

Letter of

# 1 JOHN



**BIBLE STUDY COURSE BY  
RUSTY RUTHERFORD**

# LETTER OF I JOHN

## *The Apostle John's Last Words to His Disciples While He Was in Ephesus.*

Don't be afraid of what you are going to suffer. The Devil is going to throw some of you into prison so that you may be tested. Your suffering will go on ten days. Be faithful unto death and I will give you the crown of life. Let the person who has ears listen to what the Spirit says to the churches. Everyone who wins the victory will never be hurt by the second death. **Revelation 2:10-11**

Written and taught by  
**Richard "Rusty" David Rutherford**

Scripture text is from the *GOD'S WORD*® translation. © 1995, 2003, 2013, 2014, 2019, 2020 by God's word to the Nations Mission Society. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Greek and Hebrew transliterated words are from Strong's Concordance made available by [www.blueletterbible.org](http://www.blueletterbible.org). All other text is © 2023 by The Sudan Family Foundation. All rights reserved.

Other than as specifically authorized below, no part of this course book may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means, including photocopying or other electronic or mechanical method, without prior written permission, except in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical reviews and certain other noncommercial uses permitted by copyright law. For any permission requests, please send an email to [accessthe bible@gmail.com](mailto:accessthe bible@gmail.com).

You may use this course book for your own personal study or for teaching or participating in a Bible study group or class with others. You may download a copy of this course book to your computer, print or otherwise make paper photocopies for use in your own personal study or use in a Bible study group or class. If you charge for any copies, you may only charge for the cost of copying. You may NOT make changes to the content of this course book and then attribute the course material to Mr. Rutherford.

# Table of Contents

<b>PERICOPE 1</b>	<b>Who Is Jesus?</b>	
1 John 1-4		5
<b>PERICOPE 2</b>	<b>Live in the Light and Not in the Dark</b>	
1 John 1:5-2:2		8
<b>PERICOPE 3</b>	<b>Those Who Know Christ Obey his Commandments</b>	
1 John 2:3-12		10
<b>PERICOPE 4</b>	<b>Don't Love the World. Have Spiritual Maturity</b>	
1 John 2:12-27		14
<b>PERICOPE 5</b>	<b>We Are God's Born Again Children So Abide in Him</b>	
1 John 2:28-3:3		18
<b>PERICOPE 6</b>	<b>Whoever Lives in Christ Doesn't Commit Sin</b>	
1 John 3:4-15		22
<b>PERICOPE 7</b>	<b>Actions Show More Truth Than Words</b>	
1 John 3:16-24		25
<b>PERICOPE 8</b>	<b>Test People Who Say They Have God's Spirit</b>	
1 John 4:1-6		27
<b>PERICOPE 9</b>	<b>God's Love Lives in His People</b>	
1 John 4:7-21		30
<b>PERICOPE 10</b>	<b>Those Who Believe in Jesus Are God's Children</b>	
1 John 5:1-11		34
<b>PERICOPE 11</b>	<b>This Is Written So You May Know God</b>	
1 John 5:13-21		37
Sermons of Alistair Beggs on <u>1 John</u>		39



## Author's Preface



The Apostle John by church tradition lived the longest of any of Jesus' twelve disciples. He is reputed to have lived to an ancient age in Ephesus, in the Roman Province of Asia. He is reputed to have said often, Little children, love one another as Jesus Christ loved us.

This grandfather is very simple in his approach. God is the Holy Trinity –The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. People in their spiritual life are children, young men, or fathers. God's concerns are Life, Light and Love or Harmony, Holiness, and Hope. The Devil's concerns are Lawlessness, Lust, and Lies or Death, Darkness, and Hate.

John thinks in *threes*. He has certain key words deep in his mind and he comes back to them again and again stringing them together.

But in one area, there are only *two*: The *world of God* and the *world of the Devil*. Yet many attempt to live in a *third world* halfway between the *two*. John sees a clear separation between the two worlds. He is very dogmatic. A person cannot live in both worlds.

John says that when we are born in Christ, genuine Christians do not go on sinning continually. We may fall into sin but we do not go on sinning. When we are born again in baptism, our past sins are forgiven, and we begin with a

clean slate with God. But as we live in the world where the Devil rules, we may sin. When we sin, we confess our sins and Jesus forgives us that sin.

John presents four tests for a person to see if they are a genuine Christian:

1. The Doctrinal Test: Do we know the real person of Jesus?
2. The Spiritual Test: Do we have the Holy Spirit acting in our life?
3. The Moral Test: Are we living obedient with the laws of God?
4. The Social Test: Do we love the brethren?

In this way, John helps us to determine whether we are a child of God or a child of the Devil.

John's message in this short letter is that Christians must now live in the light of God guided by the Holy Spirit, love one another, and be confident in having received Eternal Life now as a result of our new birth by having a close, personal relationship with God's Son Jesus Christ. We live a holy life right now on earth battling the Devil. This prepares us one day to live a holy life joyously in Heaven with God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit where sin does not abound.

Rusty Rutherford

## Pericope 1

### Who is Jesus?

#### 1 John 1:1-4

In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God and the Word was God. He was already with God in the beginning. Everything came into existence through him. Not one thing that was made was made without him.

No one has ever seen God. God's only Son, the one who is closest to the Father's heart, has made him known. Gospel of John 1:1-3, 16, 18.

1:1 The Word *logos* of life *zoe* existed *en-was* from the beginning *arche*. We have heard *akouo* it. We have seen *horeo* it. We observed *theoaomai* and touched *pselaphao* it.

<sup>2</sup>This life *zoe* was revealed *phaneroo* to us. We have seen *horeo* it and we testify *martyreo* about it. We are reporting to you about this eternal *aionios* life *zoe* that was in the presence *pros-with* of the Father and was revealed *phaneroo* to us.

<sup>3</sup>This is the life *zoe* we have seen *horao* and heard *akouo*. We are reporting about it to you also so that you, too, can have a relationship *koinonia* with us. Our relationship *koinonia* is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>We are writing this so that we [you] can be completely filled *pleroo* with joy *chara*.

### WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED SO FAR?

John is fighting heresies within the early church. One heresy is called Gnosticism.

Gnostic writings flourished among certain Christian groups in the Mediterranean world around the second century, when the Fathers of the early Church denounced them as heresy. Efforts to destroy these texts proved largely successful, resulting in the survival of very little writing by Gnostic theologians.

