

I JOHN

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I JOHN

(THE BASICS)

> A-1. JESUS CHRIST -- A MESSAGE OF LIFE RECEIVED

ETERNAL ORIGINS

1:1 That which was from the beginning,

CONTEMPORARY RELEVANCE

which we have *heard*, which we have *seen* with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have *touched*—

this we proclaim

concerning the Word of **life**.

² The life appeared;

we have seen it and testify to it, and

we proclaim

to you

the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us.

³ We proclaim

to you

what we have seen and heard,

GOOD NEWS: WE HAVE THE PROMISE OF FELLOWSHIP ...

so that you also may have fellowship with us.

... WITH GOD & THE PERSON OF ...

And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.

⁴ We write this

to make our ^a joy complete.

>> B-1. FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST -- A MESSAGE OF LIFE SHARED

THE GOSPEL

⁵ This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you:

1. WHO GOD IS: GOD IS LIGHT AND SEPARATED FROM DARKNESS

God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.

2. PROBLEM: WALKING IN DARKNESS SEPARATES US FROM FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD OF LIGHT

⁶ If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth.

WE CAN BE CLEANSED FROM OUR SIN

GOD'S RESPONSE: WE CAN BE FORGIVEN AND ROKEN RELATIONSHIP RESTORED

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, his Son, purifies us from all^[b] sin.

3. THE TRUTH

WHO MAN IS: IN DARKNESS OF SIN AND SEPARATED FROM FELLOWSHIP

a. CAN TRY TO DENY THE PRINCIPLE AND FORGIVE YOURSELF

⁸ If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

b. CAN AGREE WITH PRINCIPLE, BUT TRY TO DENY IT APPLIES PERSONALLY

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

¹⁰ If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.

4. SOLUTION:

a. JESUS CHRIST PURIFIES US FROM ALL SIN

^{2:1} My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin.

But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, **the Righteous One**. ² He is **the atoning sacrifice** for our sins, and not only for ours but also for^[a] the sins of the whole world.

b. ESTABLISH / CONTINUE IN RELATIONSHIP - WALK IN LIGHT

FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD HAS AN EFFECT ON OUR ON-GOING BEHAVIOUR

³ We **know** that we have come to know him if we obey his commands.

⁴ The man who says, "I **know** him,"

but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

⁵ But if anyone obeys his word, **God's love**^[b] is truly made complete **in him**.

This is how we **know** we are in him:

⁶ Whoever claims to live **[3306]** in him must walk as Jesus did.

>>> C-1. FAITH EXPRESSES ITSELF THROUGH LOVE (see Galatians 5:6)

LOVE OF THE FATHER INCLUDES LOVE OF THE BROTHER

⁷ Dear friends,

THE COMMAND TO LOVE IS NOTHING NEW

I am not writing you a new command

but an old one, which you have had since the beginning.
This old command is the message you have heard.

THE NEWNESS IS THAT IT COMES BY JESUS CHRIST IN YOU

⁸ Yet I am writing you a new command;

its truth is seen in him and you,
because the darkness is passing and the true light is already shining.

WALKING / LIVING IN LIGHT DEFINED: LOVING YOUR BROTHER

IT IS NOT WHAT WE ARE WILLING TO SAY (THINK, OR BELIEVE)

⁹ Anyone who claims to be in the light

IT IS WHAT WE DO

but hates his brother
is still in the darkness.

¹⁰ Whoever loves his brother
lives [3306] in the light,
and there is nothing in him[□] to make him stumble.

¹¹ But whoever hates his brother
is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness;
he does not **know** where he is going, because the darkness has
blinded him.

APPLIES IN ALL PHASES OF MATURING PROCESS
(BEGINNING WITH FORGIVENESS,
LEARNING TO LIVE A LIFE OF LOVE,
ULTIMATELY POSSESSING ETERNAL LIFE – see John 17:3)

¹² I write to you, dear children, because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name.

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 evil one.

I write to you, dear children, because you have **known** the Father.

