



# LETTERS OF John

1 & 2 & 3 John

## The Letters of John | “Derailed”

### 1 John 2:15-29

Click [HERE](#) for New Year's Spiritual Growth Plan. → Click [HERE](#) to learn more about "21 Days of Prayer & Fasting."

9/11 & Covid → Modern threats: asteroids, rogue AI, pop. growth, nuclear, super volcanoes, climate, sharks → 1 Jn. 2:15-29

→ At some point in our lives, we realize that we are more fragile than we'd like to admit. We come face to face with our own powerlessness to stop certain outcomes. But John is not concerned with cataclysmic events as much as he is focused on what can derail our love for God and people. He identifies the internal and external threats to God's truth. Why does speak up? He believes eternity is at stake.

→ **What threatens our love for God?** → [Bible Project](#) → To download, [Click here!](#)

→ **Text Background:** John writes to rebut deceptive teaching advocating for compromise. His churches were influenced by [Gnostics](#) who believed “sin” was ignorance of spirit's superiority over matter, thus anything done in the body didn't matter; [Cerinthians](#), a specific form of Gnosticism; and the [Docetists](#) who believed Jesus was only a divine mirage. John challenges our faith through the right view of Jesus (**doctrine**) & keeping His commands/love (**praxis**).

**1 John 2:15-16:** *15 Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you. 16 For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions [the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life - ESV]. These are not from the Father, but are from this world.*

**Our love for this world threatens our love for God.** → What are the warning signs that we love the world too much?

- Craving physical pleasure, what we see, & pride in our achievement / possessions... → My failure → Denzel Quote
- Practice spiritual disciplines of LETTING GO. (for good or temporarily). → Abstain: Fasting/Chastity/Simplicity → Frugality/Generosity → Secrecy, Silence, Solitude, Submission, Voluntary Exile, The Watch → Let go!
- VISION: Fasting will starve the world out of us! → Prayer: Lord, we are hungry for you....make us hungry for you.

→ TRANSITION: Watch out for the threat of what pulls you away INTERNALLY...Do you own it or does it own you?

**1 John 2:17-19:** *17 And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever. 18 Dear children, the last hour is here. You have heard that the Antichrist is coming, and already many such antichrists have appeared. From this we know that the last hour has come.*

*19 These people left our churches, but they never really belonged with us; otherwise they would have stayed with us. When they left, it proved that they did not belong with us.*

**False teachers of the last hour threaten our love for God.** → Last hour? → Foolproof shark detection method.

- The last hour? We live between the 1st coming & 2nd coming. = “Antichrists” ([Cerinthus](#))
- Spiritual teachers that don't point to a Biblical, historical, & real Jesus are...ANTI-CHRIST!
- Stay in fellowship with a Bible believing church community. → Don't swim alone! → Every horror movie...
- VISION: We preach Biblical Truth! Series on the End Times. [Click here!](#) → Prayer: Lord, help me find a church!

→ TRANSITION: Watch out for the threat of being blind to our time...Do we recognize the signs of the times?

**1 John 2:20-29:** 20 But you are not like that, for **the Holy One has given you his Spirit**, and all of you know the truth [But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and you all have knowledge. - ESV]. 21 So I am writing to you not because you don't know the truth but because you know the difference between truth and lies. 22 And who is a liar? Anyone who says that Jesus is not the Christ. Anyone who denies the Father and the Son is an antichrist. 23 Anyone who denies the Son doesn't have the Father, either. But anyone who acknowledges the Son has the Father also.

24 So you must remain faithful to what you have been taught from the beginning. If you do, you will remain in fellowship with the Son and with the Father. 25 And in this fellowship we enjoy the eternal life he promised us.

26 I am writing these things to warn you about those who want to lead you astray. 27 But **you have received the Holy Spirit**, and he lives within you, so you don't need anyone to teach you what is true. For the Spirit teaches you everything you need to know, and what he teaches is true—it is not a lie. So just as he has taught you, remain in fellowship with Christ [But the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie—just as it has taught you, abide in him. - ESV].