Nonetheless, early Gnostic teachers such as Valentinus saw their beliefs as aligned with Christianity. In the Gnostic Christian tradition, Christ is seen as a divine being who has taken human form in order to lead humanity back to recognition of its own divine nature.

However, Gnosticism is not a single standardized system. The emphasis on direct experience allows for a wide variety of teachings, including distinct currents such as Valentinianism and Sethianism. **Wikipedia**

The other heresy was Docetism.

The doctrine, important in Gnosticism, that Christ's body was not human but either a phantasm or of real but celestial substance and that therefore his sufferings were only apparent. **Wikipedia**

Most Gnostics agreed with Plato that only the spiritual world was good. The physical world was bad. Therefore, if Jesus was a physical person, he was bad. Cerinthian Gnostics believed that Jesus was the human son of Mary and Joseph but at his baptism Christ came on him. Many strange heresies were prevalent around this time.

John begins by telling us who Jesus is. He is the one, the Word **logos** who gives humans eternal life. God sent Jesus in human form to earth. As one of his apostles, John Zebedee saw him, watched him minister in Galilee and in Jerusalem, and even touched him. Jesus prayed constantly to God the Father and so was constantly in God's presence.

So John begins his letter describing who Jesus Christ is. He existed from the beginning before God created Creation. He came to earth as a fully human being so that John can say he saw him physically and heard him. John also touched him, so he was a genuine physical human being.

Jesus was constantly praying so he was always in the presence of God the Father. John says that he has a relationship with God the Father, God the Son Jesus Christ, and God the Holy Spirit. He wants his readers to have a similar relationship so that they can have the same joy that John has.

## THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

1. The incarnation of Jesus as a human baby is a difficult concept if we are to believe that Jesus is God and also human. However, in the Hebrew Bible God appeared as a human to Abraham. **Genesis 18:1-19**. The Bible clearly says that three men met Abraham and later that Abraham stood before the Lord. Did Jesus ever declare that he was God? **HINT: John 14:7**
2. John goes into extensive detail that Jesus was human. How does he prove his case?
3. Why does John call Jesus the Word of Life?
4. Why does John call Jesus Eternal Life? Wouldn't this just contribute to the thought that Jesus was only a spiritual being rather than being a physical man?
5. Why doesn't John explain who the Father is, that he is God?
6. Why doesn't John explain what he means when he says: Jesus is the Son of the Father?
7. Was John writing his letter only to believers? How can you tell?



## PERICOPE 2

### Live in the Light and Not in the Dark Revelation 1:5

He was the source of life and that life was light for humanity. The light shines in the dark and the dark has never extinguished it. The real light that shines on everyone was coming into the world.

The Word became human and lived among us. We saw his glory. It was the glory that the Father shares with his only Son, a glory full of kindness and truth. Each of us has received one gift after another because of all the Word is. Gospel of John 1:4-5, 9, 14, 16

### Through Jesus We Have a Relationship with God

1:5 This is the message we heard from Christ and are reporting to you: God is light *phos* and there isn't any darkness *skotos* in him. <sup>6</sup>If we say: We have a relationship with God and yet live in the dark, we're lying. We aren't being truthful.

<sup>7</sup>But if we live *peripateo*-walk in the light *phos* in the same way that God is in the light *phos*, we have a relationship *koinonia* with each other. And the blood *haima* of his Son Jesus cleanses *katharizo* us from every sin *hamartia*. <sup>8</sup>If we say: We aren't sinful we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.

### Jesus Forgives Our Sins Because of His Death on the Cross

1:9 God is faithful and reliable. If we confess our sins, he forgives *aphiemi* them and cleanses us from everything we've done wrong. <sup>10</sup>If we say: We have never sinned, we turn God into a liar and his Word is not in us.

2:1 My dear children, I'm writing this to you so that you will not sin *hamartano*. Yet, if anyone does sin, we have Jesus Christ, who has God's full approval *dikaios*-righteous. He speaks on our behalf *parakletos*-advocate when we come into the presence of the Father. <sup>2</sup>He is the payment *hilasmos*-propitiation for our sins. Not only for our sins, but also for the sins of the whole *holos* world *kosmos*.

## WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED SO FAR?

John says that its not enough to say one loves God and then not act by obeying his commandments. A person lives in the light only if they truly love God and then love other believers and unbelievers. Paul describes the fruit of the Spirit as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. **Galatians 5:22**

John says even genuine believers will sin, but they will not continually sin if they truly love God and love their neighbor. If they sin, they will confess their sin and Jesus will forgive them. From the beginning John want Christians to keep short accounts with God. If they sin, they should genuinely repent as close to the time they sinned as possible allowing their conscience to guide them.

## THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

1. John's purpose in writing was to encourage his readers to cultivate greater intimacy with God. How were they to do this? HINT: **John 14:23**
2. Having God's light in us helps us to recognize sin. What does that enable us to do?
3. Having God's light enables us to see spiritual things we never saw before. What does that enable us to do?
4. How does having God's light benefit God?
5. Why does giving into sin create darkness in us?
6. Why is a pure church more important to God than a large church?
7. How can we draw closer to God?

## PERICOPE 3

### Those Who Know Christ Obey His Commandments 1 John 2:3-12

2:3 We are sure that we know **ginosko** Christ if we obey **tereo**-keep his commandments. 4The person who says: I know **ginosko** him but doesn't obey his commandments is a liar. The truth **aletheia** isn't in that person. 5But whoever obeys **an**-keeps what Christ says **logos**-word is the kind of person in whom God's love is perfected **teleioo**. That's how we know **ginosko** we are in **en** Christ. 6Those who say that they live **peripateo**-walk in him must live the same way he lived walked. 1 Peter 2:21

7Dear friends **adelphos**, brothers. it's not as though I'm writing to give you a new **kainos** commandment. Rather, I'm giving you an old **palaios** commandment that you've had from the beginning. It's the old commandment you've already heard.

8On the other hand, I'm writing to give you a new commandment. It's a truth **althes** that exists in Christ and in you **hymen**: The darkness **skotia** is fading **parago**-past and the true **altheinos** light **phos** is already shining **phaino**.

