the cases of Ananias and Sapphira and the saints in Corinth that died physically because of some sin of disobedience, as the sin not leading to death in the eternal sense.

5:18 “Does not sin” means “does not practice sin”.

The word “himself” isn’t in this verse in the Greek; the word is “him”. Since Greek doesn’t have capital letters, the translators had to choose which ones to capitalize. I think the word “he” here refers to Jesus and should be capitalized, for it is Jesus who protects us from Satan. Jesus is the one who keeps the child of God.

1 Peter 1:5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Jude 24 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,

Again, the Greek reads, “him”, not “himself,” so this says, “He who has been born of God keeps him”. This protection of the Lord is against the wicked one, Satan.

There are some Christians who are demon obsessed. They attribute every sinful behavior as the work of the devil, even in the lives of believers. It is an impossibility for a Christian to be demon possessed. Harassed? Yes. Oppressed? Yes. Attacked? Yes. Possessed? Absolutely not!

2 Cor 6:14c And what communion has light with darkness?

:15 And what accord has Christ with Belial?

:16 And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God.

5:19 This verse is simply stating a fact regarding the moral and spiritual condition of this fallen world system.

5:20 Jesus Christ Himself is the revelation of the True and Living God. He also is the True God Himself.

5:21 An idol is any thing or any one that usurps the authority of Jesus Christ in one’s life. Whatever takes our worship from God is an idol.

Ex 20:2 “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

:3 You shall have no other gods before Me.”

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