28 And now, dear children, remain in fellowship with Christ so that when he returns, you will be full of courage and not shrink back from him in shame. 29 Since we know that Christ is righteous, we also know that all who do what is right are God's children.

**Definitions of TRUTH threaten our love for God.**→GK Chesterton Quote→Lets back up...

• **The Holy One anoints us (oil) & sets apart for a special purpose... (click for more sermons):**

- Convicts the world of sin.→[John 16:7-8](#)
- United to the Body of Christ.→[1 Corinthians 12:13](#)
- Causes us to be born again spiritually with a new nature→[John 3:3-7](#) & [Titus 3:5](#)
- Dwells within the believer.→[1 Corinthians 6:19-20](#)
- Seals or guarantees the believer.→[2 Corinthians 1:22](#) & [Ephesians 1:13](#) & [4:30](#)
- Strengthens & directs us to fight against sin.→[Galatians 5:16-25](#) & [Ephesians 5:18](#)
- Grows good fruit in our lives.→[Galatians 5:22-25](#)
- Empowers us to be witness.→[Acts 1:8](#)
- Gives spiritual gifts to believers to build up the body of Christ.→[Romans 12](#), [1 Corinthians 12](#), & [Ephesians 4](#)
- Glorifies God by telling us what is to come.→[John 16:13-14](#)
- Restraints evil in the world until after the rapture.→[2 Thessalonians 2:7](#)

• **The Spirit (anointing) is the KEY to defining & discerning the Truth (doctrine of Jesus), 21-28.**→**The Bible!**

- He helps us **discern truth from lies** about Jesus: Jesus is NOT the Christ, denying the Father/Son (21-23).
- He helps us **remain faithful to what we've been taught** from the beginning (24).
- He lives within us and **we will KNOW when someone is teaching something OFF** (25).
- Gul Madred, Jean Luc Picard: How many lights do you see?→Isaiah 5:20→John 14:6
- What is at stake?→FOREVER (17).→We won't shrink back from God in shame (28).→We will live RIGHT lives (29).
- Trust the truth the Holy Spirit reveals to you about Jesus.→LYRICS: In Christ Alone
- VISION: We are a Bible-believing, Holy Spirit led church...on mission with Jesus.→Prayer: Lord, anoint us to discern.

→**The Holy Spirit empowers churches to courageously follow Jesus, no matter the threat!**

**TALK ABOUT IT - Questions to GROW through with family, friends, & myself.**

1. When did I first encounter a circumstance that made me feel vulnerable to a threat?
2. What do I struggle with the most? The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, or the pride of life?
3. Why is staying in fellowship important? What are the threats to my ability to stay in fellowship with Christ & His body?
4. How does the Holy Spirit help us live a life according to God's Truth? What is the key in this passage?
5. **PRAYER:** "Father, help us to live courageously and overcome all threats to our love for you!"

**QUOTES:**

- "You'll never see a U-Haul behind a hearse. ... Now, I've been blessed to make hundreds of millions of dollars in my life. I can't take it with me, and neither can you. It's not how much you have but what you do with what you have." - [Denzel Washington](#)
- "Art, like morality, consists in drawing the line somewhere." - [G. K. Chesterton](#).
- *THE RHETORIC OF ANTICHRIST: REFLECTIONS FROM STAR TREK* (Longish; bear with me whether you are a Sci Fi fan or not.) Facebook Social Media Post by Dave Thomas, Professor of New Testament, Ph.D. in Revelation

*"In 1992, the Star Trek Next Generation episode "Chain of Command Part II" aired. In it, Captain Jen Luc Picard is captured by an evil enemy, the Cardassians, and is tortured as part of their designs to defeat of Federation. There's a lot to the episode, but I want to focus on one aspect alone..."*