9Those who say that they are in the light **phos** but hate **miseo** other believers are still in the dark **skotos**. 10Those who love **agapao** other believers live **meno**-abide in the light **phos**. Nothing will destroy the faith **pistis** of those who live in the light **phos**. 11Those who hate other believers are in the dark **skotos** and live in the dark **skotos**. They don't know where they're going because they can't see in the dark **skotos**.

## WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED SO FAR?

John agrees with James and Peter that it is not enough to express your faith in Jesus, but you must demonstrate your faith by obeying God's commandments, that is by living a holy life.

John now says: I not writing to give you a *new* commandment. Instead, its an *old* commandment that you heard from the beginning of your life as a Christian. It is Jesus' commandment:

I'm giving you a new commandment. Love each other in the same way that I have loved you. Everyone will know that you're my disciples because of your love for one another. **John 13:34-35**

But in a way, Jesus is quoting the Hebrew Bible:

Never get revenge. Never hold a grudge against any of your people. Instead, love your neighbor as you love yourself. I am the Lord. **Leviticus 19:18**

John now looks at the way believers once lived in the dark. But now they live in the light of Jesus. Jesus said:

I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will have a life filled with light and will never live in the dark. **John 8:12**

John had said in his Gospel:

In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God and the Word was God. He was already with God in the beginning. Everything came into existence through him. Not one thing that exists was made without him.

He was the source of life, and that life was light for humanity. The light shines in the dark and the dark has never extinguished it. **John 1:1-5**

Jesus also said:

Aren't there twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day don't stumble because they see the light of this world. However, those who walk at night stumble because they have no light in themselves. **John 11:9-10**

And in the Psalms:

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Who is there to fear?

The Lord is my life's fortress.

Who is there to be afraid of? **Psalm 27:1**

Indeed, the fountain of life is with you.

In your light we see light. **Psalm 36:9**

Send out your light and your truth.

Let them guide me.

Let them bring me to your holy mountain

and to your dwelling place. **Psalm 43:3**

## THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

### 1. Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount:

You are light for the world. A city cannot be hidden located on a hill. No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket. Instead, everyone who lights a lamp puts it on a lamp stand. Then its light shines on everyone in the house. In the same way let your light shine before people. Then they will see the good things you do and praise your Father in Heaven. **Matthew 5:14-16**

However, God does not like people who brag. What is Jesus saying?

### 2. Jesus told Nicodemus:

This is why people are condemned: The light came into the world. Yet people loved the dark rather than the light because their actions were evil. People who do what is wrong hate the light and don't come to the light. They don't want their actions to be exposed. But people who do what is true come to the light so that the things they do for God may be clearly seen. **John 3:19-21**

Is this the main reason Christians are hated and will always be in a minority?

### 3. The prophet Micah, a compatriot of Isaiah, said:

I will look to the Lord.  
I will wait for God to save me.  
I will wait for my God to listen to me.

Don't laugh at me, my enemies.  
Although I've fallen, I will get up.  
Although I sit in the dark, the Lord is my light.

I have sinned against the Lord.  
So I will endure his fury  
until he takes up my cause and wins my case.  
He will bring me into the light  
and I will see his victory. **Micah 7:7-9**

What does this tell us about the prophet Micah's faith in God?

4. Where do James and Peter say that one's faith is demonstrated by what you say but by what you do? **HINT: James 2:17; 1 Peter 1:15; 3:11**
5. Isaiah made this prophecy about the Messiah that Simeon echoed 700 years later:

Now the Lord says:

You are not just my servant  
who restores the tribes of Jacob  
and brings back those in Israel whom I have preserved.  
I have also made you a light to the nations  
so that you would save people all over the world. **Isaiah 49:6**

When was Jesus a light to the Gentiles?

6. What is the commandment John is giving his disciples in **1 John 2:8**?



## PERICOPE 4

### Don't Love the World. Have Spiritual Maturity. 1 John 2:12-27

**2:12** I'm writing to you, dear children, because your sins are forgiven through Christ.

<sup>13</sup>I'm writing to you, **fathers**, because you know *ginosko* Christ who has existed from the beginning. **John 1:1-2**

I'm writing to you, **young people**, because you have won the victory *nikao* over the evil one.

<sup>14</sup>I've written to you, **children**, because you know *ginosko* the Father.

I've written to you, **fathers**, because you know *ginosko* Christ, who has existed from the beginning.

I've written to you, **young people**, because you are strong and God's Word *logos* lives in you. You have won the victory *nikao* over the evil one *poneros*.

<sup>15</sup>Don't love *agapao* the world *kosmos* and what it offers. Those who love *agapao* the world don't have the Father's love *agape* in them.

<sup>16</sup>Not everything that the world offers— physical gratification *epithymia*-lusts *sarx*-flesh, greed, *epithymia*-lusts *ophthalmos*-eyes and extravagant lifestyles *alazoneia*-pride *bios*-life—comes from the Father. It comes from the world *kosmos* and <sup>17</sup>the world *kosmos* and its evil desires *epithymia*-lusts are passing away *parago*. But the person who does what God wants lives forever.

### Live in Christ and Do Not Listen to False Prophets –Anti-Christ

**2:18** Children, it's the end *eschatos* of time *hora*. You've heard *akouo* that an antichrist *antichristos* is coming *erchomai*. Certainly, many *poly* antichrists are already here. That's how we know *ginosko* it's the end *eschatos*-last of time *hora*.

<sup>9</sup>They left **exerchomai** us. However, they were never **ou-not** really part of us. If they had been, they would have stayed with us **meno**. But by leaving they made it clear that none **ou** of them were part of us.

<sup>20</sup>The Holy One **hagios** has anointed **chrisma** you, so all of you have knowledge **eido-know**. <sup>21</sup>I'm writing **grapho** to you because you know **eido** the truth **aletheia**, not because you don't know the truth. You know that no lie **pseudos** ever comes from the truth.

<sup>22</sup>Who is a liar **pseutes**? Who else but the person who rejects **arneomai-denies** Jesus as the Messiah? The person who rejects the Father and the Son is an antichrist. <sup>23</sup>Everyone who rejects the Son doesn't have **echo** the Father either. The person who acknowledges **homologeio** the Son also has **echo** the Father.

