

The Christian Arsenal

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1 John 1:1-10

This is a study in the New Testament. We will be looking at the epistles of John as well as the little epistle of Jude.

The Apostle John wrote five books of the New Testament.

He wrote the **Gospel of John** which bears his name.
He wrote three epistles which bear his name.
And he wrote the last book of the Bible... **the Book of Revelation**.

All five of these books came from John's hand under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

The **Gospel of John** takes us **back** to the time Jesus walked the earth...the time that He gave His life at Calvary for our sins and the time that Jesus rose from the dead. **The Gospel of John gives us the basis for our salvation.**

The **Book of the Revelation** carries us into the **future**...at the time when the Lord Jesus Christ shall be revealed in Glory. It speaks to us of endtime events and of our coming back with Jesus to the earth to rule and reign. **The Book of the Revelation speaks of our glorification.**

But, the little epistles of John... **1, 2, and 3 John** deal with the **here and now**...the time in which we live. These little epistles share with us truths and precepts that teach us how to live the Christian life. They deal with present day truth...and **speak to us of our sanctification.**

So, the Holy Spirit used the Apostle John to tell us of
Our **salvation** in the past
Our **sanctification** in the present
And our **glorification** in the future...

When Jesus called John to be His disciple, John was mending a fishing net. John was thought to be a very young man...maybe even a teenager. But when John wrote the books that are included in our Bible, he was an older, wiser man.
Jesus has been in heaven a long time...

John can no longer see his precious Lord and Savior with **eyes of flesh**...but he sees Jesus with **eyes of faith**. He was a man who had seen much persecution for the cause of the Lord Jesus Christ. And yet, as we will see in a few moments, **Jesus Christ was as real to John as if he had just been with Him yesterday.**

Before we get to our Scripture, let me tell you several "keys" that we find in the **Book of 1 John**. It is typical of John to put a "key" either at the front or the back door of his books. These keys unlock for us the meanings of the books.

For instance, in the **Book of Revelation**, the key is hanging at the front...

Rev. 1:19: "Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are and the things which shall be hereafter."

And that very simple outline is the key to understanding the Book of Revelation.

In the Gospel of John, he put the key at the end...

John 20:30: "These are written, that you might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you might have life through His name."

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See, the **Gospel of John** was written so that folks who read it would come to know the Lord Jesus Christ as their own personal Savior. That's why folks who are searching for Jesus should read the **Gospel of John**.

In **1 John**, the Apostle John left **four keys** for us to unlock the meaning of the book and they are all identified by the phrase, "these things I write..."

John put one key at the back door... **1 John 5:13**:

"These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, in order that you may know that you have eternal life."

Here we see a difference, don't we?

In the **Gospel of John**, John said, "I am writing that you may believe..." but in **1 John**, John says, "I am writing to you who believe already..."

And why is John writing to believers? Well, **he says he is writing to them that they may know that they have eternal life.** I'm not going to jump ahead and pre-empt the teaching on the assurance of salvation, but I want to tell you today that **1 John** is the best book to read if you ever doubt your own salvation or are counseling anyone who is doubting their salvation.

The word "know" is very significant in **1 John**...it is used over 30 times!

Some folks say, "I hope I'm going to heaven when I die," but John says to you and to me under the inspiration of the dear Holy Spirit...

"Folks, you can know it for certain!"

A second key is found in **2:26**:

"These things I have written unto you concerning those who are trying to deceive you."

John's intent is for this key **to protect us and keep us from following after those who would lead us astray.**

A third key is found in **2:1**:

"My little children, these things I write unto you that you sin not."

And the last key is found in today's lesson...

The fourth key is found in **1:4**: "And these things we write, so that our joy may be made complete..."

I believe we're going to get a lot of wonderful practical doctrine from this little book, so I hope you'll **read it** and **study it** and **understand it** and **believe it** and **apply it** to your life!

1 John 1:1-3...

"The Word of Life" ...**John 1:1**: "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God."

And on down in **verse 14** of **John 1**, John says, "and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us..."

Of course, John is speaking of the Lord Jesus Christ...

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1. "we have heard" - verses 1 and 3
2. "we have seen" - verses 1, 2, and 3
3. "we have beheld" - verse 1
4. "we handled" - verse 1

By the way, many times the English doesn't translate the Greek to us with all its intensity. Kenneth Wuest says in his expanded Greek translation that "we have heard" means "with the present result that it is still ringing in our ears"; and he says "we have seen" means "with the present result that it is still in our mind's eye"; and he says "we have beheld" means "we didn't just glance at, but we gazed upon intently"; and he says "we handled" means "our hands handled with a view to investigation".

Why do you think John went to great lengths to state that **Jesus was heard and seen and beheld and handled**? Well, there was a group of folks who were trying to teach the believers some heresy about Jesus. These folks were called "**gnostics**." "Gnostic" means "to know." (Agnostic means they don't know...)

