

1 JOHN CHAPTER ONE

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

John affirms the physical reality of Jesus Christ's having come "in the flesh". John was there from the beginning. His knowledge is first-hand. John is not writing from something someone else has told him, He is stating things he knows to be fact. John is aware that Jesus is the Word, which created all things. John, along with Peter were among the closest associates of Jesus.

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

"Manifested" means made real or appeared. The life John and others saw, is what this book tries to convey to its readers. Jesus existed as Spirit (the Word), but took on the body of mortal man to reveal Himself to mankind. He took on the form of flesh and dwelt among us for the purpose of experiencing our difficulties in the flesh. He also, took on the form of flesh that He might save us from our sin and death. The death of His body on the cross brought the salvation opportunity to all mankind. He gave salvation to all who would believe.

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

He is writing to us and the declaration is, that God has shown up on Earth as a flesh and blood human being. Now, since the veil is torn from top to bottom, we can have fellowship with this God/man and with God the Father. The reason God made man in the first place, was for fellowship with him. We read so much about man being made in the image of God. This is exactly what this Scripture is stating here. It is our spirit that fellowships with God's Spirit.

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

Too many Christians have no joy. This is the second part of the fruit of the Spirit. John 16:24 states: **“Ask and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full”**. Two things are required for the Christian to receive joy. You must read the Word and you must spend time in prayer. The relationship we can have with the Father and the Lord Jesus does bring joy. Christians have hope of the resurrection that the world does not have.

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.

The message that John and the other apostles preached came from God not from men. In Scripture, light and darkness are familiar symbols. Light refers to biblical truth while darkness refers to error or falsehood. John says, “No darkness at all” and with this phrase John affirms that God is absolutely perfect and nothing exists in God’s character other than truth and holiness. Here again, John mentions his eyewitness status, having heard of Him, that is, Jesus. John passes on to the church teaching he first received from Jesus. John is saying that God is perfect and good; there is thus no sin or evil in Him. This will have implications for followers of the God in the following verses. Do notice, that God is not a Light, He is Light. We hear some say that Christians can be possessed of evil spirits. This cannot be, because Christians have the Light of the world dwelling inside of them. This Light does away with darkness. Evil spirits are of darkness.

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

This verse, and the next few, are loaded. Don't miss the conditions.

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

See that big two letter word “if”. Since this applies to a Christian, it implies that one not walking in the light does not have proper

fellowship and does not get cleansed from his sin. I see in this the need for Christians to have friends who are Christians. We must remain in the Light, capital "L", walking daily with Jesus and other Christians. Notice the blood of Jesus Christ continuing to cleanse us from all sin, when we are walking the Christian walk.

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

This verse is a reference to sin as part of our nature. Jesus came to pay for that sin nature as well as the sins we commit. Salvation and fellowship are not the same thing. Fellowship is dependent on confession of sin. Salvation is not unless it is the confession that Jesus Christ died on Calvary for our sin and rose again the third day.

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

Since this is "sins" plural it is speaking of the daily sins in our lives. When you confess your sins always be specific. God wants to hear you admit to the individual acts, and not to some generalized confession, such as , God please forgive my sins. Go through the list sin by sin.

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

I have actually had people tell me they did not sin. To deny one's sinfulness , or sins, is not just to deceive oneself; it is to make God a liar by denying His Word. Both Old and New Testaments stress man's sin nature. Since God has said that all people are sinners, to deny that fact is to blaspheme God with slander.

1 JOHN CHAPTER TWO

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

It is likely that John was the only surviving apostle when he wrote this Epistle. In fact, he was probably the oldest Christian on Earth at that time. It was therefore proper for him to address them as his spiritual family. This may have a double meaning in that these may have also been babes in Christ as far as their spiritual growth was concerned. It obviously is addressed to Christians since it says "we have an advocate and lost people do not have an advocate. An advocate is an attorney and the Lord Jesus Christ is our attorney. If we commit a sin and confess it, Jesus will represent us to the Father.