<sup>24</sup>Make sure that the message you heard **akouo** from the beginning **arche** lives **meno-abides** in you. If that message lives **meno** in you, you will also live **meno** in the Son and in the Father. <sup>25</sup>Christ has given us the promise **epangelia** of eternal **aionios** life **zoe**.

<sup>26</sup>I'm writing **grapho** to you about those who are trying to deceive **planao-seduce** you. <sup>27</sup>The anointing **chrisma** you received **lambano** from Christ lives **meno** in you. You don't need anyone to teach **didasko** you something else. Instead, Christ's anointing **chrisma** teaches **didasko** you about everything **pas**. His anointing **chrisma** is true **alethes** and contains no lie **pseudos**. So live **meno** in Christ as he taught **didasko** you to do.

## WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED SO FAR?

John now addresses the spiritual maturity of believers in three stages. First, he addresses children who only know their sins are forgiven. Then he addresses fathers because they know Christ through faith and in the experience of their relationship with him. Then he addresses young people because they have had an initial encounter with Satan as people criticized them because they became believers.

Then John repeats the process to show each stage grows in their maturity. Finally, John addresses children who know God as their Father as children know their parents. John then repeats this sequence again repeating the strong knowledge of the Fathers through their experience of their relationship with Christ. Then he repeats experience the young people who have aggressively fought the Devil and have overcome him. God's Word lives in them.

### **Enemies of the Christian: The World and Anti-Christ**

John reminds his readers that the glittering wealth that the world offers, the physical pleasures of sex, money, and power do not come from God. Instead, God offers love in personal relationship with him, satisfaction in helping others, and spiritual power over evil.

Love the Father and love the brethren. But do not love the world is John's admonition. For the world and its fleshly lusts are passing away. But the Word of God lives forever. **Isaiah 40:8**

### **Anti-Christ Have Now Left Them But Were Never With Them**

John now warns about the anti-Christ that were with them but left them. The anti-Christ is the one who rejects the Father and the Son. But the anointing that Jesus gave you taught you the truth. His promise is that of Eternal Life. So you don't need anyone to teach you something else.

## **THINGS TO THINK ABOUT**

1. How long does it take a person to move through the stages of spiritual maturity? What helps a person to progress to a mature stage?
2. Can a person know all about God intellectually and still not have a close personal relationship with God? How does that personal relationship develop?

3. If God made the Creation good and humans very good, why do so many evil temptations exist in the world? Didn't Jesus overcome the world? **John 16:33; 1 John 4:4**
4. John says the young people have overcome the Evil One. How have they done this?
5. John says that anti-Christ's have come so we know the End Time has come. How do we know this?
6. Who is an anti-Christ? John says it is the person who denies the Father and the Son. What are these people usually called?
7. Why do anti-Christ's usually start out as members of a local church? What makes them turn into a heretic?

### **EXTRA CREDIT**

What is the anointing John is referring to? HINT: John 14:26; 16:13

### **EXTRA, EXTRA CREDIT**

If we are anointed by the Holy Spirit, why should we listen to a human teacher? Will the Holy Spirit warn us if the human teacher tells us something wrong? HINT: 1 Corinthians 12:28; Ephesians 4:11

## PERICOPE 5

### We Are God's Children Born Again by God so Abide in Christ

1 John 2:28-3:3

2:28 Now, dear children **teknion**, live **meno**-abide in Christ. Then, when he appears we will have confidence **parresia**. When he comes **phaneroo**-appears we won't turn from him in shame **aischyō**. <sup>29</sup>If you know **ginosko** that Christ has God's approval, you also know **ginosko** that everyone who does what God approves of has been born **gennao** from God.

3:1 Consider this: The Father has given us his love **agape**. He loves us so much that we are actually called **kaleo** God's dear children. That's what we are. For this reason the world doesn't recognize **ou-no ginosko** us and it didn't recognize him either

<sup>2</sup>Dear friends **agapetos**, now we are **esmen** God's **theos** children **teknon**-sons. What we will be **esomai** isn't completely clear yet. We do know **ginosko** that when Christ appears **phaneroo** we will be **esomai** like **homoios** him **autos** because we will see **optanomai** him as **kathos** he is **esti**.

<sup>3</sup>So all people who have this confidence **elpis** in Christ keep themselves pure **hagnizo** as Christ is pure **hagnizo**.

## WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED SO FAR?

John begins a much warmer more intimate tone here. Believers look forward to meeting Jesus either at the rapture or at physical death. This is why an intimate fellowship before the rapture or death comes makes us ready for the closer relationship we will have with Jesus in eternity. John exhorts us to abide **meno** in Christ. In PERICOPE 4 **meno** appears 7x.

Paul teaches a great deal about the Second Coming of Christ, the **parousia** in 1 Corinthians 1:8; 4:5; 15:51-52; 16:22; Philippians 3:20; 4:5; 1 Thessalonians 1:10; 2 Thessalonians 1:10-12; Titus 2:3. James speaks of it in James 5:7-9. John the prophet speaks of it in Revelation 3:11; 22:7, 12, 17, 20.

John says that everyone who is born again lives a righteous life. But this is not always true. Christians can backslide. And many people live righteous lives that are not believing Christians. A person can be justified and begin on a journey of sanctification but never make it to glorification. Some Christians can walk in darkness.

The Holy Spirit's anointing produces righteous behavior if we choose to listen to him. This is evidence of God's great love for us. John talks about love in the Gospel 46 times and in his Letter in 1 John 44 times. Paul is third in Ephesians 20x.

God has made us children of God. Unbelievers do not understand Christians. They don't understand who God is so they reject Christians in the same way people rejected Jesus. **John 1:10**

Even though we are presently God's children, we don't fully reflect his image. Yet Paul tells us:

Now we see as a blurred image in a mirror. Then we will see very clearly. Now our knowledge is incomplete. Then I will have complete knowledge as God has complete knowledge of me. **1 Corinthians 13:12.**

Apparently when we meet Jesus in person, we will be transformed. Paul says:

As all of us reflect the Lord's glory with faces that are not covered in veils, we are being changed into his image with ever-increasing glory. This comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. **2 Corinthians 3:18**

## THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

1. What does it mean to abide **meno** in Christ?
2. Paul says that a Christian won't be judged at the Great White Throne Judgment with unbelievers.

