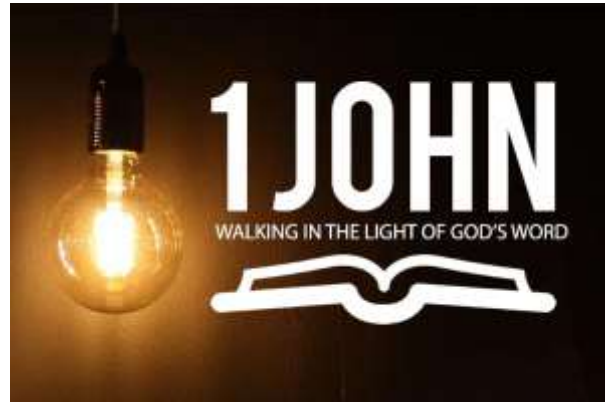


THE EPISTLE OF 1 JOHN

- FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD
- First John has been called the “Holy of Holies” of the New Testament. It takes the believer, the child of God, across the threshold into the fellowship of our Father’s house!
- Most people understand that the important things in life are not things at all we have. God has put a desire for relationship in every one of us, a desire He intended to be met with relationships with other people, but most of all, to be met by a relationship with Him.
- In this remarkable letter, John tells us the truth about relationships - and shows us how to have relationships that are real, for both now and eternity. The purpose of the Epistle is to bring you into relationship with God.
- It is the “family” epistle! It’s not addressed to any person, city or church. Paul’s epistles are written primarily to churches, but this is a family epistle and should be handled that way. The church is a body of believers in the position where we are blessed, having been given that position when we believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. Believing on Christ brings us into the family of God.
- In the family we have a relationship which can be broken by sin, but it is restored when “we confess our sins.” Then *“He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9)*
- It is believed to have been written around 90 A.D. John was the last living apostle, the only one who wasn't martyred for Christ. He was an eye-witness!
- The heresy of Gnosticism was gaining a foothold in the Church when John wrote this letter. The Gnostics believed that all material was evil and therefore that Jesus was not in a living body like ours. They believed that Jesus was a phantom when He lived on the Earth and didn't have a body of flesh.
- John sought to correct the heresy by emphasizing the deity of Jesus Christ in his writings as one who actually was with Jesus, walking with Him and observing Him during His public ministry. We will see this testimony of the living Christ in this epistle.



- Phrases and Words frequently used in 1 John: *we know* – 16x; *if we* – 10x; *if we say* – 3x
- Words: *God* - 57x; *know (known)* – 37x; *love* – 36x; *Son of God* – 23x; *if* – 21x; *sin* – 21x; *commandment* – 14x; *have written* – 13 x; *Jesus* – 11x; *believe* – 10x; *Holy Spirit* – 7x

1 JOHN CHAPTER 1:

OBJECTIVES:

- To come into a closer relationship, closer fellowship, with God the Father, God, the Son our Lord Jesus Christ and God the Holy Spirit through the study of His word.
- To know God through a greater understanding of His word.
- To know His word and how to find out what we need from it, when we need it and to understand what His will for us is in every situation!

1 JOHN 1: FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD

The Word of Life

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

1Jn 1:1 That which was from the beginning, (Gen 1:1) In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. (Jn 1:1-2) 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. Christ was with God from the beginning Mic 5:2 "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting (beyond the vanishing point - eternal, vital, intellectual Word of the eternal living Father)

which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, (Jn 1:14) And the Word became 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.

***which we have looked upon* (gazed steadfastly upon), (2 Pet 1:16) For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty.**

and our hands have handled, (Luke 24:39) Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have."

concerning the Word of life, (Jn 1:1) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (Jn 1:4) In Him was life, and the life was the light of men, (Jn 1:14) And the Word became 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.

1Jn 1:2 the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us—

1Jn 1:2 the life (Jn 1:4) In Him was life, and the life was the light of men, was manifested, and we have seen, (Rom 16:26) but now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was (Joh 21:24) This is the disciple who testifies of these things, and wrote these things; and we know that his testimony is true.

with the Father and was manifested to us. (Jn 1:1-2) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (Joh 1:18) No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him. (Joh 16:28) I came forth from the Father and have come into the world. Again, I leave the world and go to the Father."