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

A propitiation is a payment that is due. Some people have a problem pronouncing that word. That center "pit" is pronounced pish. The sin payment was due for the whole human race and Jesus paid it all. Be careful with that statement. Though Jesus sacrifice was sufficient to pay for the sins of all of mankind, in general, most of the world will be eternally condemned to hell to pay for their own sins. God has withheld His wrath on sinners temporarily, by letting them live their lives. In that sense, Christ has provided a brief, temporal propitiation for the whole world. But He satisfied fully the wrath of God, eternally, only for those who believe.

3 And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.

This verse is a shocker. This is not speaking of the ten Commandments but of all those commandments sprinkled through the Gospel of John and the Pauline Letters. Remember that Jesus, himself said, "If you love me keep my commandments". Verse three has it in a slightly different form but the sense is the same. There is an implied flip side to this. If you don't keep His commandments you don't know Him.

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

OK, there it is. There are many who profess to be a Christian who are not living their day to day lives for Christ. This is what this Scripture is

about. God looks on the heart of man. The face we show the world is not always what we really are.

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

The test of knowing God's love is keeping His Word. Is the Word of God the most important thing you have? When you really love the Lord you will be completely sold out to Him.

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

These verses give us a way to compare ourselves to Christ. In other words we can get assurance of our salvation from how well we follow in His footsteps. Another way to put that is, as His disciples we are called on to imitate His devotion to God and compassion for others.

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

He says, simply here, that the old commandment is the word which you have heard. This would be those, given by Jesus, in the upper room. There are as many commandments given to Christians as there were under the Mosaic Law. We are saved in order that we may walk in good works. That's Eph.2:10 if you are taking notes.

Be aware that these verses, dealing with brotherly love, are double application verses. They can be applied to Christians, and that is what I will do, but they also apply to Tribulation saints who help the Jews (brethren).

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

The new commandments start in chapter three. Adding to what he says in verse seven the "new" commandment is part of the old and boils down to love the brethren. This is one of the good ways to test our salvation. Do we love the brethren?

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

This is just expressing how much easier it is for us to understand the law of God, since the Light of Jesus has shown on it. This "new commandment" is let Jesus, (the Light of the world), live in you and through you. Doctrinal truth about spiritual matters means nothing without compassion for others. For John, hateth seems to mean simply "fails to love."

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

He who truly loves his brother, abideth in the light, that is, the presence of God. He does not stumble, nor does he cause others to stumble. John stresses actions, not mere words.

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

We can make spiritual application of this darkness but not doctrinal application. John describes those who hate the brethren as spiritually blind, therefore they are in darkness.

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

"Little children" is a term of endearment and John is assuring them that their sins are forgiven. Whether these groups are distinguished by age or spiritual maturity is not clear. It probably is another of those double applications.

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

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

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

The worldly believer will receive the same loss of rewards, at the judgment seat, that Lot did in his life. They lose it all. The believer is to be separate from the world and is to be a light to the world.

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

All the temptations of the world, the flesh and the Devil, fall into the three classifications listed in verse 16. The lust of the flesh here is not just a reference to sexual sin but to all the worldly desires that we have.

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

This is like the verse above except the “little children” are omitted. Those remaining have learned to overcome the devil. They have matured by the study of the Word of God. They are not overcome of the devil, because they are grounded in the Word of God. Again, speaking of fathers is just a further knowledge of God. We see in this, the growth of the Christian and the knowledge acquired to help live in the Light.

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

The verse says; “Many antichrists”: While the term’s first occurrence refers to a particular person prophesied in Scripture, this one is plural and refers to many individuals. John uses the plural to identify and characterize the false teachers who were troubling John’s congregations because their false doctrine distorted the truth and opposed Christ. The term therefore, refers to a principle of evil, in men, who are hostile and opposed to God. We see this all over our society today. This is about the last days of this age. The last time indicates the nearness of the coming of Christ. The appearance of

these antichrists is another sign that the coming of Christ is near. The word "antichrist" just means those who are opposed to Christ.