Everyone will stand in front of the judgment seat **bema** of Christ to be judged.  
**Romans 14:10**



All of us will have to give an account of ourselves to God. **Romans 14:12.**

All of us must appear in front of Christ's judgment seat **bema**. Then all people will receive what they deserve for the good or evil they have done while living in their bodies. **2 Corinthians 5:10**

As a skilled and experienced builder, I used the gift that God gave me to lay the foundation for that building. However, someone else is building on it. Each person must be careful how he builds on it. After all, no one can lay any other foundation than the one that is already laid, and that foundation is Jesus Christ.

People may build on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, or straw. The judgment day will make what each one does clearly visible because fire will reveal it. That fire will determine what kind of work each person has done. If what a person has built survives, he will receive a reward. If his work is burned up, he will suffer the loss. However, he will be saved, though it will be like going through a fire. **1 Corinthians 3:10-15**

Instead, Paul is saying that Christians will appear before Jesus at his Bema judgment. Why then does John the prophet say?

I saw a large, white throne and the one sitting on it. The earth and the sky fled from his presence but no place was found for them. I saw the dead, both important and unimportant people standing in front of the throne. Books were opened including the Book of Life. The dead were judged on the basis of what they had done. The sea gave up its dead. Death and Hell gave up their dead. Death and Hell were thrown into the Fiery Lake. The Fiery Lake is the Second Death. Those whose names were not found in the Book of Life were thrown into the Fiery Lake. **Revelation 20:11-15.**

John appears to say that all people will appear before the Great White throne – all the dead.

See the discussion at <https://www.gotquestions.org/judgment-seat-Christ.html>

3. When will we first see Christ? Paul describes this meeting called the rapture:

The Lord will come from Heaven with a command, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the dead who believed in God will come back to life. Then, together with them, we who are still alive will be taken in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. In this way, we will always be with the Lord. **1 Thessalonians 4:16-17**

Why will God raise the dead who are with Jesus in Paradise first?

4. Why does the hope of seeing Jesus in the future have a purifying effect on us? HINT: Matthew 5:8

## PERICOPE 6

### Whoever Lives in Christ Doesn't Habitually Sin

1 John 3:4-15

3:4 Those who live sinful **hamartia** lives are disobeying God. Sin is disobedience. <sup>5</sup>You know **eido** that Christ appeared **phaneroo** in order to take away **airo** our sins **hamartia**. He isn't **ou** sinful **hamartia**. Hebrews 4:15. <sup>6</sup>Those who live in Christ don't go on sinning **hamartano**. Those who go on sinning haven't **oude** seen **horao** or known **ginosko** Christ.

<sup>7</sup>Dear children, don't let anyone deceive you. Whoever does what God approves of has God's approval as Christ has God's approval.

### A Person Who Habitually Sins Is a Child of the Devil

<sup>8</sup>The person who lives a sinful life belongs to **esti-is ek-**of the devil because the devil has been committing sin **hamartano** since the beginning **arche**. The reason **touto** that the Son of God appeared was to destroy **tyo** what the devil does.

<sup>9</sup>Those who have been born **gennao** from God don't live sinful lives. What God has said lives in them and they can't live sinful lives. They have been born **gennao** from God <sup>10</sup>This is the way God's children are distinguished from the devil's children. Everyone who doesn't do what is right or love other believers isn't God's child.

### If You Do Good, Expect the World to Hate You

3: 11 The message that you have heard from the beginning is to love **agape** each other. <sup>12</sup>Don't be like Cain. He was a child of the evil one and murdered his brother. Genesis 4:8

Why did Cain murder his brother **adelphos**? Because the things Cain did were evil **poneros** while the things his brother did had God's approval **dikaios**-righteous. <sup>13</sup>Brothers and sisters, don't be surprised if the world hates **miseo** you.

<sup>14</sup>We know **eido** that we have passed **metabaino** from spiritual death **thanatos** to spiritual life **zoe** because we love **agapao** other believers **adelphos**-brethren. The person who

doesn't grow in love *agapao* remains men in spiritual death *thanatos*. <sup>15</sup> Everyone who hates *misoeo* another believer *adelphos* is a murderer *anthropoktonos* and you know that a murderer *anthropoktonos* doesn't have eternal *aionios* life *zoe*.

## WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED SO FAR?

In the previous pericope, John has stressed the importance of abiding in Christ, doing what is right to make himself pure before Christ comes to earth. Now he stressed the negative side of not sinning and the temptations to sin.

The exact opposite of righteousness is lawlessness or rebellion against God. John warns us not to be a murderer like Cain, who murdered his brother Abel. God warned Cain: Sin is standing at your door. If you don't stop and think, sin will tempt you and overcome you. **Genesis 4:6-7**

Because the majority of the world is under the control of the Evil One and does not have the strength to overcome the temptation of sin, they are jealous and hate Christians in whom the Holy Spirit dwells.

To be Christian is to want to be more like Christ and work hard to be an overcomer, one who loves the brethren and considers others more important than themselves. Think of the sacrifice of Jesus. He obeyed the will of his Father despite the great pain and suffering he was asked to accept. Think of his struggle in the Garden of Gethsemane. **Mark 14:32-42**

## THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

1. Which is easier: to do good or to do evil? Why?
2. Why are Christians able to do good most of the time?
3. Why did God accept Able's sacrifice to him and not Cain's sacrifice? What did God see in Able's sacrifice to him that was not in Cain's sacrifice to him?
4. God warned Cain that sin was tempting him to hate. Why did Cain give in to this temptation?
5. To love or to sin is a choice. What determines our choice?

6. What does it mean to abide in Christ?

## PERICOPE 7

### Actions Show Truth More Than Just Words 1 John 3:16-

#### What Does True Love Look Like?

**3:16** We understand what love **agape** is when we realize that Christ gave **tithemi** his life **psyche**-breath of life for us. That means we must give **tithemi** our lives **psyche** for other believers **adelphos**.

<sup>17</sup>Now, suppose a person has enough to live on and notices another believer in need. How can God's love be in that person if he doesn't bother to help the other believer? <sup>18</sup>Dear children, we must show love through actions **ergon** that are sincere **aletheia**-truth, not **me** through empty words **logos**. **James 3:17, 24**

<sup>19</sup>This is how we will know **ginosko** that we belong to the truth **aletheia** and how we will be reassured **peitho** in his presence. <sup>20</sup>Whenever our conscience **kardia**-heart condemns us, we will be reassured **peitho** that God **theos** is greater **meizon** than our conscience **kardia**-heart and knows **ginosko** everything **pas**-all.