*Picard's particular nemesis is a bad guy named Gul Madred. Though this evil opponent uses sleep and water/food deprivation and physical pain to try and break Picard, his most lethal weapon is psychological. He shows Picard FOUR bright lights, and then asks how many his victim sees. If Picard will merely "admit" there are only THREE lights, then all pain will stop, sleep and water will be restored, and Picard will have his freedom, dignity, and comfort back again. In other words, he can have his life and "normalcy" if he'll just agree with his captor's version of reality. Picard doesn't bend, and things eventually lead to his liberation. He admits later, though, that his view of reality had begun to buckle and he was saved just in time.*

*Now, look where we are as a society. Prevailing cultural forces are telling us that something as essential as the distinction between male and female--a distinction which is the very fountainhead of all human existence--isn't so. One male and one female needn't be assumed anymore--cannot be assumed anymore--and in fact, male isn't even male, nor female female, if a given person decides otherwise. Anyone who objects to these assertions is a bigoted "hater" who must be "canceled." I know you see four lights, but I'm saying there's three and YOU must say there are three, or you lose your job, you lose your voice, you lose your vote...you lose your life.*

*This is Antichrist. The spirit of Antichrist has precipitated a digression in society--first deny Jesus is the Christ and the validity of the New Testament, then of the basics of the Ten Commandments, and now all the way back to that which every culture across religious boundaries has always taken for granted: In the beginning, God created them male and female. The Antichrist isn't going to argue the Incarnation with you, friends; he isn't going to ask you for proofs of the Resurrection.*

*He's going to show you four lights and tell you to repeat that there's only three...or else."*

**SONG LYRICS: "In Christ Alone", written by Stuart Townend & Keith Getty in 2002, [For song history click here.](#)**

*In Christ alone my hope is found  
He is my light, my strength, my song  
This cornerstone, this solid ground  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm  
What heights of love, what depths of peace  
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease  
My comforter, my all in all  
Here in the love of Christ I stand*

*In Christ alone who took on flesh  
Fullness of God in helpless babe  
This gift of love and righteousness  
Scorned by the ones He came to save  
Till on that cross as Jesus died  
The wrath of God was satisfied  
For every sin on Him was laid  
Here in the death of Christ I live*

*There in the ground His body lay  
Light of the world by darkness slain  
Then bursting forth in glorious day  
Up from the grave He rose again  
And as He stands in victory  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me  
For I am His and He is mine  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ*

*No guilt in life, no fear in death  
This is the power of Christ in me  
From life's first cry to final breath  
Jesus commands my destiny  
No power of hell, no scheme of man  
Can ever pluck me from His hand  
Till He returns or calls me home  
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand*

**MESSAGES SERIES LINKS:**

- More messages on the **End Times** - [Click here!](#)
- More messages on the **Holy Spirit** - [Click here!](#)

#### GRAPHICS / VIDEOS:

- Bible Project **123 John Graphic**: [Click here!](#)
- Bible Project **Video**: [Click Here for Youtube Separate Browser Window.](#)



- **End Times Message Series**: [Click here!](#)

#### SCRIPTURES: New Living Translation unless otherwise noted.

- **1 John 2:1-2** - 2 My dear children, I am writing this to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate who pleads our case before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the one who is truly righteous. 2 He himself is the sacrifice that atones for our sins—and not only our sins but the sins of all the world.
- **1 John 2:15-17** - Don't love the world's ways. Don't love the world's goods. Love of the world squeezes out love for the Father. Practically everything that goes on in the world—wanting your own way, wanting everything for yourself, wanting to appear important—has nothing to do with the Father. It just isolates you from him. The world and all its wanting, wanting, wanting is on the way out—but whoever does what God wants is set for eternity. - **THE MESSAGE**
- **Isaiah 5:20** - What sorrow for those who say that evil is good and good is evil, that dark is light and light is dark, that bitter is sweet and sweet is bitter.
- **John 14:6** - Jesus told him, "I am the way, **the truth**, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.

**MESA CHURCH:** Mesa Church exists to love people into a closer relationship with Jesus!

- [Click to Take a NEXT STEP with Jesus.](#)
- [Click to EXPLORE Mesa's mission & vision.](#)
- [Click to CONNECT with Mesa's digital platforms.](#)