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

The first characteristic mentioned of these antichrists, that is, false teachers and deceivers, is that they depart from the faithful. These are the ones who gather little groups of gullible people and become the basis for cults. They arise from within the church and depart from true fellowship and lead people out.

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

"Unction", in the verse above, means anointing or leading. The Holy Spirit is our teacher and guide. John refers to the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit. Yet Scripture does not suggest that God's Spirit works contrary to God's Word. The Holy Spirit never gives us instruction different from that found in the Word.

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

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

Think of all those religions, and cults, out there that deny that Jesus is the Son of God. When you make your mental list don't just think of Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism etc. This covers our own cults like Mormonism, Satanism, Jehovah's Witnesses and others. All denying that Jesus is the Christ and the begotten Son of God..

23 Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also.

Verse 23 has italicized words inserted by the translators. Consider these as having been added by the Holy Spirit. Since 1611 some old Greek manuscripts have been found that do contain these words. The Holy Spirit knows what He is doing.

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

The pure gospel message that had been brought to them was to be kept at all cost. Let this gospel message live continually, in you. Reject the false message of the antichrist.

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

Look at the promises from Jesus Himself.

John 6:47 **"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life."**

John 10:28 **"And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any [man] pluck them out of my hand."**

We see from this that eternal life is in Jesus. To have Him is to automatically possess eternal life.

26 These things have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you.

It is the Word of God that furnishes the believer with knowledge, and which the Spirit then makes relevant and applicable in the believer's life. Neither teachers nor believers are dependent on human wisdom or the opinions of men for the truth. The Holy Spirit guards and guides the true believer into the truth. The Holy Spirit dwelling inside of us brings to remembrance the word of God that we have learned.

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

The Gospel of John puts it this way; John 14:26 "But the Comforter, [which is] the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." It is the Holy Ghost that reveals to us all Truth.

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

Paul called it “loving His appearing”, and said those who do that are the ones who will be crowned with eternal righteousness in heaven. Abiding signifies a permanent remaining in Christ and if we do that, we will not be ashamed when He returns. Those who truly abide in Christ, continue in the faith and in fellowship with the saints.

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

This is certainly not something Paul would say. Righteousness does not get the Church Age Christian born again. Be careful with these General epistles and keep in mind that John jumps back and fourth between the church and the Tribulation.

1 JOHN CHAPTER THREE

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.

John mixes truth about the Church Age believer and the tribulation Jews under the Law. Verses one through three are clearly for the Body of Christ while verses four through ten seem to be aimed at the Tribulation saint.

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.

We are certainly not like Christ while we are on Earth but we are all promised to be like Christ at His appearing. This would be our glorified body and, though the Bible does not say so directly, probably a glorified mind to go with it.

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

Always being aware of the reality of Christ's return makes a difference in a Christians' behavior. A Christians desire should be to become like Him now. That calls for a purifying of sin, in which we play a part. The hope, spoken of here, is the hope of the resurrection. The Christian should not put too much value on this world, but on the world to come.

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

The Tribulation reverts back to Old Testament Law. There sins are a transgression of the law. In addition, this does not just mean the old Mosaic Law. This is that law that God has placed in the heart of the believer. Anything we do in disobedience to God is sin. The law of God for the Christian is to love God with everything within us, and to love our neighbor as our self. If we do that, we will be pleasing God. To live in sin, is to turn away from God.

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

In this verse John reminds us of the basics we all know, that Jesus came to take away the sins of the world. He also reaffirms the sinless life of Jesus.

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

This verse, along with verse nine seems to say that true Christians do not sin but John has already said, in chapter two that they do. More likely he means that Christians can not continue in sin with no remorse.

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

Who are the ones who deceive in our generation? The false teachers and false churches deceive most of the population in this Laodicean age. Always keep Galatians Ch.1 verse 8 and 9 in mind; **But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.**

9 As we said before, so say I now again, If any [man] preach any

other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed. That would be a good pair of verses to memorize.

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.

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.

This is speaking of the born again believers spirit. Obviously the body continues in sin until we get our glorified body.

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.

Only two kinds of children exist in the world: children of God and children of Satan. No one can belong to both families at the same time. The second moral test, is the test of love for the brethren.