<sup>21</sup>Dear friends, if our conscience **kardia**-heart doesn't condemn **kataginosko** us, we can boldly **parresia** look to **pros** God <sup>22</sup>and receive **lambano** from him anything we ask **aiteo**. We receive **lambano** it because we obey **tereo** his commandments **entole** and do **poieo** what pleases **arestos** him.

<sup>23</sup>This is his commandment **entole**: to believe **pisteuo** in his Son, the one named Jesus Christ, and to love **agapao** each other as he commanded us. <sup>24</sup>Those who obey Christ's commandments live in God, and God lives in them. We know **ginosko** that he lives **meno** in us because he has given **didomi** us the Spirit **pneuma**.

#### WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED SO FAR?

John, like James, the Bishop of Jerusalem, stresses that Christians must demonstrate their faith through love of the brethren. We must not simply say we believe but show it through our actions. Jesus showed how much he loved us by voluntarily going to his death on the cross.



When we perform deeds of self-sacrifice, it demonstrates we have a clear conscience so we can boldly approach God in prayer. Jesus taught his disciples to trust him and to pray in his name. **John 15:16; 16:24**

Jesus says: If you love me, you will obey my commandments. **John 14:21**. This means that we believe in God the Father and God the Son. The people who left John and his congregation did not. They were Jewish and only believed in one God. They did not believe in a Triune God of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. When we obey Jesus' teachings, we live in him knowing that he has given us his Holy Spirit.

## THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

1. In his Gospel John reports Jesus saying:

God loved the world in this way: He gave his only Son so that everyone who believes in him will not die but have eternal life. **John 3:16**

Nothing was said about doing works that God approves of. Why does John place so much emphasis on doing works to demonstrate your belief?

2. Jesus told his disciples in the Upper Room:

I can guarantee this truth: Those who believe in me will do the things I am doing. **John 14:12**

What was Jesus doing?

3. How does God abide in us?

## PERICOPE 8

### Test People Who Say They Have God's Spirit 1 John 4:1-

4:1 Dear friends *agapetos*, don't believe *pistis* all people who say that they have the Spirit *pneuma*. Instead, test *dokimazo* them. See whether the Spirit *pneuma* they have is from God *theos* because there are many false prophets *pseudoprophetes* in the world *kosmos*.

<sup>2</sup>This is how you can recognize *ginosko*-know God's Spirit *pneuma*: Every person who declares *homologeō*-confesses that Jesus Christ has come *erchomai* as a human *sarx*-flesh has the Spirit *pneuma* that is from God.

<sup>3</sup> But every person who doesn't declare that Jesus Christ has come as a human *sarx* has a spirit *pneuma* that isn't from God. This is the spirit *pneuma* of the antichrist *antichristos* that you have heard is coming. That spirit *pneuma* is already in the world.

<sup>4</sup> Dear children, you belong to God. So you have won the victory *nikao* over these people because the one who is in *en* you *hymen* is greater *meizon* than the one who is *esti* in *en* the world *kosmos*.

<sup>5</sup> These people belong *eisi*-are *ek*-of to the world *kosmos*. That's why they speak *laleō* the thoughts of the world *kosmos* and the world *kosmos* listens to them.

<sup>6</sup> We belong to God. The person who knows *ginosko* God listens *akouō* to us. Whoever doesn't belong to God doesn't listen to us. That's how we can tell *ginosko*-know the Spirit *pneuma* of Truth *aletheia* from the Spirit *pneuma* of Lies *plane*-Error.

### WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED SO FAR?

This is the first time John is talking about the Holy Spirit. He says you know you are *in Christ* if you have the Holy Spirit. He gives this as a test. You know you have the Holy Spirit if you can testify that Jesus Christ came to earth in human form, that is, in the flesh. This is essential knowledge for a believer.

John is confronting Docetism, a teaching that the Christ came on Jesus at his baptism, was a phantasm during the time he was on earth, and left Jesus before he died on the cross.

People who don't believe that Jesus came to earth as a human are of the world. They are in Satan. They are of the world. They have the spirit of anti-Christ. This is a denial of the incarnation of Jesus, born of a virgin by the Holy Spirit.

This test of faith is the same as Moses spoke of in **Deuteronomy 13**. If a prophet says: Let's worship other gods -instead of the God of the Bible, they are a false prophet and must be killed. **Deuteronomy 13:5**

Jesus said:

Make the tree good and then its fruit will be good. Or make a tree rotten and its fruit will be rotten. You poisonous snakes. How can you evil people say anything good? Your mouth says what comes from inside you. Good people do the good things that are in them. But evil people do the evil things that are in them. I can guarantee on judgment day people will have to give an account of every careless word they say. By your words you will be declared innocent or by your words you will be declared guilty. **Matthew 12:33-36**

John says people who are of the world speak lies, words of their own imagination. People who belong to God speak the truth, the truth of God as revealed by the Holy Spirit.

## **THINGS TO THINK ABOUT**

I. Why are some truths of God so hard for humans to believe? Isaiah tells us:

My thoughts are not your thoughts  
and my ways are not your ways  
Just as the heavens are higher than the earth  
so my ways are higher than your ways  
and my thoughts are higher than your thoughts. **Isaiah 55:8-9**

Is this why Jews have such difficulty believing the Trinity that explains Jesus is the Son of God?

2. How do we know that God has given us the Holy Spirit?
3. How do we know that we belong to God?
4. How do we know that God hears us when we pray?

## PERICOPE 9

### God's Love Lives in His People 1 John 4:7-21

4:7 Dear friends *agapetos*, we must love *agapao* each other because love *agape* comes from God. Everyone who loves *agapao* has been born *gennao* from God and knows *ginosko* God. <sup>8</sup>The person who doesn't love *agapao* doesn't know *ginosko* God because God *theos* is *esti* love *agape*. <sup>9</sup>God has shown *phaneroo* us his love *agape* by sending *apostello* his only *monogenes*-only begotten Son into the world so that we could have life *zao* through him.

<sup>10</sup>This is love *agape*: not that we have loved *agapao* God *theos*, but that he loved *agapao* us and sent his Son to be the payment *hilasmos*-propitiation for our sins *hamartia*.