- John makes a strong declaration of the eternity of Jesus Christ.
- The life of God was manifested on the earth. That is what Christmas is all about, celebrating the day that the Creator came to visit and live among His creation.

1Jn 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. (1Co 1:9) God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

- "Fellowship" in Greek is *koinonia*, variously translated "oneness, in common, communion." Jesus came to bring us into *koinonia* with God.
- This was the purpose for God sending His Son into the world. To restore sinning man back into fellowship with God.
- John begins with a lower level, "***Fellowship with us***" then raises it to the highest level. "***Our fellowship is with the Father and His Son Jesus Christ,***" the ultimate purpose, God's basic purpose for our existence.

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

(Joh 15:11) "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. (Joh 16:24) Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

- The first reason John gives for writing this epistle is so that our joy may be full (**Joh 15:11**) *"These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. (Joh 16:24) Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.*
- Happiness is a variable, related to our circumstances. Joy in the Lord is a constant, based on the relationship we have as His children
- Having joy is important as it relates to our prayer life; our fellowship with God and with the body of Christ; our living in the presence of God and our faith in Jesus.
- The word joyful which actually means full of joy is used 25 times in the scriptures. God wants your life to be full of joy

Walking in the Light

1Jn 1:5 This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that (1Jn 3:11) For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another,

God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. (1Ti 6:16) who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen.

- John describes God as light in a philosophical and moral sense. He is completely pure, with no trace of darkness (**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.*
- Light exposes and dispels darkness. Think of turning a light as you enter a dark room? (**John 1:9**) *That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.*

1Jn 1:6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. (1Jn 2:9-11) He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is in darkness until now. [10] He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him. [11] But he who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

- It does not matter what a person may say, what is important is what he does, how is he living?
- How could you possibly have fellowship with God who is light if you are walking in darkness?

1Jn 1:7 *But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, (Isa 2:5) O house of Jacob, come and let us walk In the light of the LORD.*

and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. (1Co 6:11) 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.

- The blood of Jesus Christ is continually cleansing us from all sin, the breaker of fellowship, making possible the life of continuing fellowship with man and with God.

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

- This is worse than being a liar. When we get to this place of saying we have no sin in our life, there is no truth in us at all!

1Jn 1:9 *If we confess our sins, (Pro 28:13) He who covers his sins will not prosper, But whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.*

He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins (Rom 3:24-26) *being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, [25] whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, [26] to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.*

and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (Psa 51:2) *Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin.*

- The word "sin" refers to man's sinful nature, which is dominated by the body's needs and appetites. We have to struggle to keep our carnal nature under control of the Spirit (**1 Cor. 9:27**) *But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.*
- Confession of sins is the right method for bringing together a sinful man and a righteous God.
- It means you have turned from that sin, saying the same thing that God has said. Sin is a terrible thing. God hates it and now you hate it. Confession restores us to God.

1Jn 1:10 *If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us. (1Jn 5:10) He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; he who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son.*

- *We make Him a liar* – Frequently in the Bible, God affirmed the depravity of all the race. On no point have his declarations been more positive and uniform than on the fact of the universal sinfulness of man. We don't want to make God a liar!
- **Romans 3:23** *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*

SUMMARY:

CHAPTER 1 - FOUR GREAT BENEFITS:

- **FELLOWSHIP:** v.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.* An awesome quantum leap! That we, finite man, could live in fellowship, in communion with the infinite God!
- **JOY:** v.4 *And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.* God wants your life to be full of joy. Lord, help us to receive Your joy!
- **CLEANSING:** v.7 *But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.* Jesus paid the price for all our sins adopting those that believe as His sons and daughters!
- **FORGIVENESS:** v.9 *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.* Oh, the blessing of being cleansed by His blood, now and forever!

Suggestions for the Coming Week:

To Maximize Your growth by the study of His Word and drawing yourself closer to Him.

Be a Berean! *Act 17:11* *These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.*

- **Read the entire Epistle of 1 John each day (takes 15 min to read the 103 verses in the 5 chapters)**
- **Find the 4 verses in which state John's purpose in writing this epistle.**

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If you're not getting weekly email regarding the meetings, please email me so you can be added!