For John, a mere “profession of faith” in Christ was insufficient if not accompanied by the outward marks of divine parentage. This sounds a lot like the writings of James. Both seem to agree with Paul's gospel but the proof, for them at least, is one's Christian walk. Both want to see results from one's salvation. Our Christian walk through life reveals to the world whether we belong to the devil, or to God.

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

From the beginning we should love one another: This is the message the Lord Jesus Christ preached from the beginning of the four gospels and is a principal carried into the Church Age. Love is not an optional duty for someone claiming to be a Christian, but proof positive that one truly has been born again. It is one of the two things Jesus said covered all the law and prophets.

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.

There is one school of thought going around that Cain was the result of seduction of Eve by Satan. This is the “proof” verse for that thinking. I do not agree with that since all sinners are spoken of as being children of the Devil. The statement “who was of that wicked one”, is no different from Jesus telling the Pharisees that they were of their father the devil. Cain killed Abel because of jealousy and envy.

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

History is filled with stories of the persecution of the saints by the world. This goes on today in much of the world and even in our own country. This should not surprise believers because Satan is behind it. Jesus warned His followers that they would be despised. It is nothing to be concerned about, if the world hates you. They hated Jesus and they will hate us also. The real reason they hate us, is because we remind them of the life they are living.

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.

Here is the verse that lets you know whether, or not, you are saved. It is the perfect test. Be sure to notice that the word “some” is nowhere in that verse. It is all the brethren.

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

One brother in this passage, is a lost murderer. Another set of brothers to the Jews are Esau and Ishmael who have been a thorn in the side of the Jews since Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Now, the bottom line here is that a Christian who hates his brother, in Christ, is as guilty as any other murderer. That, friends, is a sobering thought.

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.

We can pattern our love after the example He left us. We must learn to love, not because of what we can get out of something, but despite what it might cost us. Unselfish love should be the character of all

Christians. John 3:16 shows God's love for us.¹ John 3:16 shows our love for the brethren.

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?

We should show our love by being compassionate to those who have a need. If someone is hungry, we should feed them. If someone is cold, we should clothe them. If they have no place to sleep, we should furnish them a bed. If we have the love of God within us, we will share with those who have need. Now, there is an exception to this and that is the lazy man who will not work. We are not to feed that man. There is a flip side to this. Where this is not present in a person's life, then it is possible that this is not a child of God.

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

Talk is cheap. Claiming to love is not enough. Love is not sentiment, but actions and deeds. Just talking about helping someone does not help them.

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

By expressing love for one another, Christians have assurance of their salvation. Another scripture says: we know we have passed from death into life, because we love the brethren.

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

Why would our heart condemn us? Sometimes we feel guilty about not helping someone when we really could not, and should not. Sometimes we blame ourselves when there should be no blame placed. We should not help everyone that asks. We should pray and ask God what to do. God knows much better than we do what was right.

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

This is saying we, as Christians, have a clear conscience. The thing that was never settled, when a person sacrificed for sin in the Old Testament, was that their conscience was never clear. The sin was covered, not done away with. Jesus abolished our sin, and gives us a clear conscience. If we know in our heart that we have done the right thing, then we can stand before Jesus on judgment day with a clear conscience.

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

Here is another promise to those who belong to Jesus. To be in right standing with God brings answers to our prayers. John 15:7 puts it this way; **"If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you."**

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.

Verses 23 and 24 repeat the three features of this epistle, believing, loving, and obeying. These are the evidence of true salvation. The third benefit of love is the abiding presence and empowering of the Holy Spirit. Look how close John is to Paul.

Romans 10:9-10 "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." Furthermore everyone who is a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ has been given permission to use His name to pray to the Father.

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.

John closes the chapter by assuring us that if we keep His commandments, we are His. The believers assurance is based on three things; true belief in Jesus Christ, love of the brethren and the indwelling Holy Spirit.

1 JOHN CHAPTER FOUR

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.