¹⁴ I write to you, fathers, because you have **known** him who is from the beginning.

I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives [3306] in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

LOVE OF THE FATHER EXCLUDES LOVE OF THE WORLD

¹⁵ Do not love the world or anything in the world.

if anyone loves the world, the **love of the Father is not in him**.

WHAT THE WORLD HAS TO OFFER

¹⁶ For everything in the world—

- the cravings of sinful man,
- the lust of his eyes and
- the boasting of what he has and does

—**comes not from the Father** but from the world.

¹⁷ The world and its desires
the man who does the will of God

pass away, but
lives [3306] forever.

>>>> D-1. HOLY SPIRIT OF TRUTH

¹⁸ Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we **know** it is the last hour.

GIVEN THE TRUTH

¹⁹ They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us. For **if** they had belonged to us, they would have remained **[3306]** with us; but their going showed that none of them belonged to us.

²⁰ But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you **know** the truth.^[a] ²¹ I do not write to you because you do not **know** the truth, but because you do **know** it and because no lie comes from the truth.

KEEPING THE TRUTH

²² Who is the liar?

It is the man who denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a man is the antichrist—he denies the Father and the Son.

²³ No one who denies the Son has the Father; whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also.

BE ON GUARD AGAINST UNTRUTH

²⁴ See that what you have heard from the beginning remains in you.

If it does, you also will remain **[3306]** in the Son and in the Father.

²⁵ And this is what he promised us—even eternal **life**.

²⁶ I am writing these things to you about those who are trying to lead you astray.

²⁷ As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in **[3306]** you, and you do not need anyone to teach you.

CLING TO THE TRUTH OF THE HOLY ONE

But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit—

REMAIN IN HIM

just as it has taught you, remain **[3306]** in him.

<> E. HOPE

²⁸ And now, dear children,

continue [3306] in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming.

²⁹ If you **know** that he is righteous,
you **know** that everyone who does what is right
has been born of him.

1. OUR FUTURE HOPE IMPACTS OUR PRESENT CONDUCT

FUTURE HOPE

3:¹ How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not **know** us is that it did not **know** him. ² Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made **known**. But we **know** that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. ³ Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure.

PRESENT HOPE – PROMISED DELIVERENCE FROM LIVING IN DARKNESS

PUTTING OFF OF SIN

⁴ Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness.

⁵ But you **know** that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin.

⁶ No one who lives [3306] in him keeps on sinning.
No one who continues to sin has either seen him or **known** him.

PUTTING OFF OF THE DEVIL

⁷ Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray.

He who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

⁸ He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.

⁹ No one who is **born of God** will continue to sin, because God's seed remains [3306] in him; he cannot go on sinning, because he has been **born of God**.

¹⁰ This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are:

Anyone who does not do what is right is not a child of God; nor is anyone who does not love his brother.

2. OUR PRESENT CONDUCT CONFIRMS OUR FUTURE HOPE

¹¹ This is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another.

¹² Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother's were righteous. ¹³ Do not be surprised, my brothers, **if** the world hates you.

EVIDENCE THAT WE HAVE BEEN BORN AGAIN

¹⁴ We **know** that we have passed from death to **life**,

because we love our brothers. Anyone who does not love remains **[3306]** in death.

¹⁵ Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you **know** that no murderer has eternal **life** in **[3306]** him.

¹⁶ This is how we know what love is:

Jesus Christ laid down his life for us.

And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.

LOVE IS AN ACTION, NOT A CONCEPT

¹⁷ **If** anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him,

how can the love of God be in [3306] him?

¹⁸ Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but **with actions** and in truth.

¹⁹ This then is how we **know** that we belong to the truth, and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence ²⁰ whenever our hearts condemn us. For God is greater than our hearts, and he **knows** everything.

²¹ Dear friends, **if** our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God ²² and receive from him anything we ask, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him.

²³ And this is his command:

to believe

in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ,
and

to love

one another as he commanded us.

²⁴ Those who obey his commands
live **[3306]** in him, and
he in them.