<sup>11</sup>Dear friends *agapetos*, if this is the way God loved *agapao* us, we must also love *agapao* each other. <sup>2</sup>No one has ever seen *theaomai* God. If we love each other, God lives *meno* in us, and his love *agape* is perfected *teleioo*-completed in us.

<sup>13</sup>We know *ginosko* that we live *meno* in him and he lives in *en* us because he has given *didomi* us his Spirit *pneuma*.

<sup>14</sup>We have seen *theaomai* and testify *martyreo* to the fact that the Father sent *apostello* his Son *yhios* as the Savior *sotor* of the world. <sup>15</sup>God lives *meno* in those who declare *homologeoo*-confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they live in *en* God. <sup>16</sup>We have known *ginosko* and believed *pistos* that God loves *agape* us.

God *theos* is *esti* love *agape*. Those who live *meno* in God's love *agape* live *meno* in God and God lives in *en* them.

<sup>17</sup>God's love *agape* has reached its goal *teleioo*-completeness in us. So we look ahead with confidence *parresia*-boldness to the day of judgment *krisis*. While we are in this world, we are exactly like him with regard to love.

<sup>18</sup>No fear *phobos* exists where his love *agape* is. Rather, perfect *teleios* love *agape* gets rid of *ballo*-casts *exo*-out fear *phobos* because fear *phobos* involves punishment *kolasis*-torment. The person who lives in fear *phobeo* doesn't have perfect *ou-not teleioo*-perfect love *agape*.

<sup>19</sup>We love **agapao** because **hoti** God loved us first **protos**. <sup>20</sup>Whoever says: I love **agapao** God but hates **miseo** another believer is a liar **pseustes**. People who don't me love **agape** other believers **adelphos**, whom they have seen **horao**, can't love **agapao** God, whom they have not **ou** seen **horao**.

<sup>21</sup>Christ has given us this commandment **entole**: The person who loves **agapao** God must also love **agapao** other believers **adelphos**.

## WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED SO FAR?

This is John's love chapter comparable to Paul in **1 Corinthians 13:1-13**.

Jesus said:

I'm giving you a new commandment: Love each other in the same way that I have loved you. Everyone will know that you are my disciples because of the love you have for each other. **John 13:34-35**

John says:

Beloved, we must love each other because love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born from God and knows God. God has shown his love by sending his only Son into the world so that we could have life through him. This is love, not that we loved God, but God loved us, and sent his Son to be the payment for our sins. **1 John 4:7, 9, 10**.

John tells us why we should love and where love comes from. To know God is to love him and to do what he wants, that is, to love one another. **Deuteronomy 5:10; Leviticus 19:18**

We love because God loved us first. **1 John 4:19**

## THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

1. Read Paul's love chapter and compare what is the same and what is different:

**13:1** I may speak in the languages of humans and of angels. But if I don't have love, I am a loud gong or a clashing cymbal. <sup>2</sup>I may have the gift to speak what God has revealed. I may understand all mysteries and have all knowledge.

I may even have enough faith to move mountains. But if I don't have love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup>I may even give away all that I have and give up my body to be burned. But if I don't have love, none of these things will help me.

<sup>4</sup>Love is patient. Love is kind. Love isn't jealous. It doesn't sing its own praises. It isn't arrogant. <sup>5</sup>It isn't rude. It doesn't think about itself. It isn't irritable. It doesn't keep track of wrongs. <sup>6</sup>It isn't happy when injustice is done, but it is happy with the truth. <sup>7</sup>Love never stops being patient, never stops believing, never stops hoping, never gives up.

<sup>8</sup>Love never comes to an end. There is the gift of speaking what God has revealed, but it will no longer be used. There is the gift of speaking in other languages, but it will stop by itself.

There is the gift of knowledge, but it will no longer be used. <sup>9</sup>Our knowledge is incomplete and our ability to speak what God has revealed is incomplete. <sup>10</sup>But when what is complete comes, then what is incomplete will no longer be used.

<sup>11</sup>When I was a child, I spoke like a child, thought like a child, and reasoned like a child. When I became an adult, I no longer used childish ways. <sup>12</sup>Now we see a blurred image in a mirror. Then we will see very clearly. Now my knowledge is incomplete. Then I will have complete knowledge as God has complete knowledge of me.

<sup>13</sup>So these three things remain: faith, hope, and love. But the best one of these is love. **1 Corinthians 13:1-13**

2. If humans are born depraved, how can God love us?

3. How did God love us first?

4. Why should we love others because God loved us?
5. How does a person come to know God?
6. How can God love us and still allow us to suffer?



## PERICOPE IO

### Those Who Believe in Jesus Are God's Children

1 John 5:1-11

**5:1** Everyone who believes **pisteuo** that Jesus is the Messiah **Christos** has been born **gennao** from God. Everyone who loves **agapao** the Father also loves **agapao** his children **kai-him** that is begotten **gennao**.

<sup>2</sup>We know **ginosko** that we love **agapao** God's children when we love **agapao** God by obeying **tereo-keep** his commandments **entole**. <sup>3</sup>To love **agape** God means that we obey **tereo** his commandments **entole**. Obeying **tereo** his commandments **entole** isn't difficult **barys** <sup>4</sup>because everyone who has been born **gennao** from God has won the victory **nikao** over the world **kosmos**.

Our faith **pistos** is what wins the victory **nikao** over the world **kosmos**. <sup>5</sup>Who wins the victory **nikao** over the world? Isn't it the person who believes **pistos** that Jesus is the Son **yhios** of God **theos**?

### Jesus Died in a Human Body

<sup>6</sup>This Son **yhios** of God is Jesus Christ who came by water **hydor** and blood **haima**. He didn't come with water only but with water and with blood. The Spirit **pneuma** is the one who verifies this because the Spirit **pneuma** is the truth **aletheia**.

<sup>7</sup>There are three witnesses **martyreo** in heaven: **ouranos** <sup>8</sup>the **pater-Father**, the Word **logos** and the **hagios** Holy Spirit **pneuma** --the water, and the blood. These three witnesses agree are **eisi** one **heis**. **KJV translation**.