When you see a Christian do something weird, and claim it comes from the Holy Spirit be careful. The Holy Spirit never, repeat never, does something contrary to the word of God. This is one of the many ways that Satan leads people astray. The Devil can put a thought in your mind just as the Holy Spirit can. The test is the Book.

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

This verse is speaking of believers then, now and in the future. There has never been a time in history when there were more strange doctrines being taught than right now. It is the obligation of believers to determine for themselves, whether the message being taught is of God or not. The only way for us to be qualified to judge the message is to know the Bible.

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.

To confess Jesus as the Christ, is to have Him as your Savior. This, to me, is saying, we must believe that the Word of God took on the form of flesh and dwelt among us. The terrible thing is that many churches teach that Jesus was nothing more than a man when He walked on the earth. You can easily see this is a dangerous message for we cannot think of Jesus as just another man. He is God in the flesh. That is what separates the true believer from those who would be against Christ. The true believers believe Jesus was God manifest in the flesh.

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.

True believers have nothing to fear, for even Satan's demons with their perversions can't take them out of the Lord's hand. Here, protection against error or victory over it are guaranteed by sound doctrine and the indwelling Holy Spirit. John is writing this to true Christians that He that is in us is Christ. Galatians 2:20 puts it this way; **"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."**

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

These are those who follow after the flesh. They are caught up in the world. They have no hope, because they base everything they believe on what they can see with their eyes. They place their faith in this world and its trappings.

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

The Bible is the sole standard by which all teaching is to be tested. In contrast, demonically inspired teachers either reject the teaching of God's word or change the word to suit themselves.

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

These next verses constitute one long unit describing what perfect love is and that it is available to men. John has already written that those who are truly born again do exhibit the characteristic habit of love. One of the great things about the United States is the fact that we are concerned about the problems of people all over the world. When there is famine, we try to help. When there is a devastating earthquake, we try to help.

We are a loving caring nation. That makes me believe there is still some small hope for our nation to come back to God.

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

When you find a person filled with hate, you know that he, or she, has never experienced that love that God has for each of us. There is a need in every person to be loved. Some have never realized that anyone loves them. When you find a person in this condition, if you can make them understand that God loves them, they will change for the better. Now, and this is just me, I can not believe that a person who hates everyone is born again.

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.

Over half of the New Testament's uses of this term, "Only begotten", are by John. John always uses it of Christ to picture His unique relationship to the Father, His pre-existence, and His distinctness from created beings. The term emphasizes the uniqueness of Christ, as the only one of His kind. It was He whom the Father sent into the world as the greatest gift ever given, so that we might have eternal life .

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.

"Propitiation" means appeasement or satisfaction. An atoning sacrifice that Jesus bore in His body for the punishment due us for our sin; in so doing, satisfied God's just demand that sin be punished. The strangest and most wonderful part of this is that, He loved us when we were totally unlovable. We were yet in sin, when God sent His Son to save us. He did not wait until we had cleaned up our lives to save us. He saved us, and then helped us clean up our lives. We not only did not love God, we did not even know that He loved us.

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

God taught us by example the unselfish love that we need to have for each other. If the world today needs one thing, it is love. Let the love that God has showed you shine through you and make someone else's life a little brighter.

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.

This is true in the sense that man can not look on God in His spirit form. Even Moses saw only the back of God and was severely affected by that encounter. That said, many did see God in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ.

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

Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to dwell within each of us. The fact that we have the Spirit within us, is our evidence that God has not left us alone. Romans 8:9 puts it this way; "**But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.**"

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

The purpose of the presence of God in the form of flesh was for the salvation of mankind. Jesus, who was the Word of God in heaven, took on the form of flesh as the Son of God to save us. He took on the name Jesus, because it means Savior.

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

Notice how the Holy Spirit works in a salvation message here. the greatest verification of this Scripture is in Romans 10:9-10. Another Scripture on this is: Matthew 10:32 "**Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.**" These are in the very words of Jesus Himself. We know in our heart, and confess with our mouth as proof that we are saved.

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.

If all of the scripture that we had was this little book of 1 John then some of the "love" preaching that goes on today would be correct.