<<<< D-2. HOLY SPIRIT OF TRUTH

And this is how we know that he lives [3306] in us: We **know** it by the Spirit he gave us.

4¹ Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

² This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God:

Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God,

³ but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God.

This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.

⁴ You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

⁵ They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them.

⁶ We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us.

This is how we recognize the Spirit^[a] of truth and the spirit of falsehood.

<<< C-2. LOVE

1. SOURCE OF OUR LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER

⁷ Dear friends, let us love one another, for **love comes from God**.

Everyone who loves
has been born of God and **knows** God.

⁸ Whoever does not love
does not **know** God, because God is love.

2. QUALITY OF THAT LOVE

⁹ This is how God showed his love among us:
He sent his one and only Son^[b] into the world that we might live through him.

¹⁰ This is love:

WHILE NOT RECEIVING LOVE

not that we loved God,

HE GAVE LOVE

but that he loved us and

LAID DOWN HIS OWN LIFE IN OUR BEST INTEREST

sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for^[c] our sins.

3. IN HIM, HIS LOVE IS FORMED IN US

¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; but **if** we love one another, God lives **[3306]** in us and **his love is made complete in us**.

¹³ We **know** that we live **[3306]** in him and he in us,
because he has given us of his Spirit.

¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.

¹⁵ **If** anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God,
God lives **[3306]** in him and he in **[3306]** God.

¹⁶ And so we **know** and rely on the love God has for us.

God is love. Whoever lives **[3306]** in love lives **[3306]** in God, and God **[3306]** in him.

4. PROVES WE HAVE A SAVING FAITH

¹⁷ In this way, **love is made complete** among us

THE FAITH WE ARE RELYING ON TO WORK FOR THE FUTURE ...

so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment,

... CAN BE PROVEN VALID NOW IN THE PRESENT

because in this world we are like him.

¹⁸ There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. ¹⁹ We love because he first loved us.

5. PROVES WE REALLY DO LOVE GOD

²⁰ If anyone **says**, "I love God,"

yet hates his brother,

he is a liar.

For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen,
cannot love God, whom he has not seen.

²¹ And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.

<< B-2. FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST

5¹ Everyone who **believes** that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and

everyone who loves the father loves his child as well.

² This is how we **know** that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands.

³ This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, ⁴ for everyone born of God overcomes the world.

This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our **faith**.

⁵ Who is it that overcomes the world?

Only he who **believes** that Jesus is the Son of God.

⁶ This is the one who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ. He did not come by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.

⁷ For there are three that testify:

⁸ the^a Spirit,

the water and

the blood; and

the three are in agreement.

⁹ We accept man's testimony, but God's testimony is greater because it is the testimony of God, which he has given about his Son.

¹⁰ Anyone who **believes** in the Son of God has this testimony in his heart.

Anyone who does not believe God has made him out to be a liar,

because he has not believed the testimony God has given about his Son.

< A-2. JESUS CHRIST IS LIFE

¹¹ And this is the testimony:

God has given us eternal **life**, and this **life** is in his Son.

¹² He who has the Son has **life**;
he who does not have the Son of God does not have **life**.

¹³ I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God
so that you may
know that you have eternal **life**.

¹⁴ This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that **if** we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.

¹⁵ And **if** we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we **know** that we have what we asked of him.

¹⁶ **If** anyone sees his brother commit a sin that does not lead to death, he should pray and God will give him **life**.

I refer to those whose sin does not lead to death. There is a sin that leads to death. I am not saying that he should pray about that. ¹⁷ All wrongdoing is sin, and there is sin that does not lead to death.

¹⁸ We know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin;
the one who was born of God keeps him safe, and the evil one cannot harm him.

¹⁹ We know that we are children of God, and that
the whole world is under the control of the evil one.

²⁰ We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding,
so that
we may **know** him who is true.

And we are in him who is true—even in his Son Jesus Christ.

He is the true God and eternal **life**.

²¹ Dear children, keep yourselves from idols.