### God's Testimony Is Greater Than Human Testimony

<sup>9</sup>We accept **lambano-receive** human **anthropos** testimony **martyria**. God's testimony **martyria** is greater **meizon** because it is the testimony **martyria** that he has given about his Son **yhios**. <sup>10</sup>Those who believe **pisteuo** in the Son **yhios** of God have the testimony **martyria** of God in them **heautou-himself**. Those who don't believe God have made God a liar **pseustes**. They haven't believed **pistos** the testimony **martyria** that God has given about his Son **yhios**.

<sup>11</sup>This is the testimony *martyria*: God has given us eternal *aionios* life *zoe* and this life is found in his Son. *Yhios*. <sup>12</sup>The person who has the Son *yhios* has this Eternal Life *zoe*. The person who doesn't have the Son *yhios* of God doesn't have this Eternal Life *zoe*.

## WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED SO FAR?

The first verse of this chapter is the best definition of a Christian. Jesus of Nazareth is the Son of God, the Anointed One God sent to earth as our substitute to die for our sins so that we can have Eternal Life in God. Parallel verses are **John 3:16** and **John 20:31**.

Christians are overcomers of the world and Satan because the Holy Spirit gives them the power and strength to do so. **John 16:33**. The Spirit gives Jesus' disciples the ability to understand God's Word as it has been preserved. In this way, they know the truth of God and can witness to others of it. John says: Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony of God in them.

## THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

1. Thomas Constable, a professor at Dallas Seminary says: What defines a Christian is his or her faith in Jesus Christ, not lifestyle, good works, or obedience to God. Constable Notes on 1 John, page 134. Do you agree?
2. John says: We know that we love God's children when we love God by obeying his commandments. Is this the same as these parallel verses? **Leviticus 19:18; Matthew 19:19; 22:30; 22:39; Mark 12:31; Luke 10:27; Romans 13:9; Galatians 5:14; James 2:8**.
3. John says that Jesus came by water and blood. Is John simply saying Jesus came to earth as a human or is he saying something more? Does water mean baptism and blood the crucifixion?
4. Can we love another Christian and yet not like them but still be obeying the command of Jesus? How?

5. Love is shown in action not necessarily in emotion, that is, doing the best for them. Constable notes p. 106. Do you agree?
6. How do Christians overcome the world, the flesh and the Devil?
7. Define Eternal Life.

## **EXTRA CREDIT**

Peter, James, and John were Jesus' inner circle. They were on the mountain when Jesus was transfigured and heard God's voice. But Peter says he also heard God's voice at Jesus' baptism. **2 Peter 2:17-18**. Was John also there?

## PERICOPE II

### This Has Been Written So That You May Know God

1 John 5:13-21

**5:13** I've written **grapho** this to those who believe **pistis** in the Son of God so that they will know **eido** that they have eternal **aionios** life **zoe**.

<sup>14</sup>We are confident **parresia** that God listens **akouo** to us if we ask **aiteo** for anything that has his approval. <sup>15</sup>We know **eido** that he listens **akouo** to our requests **aitema**. So we know **eido** that we already have **echo** what we ask him for. **John 14:13**

### Don't Pray for People Who Have Committed a Sin That Leads to Death

<sup>16</sup>If you see another believer committing a sin **hamartia** that doesn't lead to death **thanatos**, you should pray **aiteo** that God would give **didomi** that person life **zoe**. This is true for those who commit sins that don't lead to death.

There is **esti** a sin **hamartia** that leads to **pros** death **thanatos**. I'm not telling you to pray about that.

<sup>17</sup>Every kind of wrongdoing is sin yet there are sins that don't lead to death.

<sup>18</sup>We know **ginosko** that those who have been born **gennao** from God don't go on sinning. Rather, the Son of God protects **tereo**-keeps them and the evil one **poneros** can't harm them **haptomai**-touches **autos**-him **ou**-not.

<sup>19</sup>We know **ginosko** that we are from God and that the whole world **kosmos** is under the control of the evil one **poneros**.

<sup>20</sup>We know **ginosko** that the Son of God has come **heko** and has given **didomi** us understanding **dianoia** that we know **ginosko** the real **alethinos** God. We are in **en** the one who is real **alethinos**, his Son Jesus Christ. This Jesus Christ is the real **alethinos** God and eternal **aionios** life **zoe**.

<sup>21</sup>Dear children **teknion**, guard **phylasso** yourselves from false gods **eidolon**.

## WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED SO FAR?

Eternal life is to have even closer fellowship with God than we have right now in a place where sin is not present. Our present close, personal relationship with God is what allows us to make petitions to God in prayer and to ask him to guide us in our present life.

It is difficult to know exactly what John means by *a sin that leads to death*. In the Hebrew Bible, all premediated sins led to physical death. Numbers 15:30-31. A man breaking the Sabbath rule was sentenced to death. Numbers 15:32-36. Murderers must be put to death. Numbers 35:16-21. People who do not believe in the Son of God will experience spiritual death as their names are not written in the Book of Life. Revelation 20:15

## THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

1. John says that we know that those who have been born from God don't go on sinning. Rather, the Son of God protects them and the Evil One can't harm them. 1 John 5:19. Does this mean that a person can't lose their salvation by abandoning Jesus and become an apostate?
2. Why does John end his book saying: Dear children, guard yourself from false gods. Isn't this apostasy by abandoning Jesus, a sin unto death?

## Sermons of Alistair Begg on the Letter of 1 John

Obtain these sermons by obtaining the *Truth for Life* app.

Why Study <u>1 John</u> ?	Feb 25, 1990	1:1-4
The Word of Life	Mar 4	1:1-4
Three Spurious Claims	Mar 11	1:5-2:2
Keeping His Commands	Mar 18	2:3-11
Description and Direction	Mar 25	2:12-17
A Word of Warning	Apr 1	2:18-27
The Children of God	Apr 22	2:28-33
Sinlessness: Fact of Fiction: Part 1	Apr 29	3:4-10
Sinlessness: Fact or Fiction: Part 2	May 6	3:4-10
Loving One Another	May 27	3:11-18
Salvation: Can We Know for Sure?	June 3	3:19-24
Testing the Spirits	Jun 17	4:1-6
Let Us Love One Another	Jun 24	4:7-12
Grounds of Assurance	Aug 5	4:13-16
Perfect Love	Aug 26	4:16-21
Faith Is the Victory	Sep 16	5:1-5
Call the Witnesses	Sep 23	5:6-12
Christian Certainties	Sep 30	5:13-21