John's focus was ,and is,on love. This leaves out the other aspects of God such as anger,hate,(both sin and Esau),and wrath. But that said, there is peace and comfort that comes from knowing that God's love is always there.

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.

John is not suggesting that we will live in sinless perfection, but rather that we can have confidence in the face of judgment. When we stand at the Judgment Seat of Christ we may do so with confidence that we are saved in spite of the fact that much of our works will be burned up.

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.

Fear is the opposite of faith so,fear is of the devil. Faith is of God. When we are constantly aware of the love of God for us and our love for God, there is no place for fear. If God loves us, He will take care of us. Keep in mind that peace is part of the fruit of the Spirit and should be a big part in every Christian's life.

19 We love him, because he first loved us.

He showed us by example. He loved us, and showed us how to love Him.

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?

Jesus said "Inasmuch as ye have done it for the least of these, ye have done it unto me". We cannot express our love for God directly, except in praise. One commentator put it this way when he said ;"We cannot buy dinner for Jesus. We can, however, buy dinner for someone who is hungry in the name of Jesus". To express our love for God, we must express it through helping others. When we love our brothers on the earth, we are in turn loving Jesus who made them.

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

This is a tough verse for some of us, nevertheless to claim to love God is a delusion if not accompanied by unselfish love for other Christian's. when we are filled with God's love, we love His creation, and that includes the brethren.

1 JOHN CHAPTER FIVE

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

The term “believes”, conveys the idea of continuing faith, making the point that the mark of genuine believers is that they continue in faith throughout their life. Now, I know there are some that will have a problem with that statement but I will stand by it. If a person is born again they will do something. They may fall away for a while or even backslide but the true believer always comes back. A true Christian outside the will of God is a miserable creature. To be filled with the Holy Spirit is also, to be filled with His love. If we truly love God in our hearts and are filled with Him, then we love all of our brothers in Christ.

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

Here is that troubling statement again. When we love God we keep His commandments. John repeats this phrase twice in these two verses. Obedience is the third characteristic of a Christian. The essence of the commandments that Jesus gave to all of us was caught up in the one word, love. He said love God first, and then love your neighbor as yourself.

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

Sometime when you have a long, rainy afternoon, take the time to go through the Gospel of John and the Pauline Epistles and list the individual commandments we have been given. God expects to to keep them. They are commandments, not suggestions.

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

John clearly states who these overcomers are; they are all who believe that Jesus is God's Son, and all that goes with that. These overcomers are believers, all of them. It is good to keep in mind that these are also Tribulation verses. We have already overcome by our belief in the Lord Jesus Christ.

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

How many Christians do you know who have completely overcome the world? Zero is probably a good number. On the other hand, John who also wrote the Book of Revelation constantly mentions overcoming. I think it shows up more than twenty times. In the Book of Revelation you must overcome the world and endure to the end. Therefore, place these verses firmly in the Tribulation.

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

Listen carefully to the following piece of nonsense. "This water and blood include all that is necessary to our salvation. By the water, our souls are washed and purified for heaven and the habitation of saints in light. By the blood, we are justified, reconciled, and presented righteous to God. By the blood, the curse of the law being satisfied, the purifying Spirit is obtained for the internal cleansing of our natures." Half of that statement, the last half, is the truth. The first part is just some Calvinist trying to slip in water baptism as a necessary part of salvation. No where, in the Pauline Epistles is water baptism ever mentioned as part of salvation. In fact, the Apostle Paul said, "**I thank God I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius**". Paul thought as much of the necessity of baptism as he did the "gift" of tongues. Now, we do baptize but for two reasons. Reason one is to show the death, burial and resurrection of our Lord, and two, as a public confession that we are saved by the Lord Jesus Christ.

7 For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the

Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.

This is your Trinity verse and it is as plain as anything can be. There is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost and these three are one. This is a hard concept for most of us. Some use an egg as an example since it has three distinct parts of the whole. Those parts are shell, white and yolk. There is a problem with that, in that once these are separated you can not put them back together.