The gnostics believed that Jesus just **seemed** to have a body but didn't really have one. And the reason the gnostics taught this is because they believed that **matter or material was essentially evil**. So, to make Jesus fit into their doctrine...they taught that Jesus didn't really have a body made up of flesh and blood...if He had, this would have made Him evil.

So, John refutes that by saying

"Hey, we saw Jesus and He is still in our minds' eye! We heard Jesus and His voice is still ringing in our ears! We looked intently upon Him...We even touched Him with our own hands..."

John was saying,

"Jesus was not a ghost...He was not an apparition! I ate with Jesus! I watched Jesus pick up little children and hold them on His lap. Not only that, but I watched Him touch others and heal them!!"

There is an old gospel song that says,

"He laid hands on the lame and the lame could walk,
He laid hands on the dumb and the dumb could talk.

He laid hands on the blind and the blind could see,
He laid hands on the bound and the bound were free."

Remember when Jesus girded Himself with a towel and washed the disciples' feet? Remember later that night as Jesus and the disciples were eating the Last Supper, when John laid his head on the breast of Jesus?

When Jesus was on earth, He touched folks and folks touched Him!! He touched them physically as well as spiritually!

Has He touched you? Was there a time in your life that you know He touched you and made you whole?

Well, let's look at **verse 3** again...

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“fellowship” – “koinonia” - Now we see in this verse horizontal fellowship.– that sweet, sweet fellowship we have within the body of Christ.

I've always envied (I know, we're not supposed to envy...but I haven't coveted...just envied) folks with large families...folks with sisters and brothers. **I have one brother and he thinks we're strange because we love Jesus and we think he's strange because he doesn't...**

My husband has a large family but hardly any of them know Jesus and after we've been together just a little while, we've exhausted much of what we have in common.

What must it be like to have a large family who also loves Jesus? Well, when I ask that question, God answers it...He tells me, **“I've given you a LARGE family who loves Jesus!”**

See, **kinship** just means we have our blood in common.

Koinonia means we have the **blood of Jesus** in common. We have Jesus in common! We share Jesus with each other!

We have much more common ground to meet upon with our church family than we do with our extended family. We have so many brothers and sisters that it's going to take all of heaven just to be big enough to have a family reunion. **Think about it...You and I have brothers and sisters and we don't even know them or where they live or what color they are or what language they speak! But, one day we will!!**

Have you ever been to a foreign country and felt that sweet koinonia with believers you've never met before? I believe that's what heaven is going to be like...except there we will have more knowledge than we have here!

Not only do we have fellowship with each other, but we have fellowship with God the Father and His dear Son...

Does this not overwhelm you? I hope it does!! It's an incredibly overwhelming thing to me that God not only **allows** me to have fellowship with Him but **wants** me to have fellowship with Him and went to great lengths to give me that privilege!

Verse 5...

And, then John says... “Hey, because Jesus is real and because we have fellowship with each other and with God...our joy should be full...complete!”

Well, how in the world could we not have complete joy? We have a Savior who has forgiven us...we have a family who can never be taken away!

What does “complete joy” mean? Well, I believe it means much, much more than “happiness”. I believe it means that even in the midst of great grief and sorrow and disappointment I can still rejoice...when the doctor's report comes back bad, I can still have joy and when our children or grandchildren break our heart, we can still have joy...complete joy...total joy...full joy!

Beloved, don't wait around for your circumstances to give you joy. The psalmist said, “In Thy presence is fulness of joy...” and that's the only place you'll ever find it...

Verses 5-7...

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I believe John is telling us that if we're going to enjoy sweet and full and complete fellowship with our Heavenly Father...then we must understand that **God in His very nature is light...His essence, His very being is light!**

1. John is speaking of **God's glory**. When the shekinah glory came down and met with Moses...the people could not look because of the light of God's glory.
2. John is also speaking of the **knowledge of God**. God never has to figure anything out. Do you remember when you were a kid and you read cartoons and someone would have an idea or they would figure something out, the bubble over their head would have a light bulb in it?

Well, God never has a light bulb over His head. God **is** light...He knows all things! There is nothing God can learn...nothing He needs to be informed about.

He knows more about you than you know about yourself!

My pastor puts it this way "Has it ever occurred to you that nothing has ever occurred to God?"

3. John is speaking of **God's holiness!**

God is absolutely holy! He is not holy most of the time...God is holy all the time. He is **pure and righteous** and there is nothing about His character that is not holy! He is indeed the thrice holy God of Israel.

4. John is speaking also of **God's sovereignty!**

Our God is sovereign. He is sovereign over everything! No other deity that any other people serve is sovereign. When all is falling apart in your life and you don't understand how things can come crashing down...God is sovereign! When things are great and you and your family are on top of it all...God is sovereign!

