

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
 - That you learn what Love really is



1st John

THE FIRST EPISTLE GENERAL OF JOHN.

CHAPTER 4

Vs 1-21

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 fellowship 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 in Christ's death, 5-10.

THAT¹ which was from the beginning,² which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have touched upon, and our hands have felt, and our fingers have touched; and these things we declare unto you, that our fellowship may be perfect with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

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,² and in him is no darkness at all.

6 If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, our fellowship is with him, and we do not know him, and we do not have his love, and we do not have his Father.

...a verse by verse study

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

1 John 4:1

- Jesus, Peter, Paul, Jude and John all warn of 'false prophets' in the last days.
- They might look like the real thing...
- They might speak of Jesus as their Saviour...
- They might even do signs and wonders!

Jesus' Warnings

³ And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world? ⁴ And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. ⁵ For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.

Matt 24:3-5

Jesus' Warnings

11 And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.

Matt 24:11

Jesus' Warnings

¹³ Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: ¹⁴ Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it. ¹⁵ Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

Matt 7:13-15

Jesus' Warnings

²¹ Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. ²² Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? ²³ And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

Matt 7:21-23

Guard Against Error

28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. **29** For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.

Acts 20:28-29

Guard Against Error

30 Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.

31 Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.

Acts 20:30-31

Guard Against Error

³ Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. ⁴
For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

Jude 3,4

Guard Against Error

¹ But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. ² And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.

2 Peter 2:1-2

The Kingdom Parables

- The 7 kingdom parables in Matt 13 unveil the ‘church’
 - The true Church (Bride) and apostate church (Whore)
- In addition, the Parable of the sower (Matt 13:3-9 / 18-23) shows the nature of a *true* believer...
- ...and reveals the nature and character of a false convert
- The Parable of the Tares (Matt 13:24-30 / 36-43) unveils the enemy’s attack from within the church
- The scope is from the early church v37 to the end of the age v40

The Kingdom Parables

- The sower is the Son of man
- The field is the world
- The tares are children of the Devil
- The wheat are children of the kingdom
- Both the wheat and tares grow alongside each other
 - The wheat & tares look identical until the harvest
 - At the time of the harvest the wheat droops its head
- The Tares will be gathered into bundles to ‘burn’ them
 - a picture of the Tribulation? cf Rev 17-18
- The wheat are gathered into His barn
 - a picture of the Rapture? cf 1 Thes 4:16-18

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

1 John 4:2

- Just as in Matthew 13, the key is a person's relationship to the Word of God
 - The Bible IS the Word of God... it doesn't merely 'contain it'
- The Gnostics believed that Jesus was a real person
 - the question was regarding His divinity
- Do you trust the Word of God completely, without doubt, without hesitation?
- Is He all sufficient? Cf. Gal 1:6 / 5:2

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

1 John 4:3

- *“If not, the message is not from God but from one who is against Christ, like the “Antichrist” you have heard about who is going to come, and his attitude of enmity against Christ is already abroad in the world.”* TLB

- *“Dear young friends, you belong to God and have already won your fight with those who are against Christ because there is someone in your hearts who is stronger than any evil teacher in this wicked world. These men belong to this world, so, quite naturally, they are concerned about worldly affairs and the world pays attention to them. But we are children of God; that is why only those who have walked and talked with God will listen to us. Others won’t. That is another way to know whether a message is really from God; for if it is, the world won’t listen to it.”*

– TLB

4 Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

1 John 4:4

- Commit this verse to memory!
- 1 John 4:4
- God's Spirit is in you
 - *If you are a believer!*

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

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

1 John 4:5-6

- Don't be surprised if the world won't listen!

The Natural vs. The Spiritual

2 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

1 Corinthians 2:14

Lessons In Love

- 1 Corinthians 13 is considered the chapter on Love in the NT
- Yet 1 John 4 should be considered a contender!
- 27x in the remaining verses of this chapter John speaks of Love
- In verse 10 John will give us the definition of Love
 - It is diametrically opposed to the world's view!

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

8 He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

1 John 4:7-8

- 1st of 3x in this chapter John instructs us to love one another!
- We need to be told!

9 In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. **1 John 4:8**

- See John 3:16

- Romans 5:6-8

- *For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us*

- Gal 4:4-5

- *But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.*

¹⁰ Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.

1 John 4:10

- This is love! – selfless giving!
- We say *“I love you”* and we mean, *“I love how you make me feel”* – or *“I love what you do for me”*
- True love says: *“I love what I can do for you! I love how I can bless you”*
- Consider Abraham at the Oaks of Mamre (Gen 18)
... he prepared a meal for his visitors and then sat and observed while they eat!
– His pleasure was in giving not receiving

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

1 John 4:11

- Anyone have a problem with this?
- Do you want's God's love?
 - You need it more than you know!
- Then you MUST love others!
 - ...but don't worry. It doesn't have to come from you!
- It comes from the Spirit of God within us!
- This is how we know we are saved.
- Because God's Love loves the unlovely
 - so we can do the same!

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

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

1 John 4:12

No Man Has Seen God?

18 No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.

John 1:18

No Man Has Seen God?

- **Genesis 18:20-33** - Abraham has a face to face conversation with God.
- **Genesis 32:24-30**, Jacob not only sees God face to face, he wrestles with Him all night.
- **Exodus 24:9-11** Moses and the elders of Israel go up the mount, see God, and eat and drink in His presence!
- Joshua, Gideon, Samson's parents and others see God, and their lives are spared.

No Man Has Seen God?

24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

John 4:24

- As a spirit being, God does not have a physical body.
- Physical objects are part of this order of things; *'In the beginning (time), God created the heavens (space) and the earth (matter)'* (Gen 1:1).
- Before this, there was no time, no space and **no matter**. All three came into existence when God began His work of creation.

No Man Has Seen God?

- It is therefore impossible for us, in this present order of things to see a God who 'inhabits eternity' (Isaiah 57:15).
- There will come a time when we will see Him...

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; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

1 Cor 13:12

No Man Has Seen God?

- Thus, no man has seen God as He truly is.
- *“For now, God has chosen to reveal Himself through physical manifestations as noted in the scriptures above. Jesus Christ is the ultimate (and final) physical manifestation of God. It is important to note that Father, Son and Spirit, all existed before the beginning, before matter. The Son did not ‘come into being’ at the point of conception with Mary; the Son has always existed, and has always enjoyed a relationship with the Father and the Spirit. For God’s purposes, the Son became a man (became flesh) and dwelt among us to declare the Father to us; to be a ‘lamp to our feet & a light to our path’ (thy Word is... Psalm 119:105), and to ultimately show us God”*

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

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

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

1 John 4:13-15

- Our love for others is evidence of our Salvation
- We can love because we have received His love

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

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

1 John 4:17-18

- Because we know He loves us (demonstrated through the giving of His Son), we don't have to fear His wrath

19 We love him, because he first loved us.

1 John 4:19

- The whole work of redemption was initiated by God, provided for by God, made possible by God & accomplished by God
- All we have to do is receive it by faith!

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

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

1 John 4:20-21



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