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

Christ's birth was a human birth so it was a water birth. He did not need a second birth since He was sinless. Salvation is by the Holy Spirit and consists of covering by the blood of Jesus. We see three totally different things which have the same purpose. Notice, that they are in agreement. All three are necessary to be Christians, that is human birth, and second birth done by the Holy Spirit.

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

Man's witness is only in part, because we have limited knowledge. The witness of God was when the voice came from heaven and called Jesus His Son. This happened at the baptism of Jesus, and again, at the transfiguration. Men can speak all kinds of wonderful things about Jesus, and what He has done, but when the voice comes from heaven and calls Jesus Son, it leaves no doubt who He is.

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

God said that Jesus was His Son when the voice came from heaven. To deny this witness, would be to deny God altogether and would be calling Him a liar. When we believe in Jesus, the witness becomes alive within us. That witness within us is the Holy Spirit.

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

This does not mean that we will inherit eternal life sometime in the future, but that it is ours now. To have Jesus, means you already possess eternal life. Romans 6:23 puts it this way; **"For the wages of sin [is] death; but the gift of God [is] eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."**

12 He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

To have Jesus means we have life everlasting. To deny Jesus brings eternal torment.

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

He uses the word "know" seven times in this section. Assurance of eternal life constitutes the first Christian certainty. While John wrote his gospel to bring unbelievers to faith. He wrote this epistle to give believers confidence that they possessed eternal life.

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

Christians can know with absolute certainty that God answers prayer when they approach the throne of grace. The key to answered prayer is to pray according to God's will, that is, to pray in accord with what He would want, not what we would desire that He do for us. One example is to pray for a persons healing. It is usually God's will that a person be healed. John already said that answered prayer also depends on obedience to God's commandments and avoidance of sin. The word "heareth" signifies that God always hears the prayers of His children but does not always answer in the way we would wish. When we have confidence in Him, it means that we know He will do what He has promised. James 4:3 says it this way; **"Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume [it] upon your lusts."**

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

To know means that we have faith in the prayer being answered. It is very important to believe that you receive the thing you are praying for. Faith that is another important key to getting prayers answered.

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

John illustrates praying according to God's will with the specific example of the "sin leading to death." Such a sin could be any premeditated and unconfessed sin that causes the Lord to determine to end a believer's life. It is not one particular sin like lying or homosexuality or murder, but is a failure to repent of and forsake such sin that may eventually lead to physical death as a judgment of God. No intercessory prayer will be effective for those who have committed such deliberate sin. God's discipline with physical death is inevitable in such cases. Do not fail to notice that John implies two classes of sin. Those sins which God will kill you for and those He will not.

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

See that? We see in the following Scripture in Jesus' own words, in Matthew, that sins will be forgiven. The only one that will not, is the sin against the Holy Ghost, which I believe we can not commit today. That particular sin against was the Pharisees claiming that Jesus miracles were by Satan, thus blaspheming the Holy Ghost. This is the scripture; Matthew 12:31 **"Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy [against] the [Holy] Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men."** So, the "sin unto death" has to be some deliberate, unconfessed sin since all others are forgiven.

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

God protects the believer but there is an effort that we must make not to sin. When we are living with Christ in us, the blood of Jesus Christ keeps the enemy from us. Most fundamental Christians today agree

that it is the spirit, of the born again believer, that does not sin. The body is not saved and continues in sin until we get our glorified body.

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

That Christians belong to God is a certainty. Only two types of people exist in the world today: children of God and children of Satan. One belongs either to God or to the evil world system that is Satan's domain. Because the whole world belongs to Satan, Christians should avoid its contamination and live a separated life away from the sin of the world. The world around us is more wicked today than it has ever been before in history.

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

Here again, we see the statement "we know". This leaves no doubt and we know that Jesus is the Son of God. We accept that as fact. We know also, that our eyes of understanding have been opened to the knowledge of the Son of God while the world has eyes they do not see. We know the Word of God to be True. We know that eternal Life is in Jesus. We Christians, know what we believe and we should be eager to tell others who will believe.

21 Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.
