

CHAPTER I.
He describeth the person of Christ, in whom we have eternal life by a communion with God, 1-4; to which we must adjoin holiness of life, to testify the truth of that our communion and profession of faith, as also to assure us of the forgiveness of our sins by Christ's death, 5-10.

THAT¹ which was from the beginning,² which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, and our hands

A. M. 1870. A. D. 1870.

A.M. 670. A.D. 19.

heard I declare we unto you, that
ye also may have fellowship with
us: and truly our fellowship is with
the Father, and with his Son Jesus
Christ. And these things write we un-
to you, that your joy may be full.

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

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

6 If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, and do not love the light, nor the Son of God, who came in the flesh, how can we claim to have fellowship with him who is the light of life?

6 "If we say that we love him, and "walk in darkness,"

...a verse by verse study

John's Reason for Writing

- John tells us his 5 reasons for writing:
 - That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us 1:3
 - And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full. 1:4
 - these things write I unto you, that ye sin not 2:1
 - These things have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you. 2:26
 - These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God. 5:13

THE FIRST EPISTLE GENERAL
OF
JOHN.

CHAPTER I.

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He describeth the person of Christ, in whom we have eternal life by a communion with God, 1-4; to which we must attain holiness of life, to testify the truth of that our communion and profession of faith, as also to assure us of the forgiveness of our sins by Christ's death, 5-10.

THAT^a which was from the beginning,^b which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have touched upon, and our hands

Vs 1-24

R3

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

5 This then is ¹the message which we have heard of him, ¹and declare unto you, ²that God is light, ²and in him is no darkness at all.

6 If we say that we have fellowship with him, and ¹walk in darkness, and ²do not

...a verse by verse study

Things We Know

- We know when He appears, we shall be like Him v2
- We know He was manifested to take away our sins v5
- We know we have passed from death to life because we love the brethren v14
- We know that one who hates (or does not love his brother) does not have eternal life within him v15
- We know that He loves us because He laid down His life for us v16
- We know that are of the truth if our love is shown by our deeds v18-19
- We know that He abides in us though His Spirit if we keep His commandments v24

Action & Response

- If we have hope that He will appear again:
 - we will purify ourselves (live a pure life in heart & mind) v3
- If we abide in Him:
 - we will not sin v6
- If we are born of God
 - we will not (habitually) sin v9
- Because He laid down His life for us:
 - we should be willing to lay down our lives for the brethren v16
- If our heart is clean:
 - we will not fear God's gaze v21

Spiritual Warnings

- Whoever sins has not seen or known Him v6
- He that commits sin is of the Devil v8
- Whosoever does not righteousness is not of God v10
- Whosoever does not love his brother is not of God v10
- Whoever does not love his brother abides in death v14
- If you see a brother in need and fail to act it is a demonstration that God is not in you v17

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

1 John 3:1

- See, perceive, know...
- ...what manner of 'agape'
- John here is trying to convey the magnitude and character of God's love for us!

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

1 John 3:1

- Gr. '*Dedome*'
 - to give something to someone
 - of one's own accord to give one something, to his advantage
 - to bestow a gift
 - to give what is due or obligatory, to pay: wages or reward

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

1 John 3:1

- The 'sons of God'
- Used in Scripture to refer to a direct creation of God.
 - Used of Angels: Gen 6:2,6:4 / Job 1:6, 38:7
- Believers who are born of God receive the inheritance & position of the 'first-born' son
 - Ref: Ishmael/Isaac, Jacob/Esau, Also Ex 4:22, 6:14 / Num 3:13 / Deut 21:16-17 /

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

1 John 3:1

- We are not of the world's family any longer
- The world does not recognise us as its own
- *"But since most people don't know God, naturally they don't understand that we are his children"*
TLB

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

1 John 3:2

- For now, we see through a 'glass darkly' 1 Cor 13:12
- ...Then we shall know as we are known!
- We shall be transformed into His likeness
- We will receive glorious new bodies 1 Cor 15
- The most amazing thing will be to see Jesus as He really is
 - See Revelation ch 1 / Isaiah 6

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

1 John 3:3

- Because we believe this it should change our behaviour!

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

1 John 3:4

- This is the Biblical definition of sin.
- It is the violation of GOD's law
- It is not determined by our standard but by God's!
 - Ignorance of the law of God is no excuse
 - The Law of God is written upon the conscience of man
 - Rom 2:15

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

1 John 3:5

- This is a concise summary of the entire gospel!
 - The offer is available to all mankind
 - Only by accepting this personally can it accomplish its intended purpose in your life
- Note: This is only possible because of death being the punishment for Adam's sin

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

1 John 3:6

- This is key: We must abide in Him.
 - To stay in a particular place or state
- If we do, we give no opportunity ‘for the flesh to fulfill the lusts thereof’ – Rom 6:12 / 13:14
- Whoever habitually sins does not perceive God or know Him
- *“but as for those who keep on sinning, they should realize this: They sin because they have never really known him or become his”.* TLB
 - They are unable to stop sinning

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

1 John 3:7

- John refers to us as his beloved children...
- Don't be deceived / tricked / fooled into thinking that you might not be His...
 - That you might not be good enough
- The fact that there is the fruit of righteousness in your life is evidence you are His!
 - Don't ever trust feelings (good or bad!)

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

1 John 3:8

- Sin lieth at the door.... Sin want's you to yield to its desire
- If you habitually commit sin (and are 'happy' therein) it demonstrates you have not been born of God and have no power or control over sin in your life

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

1 John 3:9

- Those who are born again cannot and will not continue in habitual unrepentant sin.
- The new life in us is not capable of sinning because it is born of God's Spirit

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

1 John 3:10

- This is a simple test of the genuineness of one's profession
 - 1) Do you 'do righteousness'?
 - 2) Do you love your brother?

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

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

1 John 3:11-12

- Cain offered the fruit of his own hands
 - Religion
- Abel offered the blood of an innocent sacrifice in place of his own
 - Relationship

13 Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you.

1 John 3:13

- You are now part of a different family
- ...expect the world to hate you!
- *“We are not to be like Cain, who belonged to Satan and killed his brother. Why did he kill him? Because Cain had been doing wrong and he knew very well that his brother’s life was better than his. So don’t be surprised, dear friends, if the world hates you”. TLB*

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

1 John 3:14

- We know....
- No hope, guess, pray, wonder! – it is certain!
 - The evidence is our love for the brethren

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

1 John 3:15

- *“Anyone who hates his Christian brother is really a murderer at heart; and you know that no one wanting to murder has eternal life within”. TLB*

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

1 John 3:16

- *“If I love Jesus Christ personally and passionately, I can serve humanity, even though people may treat me like a “doormat.” The secret of a disciple’s life is devotion to Jesus Christ, and the characteristic of that life is its seeming insignificance and its meekness. Yet it is like a grain of wheat that “falls into the ground and dies”— it will spring up and change the entire landscape”*

— Oswald Chambers

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

1 John 3:17

- *“But if someone who is supposed to be a Christian has money enough to live well, and sees a brother in need, and won’t help him—how can God’s love be within him? Little children, let us stop just saying we love people; let us really love them, and show it by our actions”. TLB*

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

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

1 John 3:18-19

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

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

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

1 John 3:20-22

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

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

1 John 3:23-24



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