"God is light and there is no darkness at all in Him," John says. In the Greek text this is a double negative. Now, in English a double negative distorts the meaning, but in Greek it emphasizes the meaning. "There is not no darkness in God"...**bad English...good Greek and great theology!**

Verse 6... "If we say..."

John has told us God is light. Jesus told us we must be light. Amos told us that two cannot walk together unless they are agreed.

I cannot walk with God when He's over here in the light and I'm over here in the darkness.

There's a great deal of difference between profession and practice. Not every one who says he or she is a Christian is a Christian.

Jesus said, "Not every one that says to me 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven."

Not even every Christian who says he or she is walking with the Lord is walking with the Lord.

What does it mean to walk in darkness? It means to walk in sin and disobedience...it means to practice things that are contrary to the holiness and knowledge and glory and sovereignty of God.

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John doesn't mince any words, does he? He says if we profess one thing and practice something else we don't do the truth...and he says, "you're a liar."

What a sad thing for anyone to say "I am a Christian" and walk in darkness.

1. when you live a lie, you misrepresent the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. when you live a lie, you misdirect the lost.

Folks who are lost aren't going to be drawn to the light of the Lord Jesus Christ if His children are walking in darkness.

Verse 7...

How are we going to have communion and sweet fellowship with God?

Well, we need to know what God is like and what He likes and what He dislikes.

He has given us His Word... "Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path."

A lamp unto my feet is like a flashlight that shines right on the steps I'm taking, and that's good...but a light unto my path is like a floodlight that lights up the entire path I'm walking! And we need both...we need moment by moment light and we need light to know what to do tomorrow!

Let me ask you this...does God's Word teach that we will never ever sin again once we become a Christian? No, of course not...but it does teach us we have forgiveness! **Verse 7b...**

John isn't speaking about the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ as it flowed through His veins. There was no salvation in the perfect life of Jesus Christ. **In fact, when we look at the perfect life Jesus lived, it only condemns us...it only shows us our black sin...**

There was no salvation...no cleansing in His blood until it was poured out at Calvary.

"Oh precious is that **flow**...that washes white as snow,
No other fount I know, nothing but the blood of Jesus."

Without the precious blood of Jesus there is no salvation and without the precious blood of Jesus there is no cleansing.

Verses 9-10...

Praise God for verse 9!!!

Praise God that He doesn't forgive my sins one day and then the next day slams the door in my face when I mess up and come to Him with a broken heart over my sins.

By the way, this word "confess" is a **continuous action** verb in the Greek. This simply means that it is not a once for all confession. We must confess our sins every time we commit them. I'm not saying that unconfessed sin unsaves you...But Beloved, unconfessed and unrepented sin in your life breaks that sweet fellowship with God

EX...Bob George

What does "**confess**" mean? The Greek: "**to say the same thing...**"

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“homologeō” – homo – means “the same”
- logeo – means “to say”

Sometimes it's hard for us to confess our sins, isn't it? I mean...when you confess your sins, you have to admit you've done wrong things, and thought wrong thoughts, and said wrong things, and that goes against our flesh, doesn't it?

But God says: “Come to Me, My child, and tell Me what you've done...say the same thing I do about it and I'll wipe your slate clean. I'll cleanse you from all your unrighteousness.”

Why in the world do we try and hide our sins from God? I mean, don't you believe He already knows it? I believe it all goes back to our pride. We don't want our sins exposed, do we? But **verse 10** warns us that we might as well be honest and get our sins out in the open...

Have you ever known that your child has done something wrong and you've waited for him to come tell you?

I wonder how often and my Heavenly Father waits for me to come to Him and confess my sins.

He longs to **forgive** us...and He longs to **cleanse** us...He longs to lift **that sin burden** from us. He made every provision for us...He sent His only Son to shed His precious blood that our sins would be **forgiven** and **forgiven** and **forgiven**!!

My prayer is if you have anything at all in your life that has broken your fellowship with Jesus...anything that is robbing you of your joy...any sin that you're holding onto...**PLEASE LET IT GO, TURN FROM IT, AND APPLY 1 JOHN 1:9 TO IT...**

and I promise you on the authority of God's precious Word,
He will forgive you and cleanse you from all unrighteousness.

And, may I say to you...

What God has forgiven, don't carry around with you anymore...
What God has thrown into the depths of the sea, don't go fishing for...

God really is faithful and just to forgive our sins and you know, that's really one of the main things that sets Christianity apart from other “religions.”

I pray we'll never take for granted God's willingness to forgive us our sins. We'll never be “sinless”...not in this lifetime...not as long as we live in this old body of flesh. But, as we walk in the light and He is in the light, we won't be **sinless** but we should **sin less**...