



Ancient Wisdom for Our Time

General Background:

1. Questions about what we should believe.

1 John 1:1 *That which was from the beginning, 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.*

1 John 4:2 *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.*

2. Questions about how we should live.

1 John 2:6 *Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.*

Five reasons John wrote this letter:

1. So that we might have fellowship

1 John 1:3 *We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.*

2. So that our/your joy might be full

1 John 1:4 *We write this to make our joy complete.*

3. So that we might not sin

1 John 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 the sins of the whole world.*

4. So that we will be unashamed at His coming

1 John 2:28 *And now, dear children, continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming.*

5. So that we may know we have eternal life

1 John 5:13 *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.*