

The Fellowship

1 John

As we've said a number of times before: *The Bible is written for us, **but not to us.***

So when we study scripture, we need to find out WHO, WHY, WHEN the book was written. Then HOW do we apply it to our lives?

So 1st, 2nd 3rd are different epistles... written by the apostle John.

Written about the same time as he wrote the gospel of John.

The most important reason for 1 John is to deal with FALSE teachers.

1 Jn a general epistle, so it is written to everyone.

It's a companion to the gospel of John. (Opening vss are similar to the Gospel)

It lays the foundation for Christian conduct. If God is Life, Light and Love...we are to walk in LIFE, light and love.

It was written was to address false teaching in the church.

Addressing an *exterior poison*, the false teachers,
interior anarchy, sedition among the believers

THE FALSE TEACHING

Docitists: They taught that christ was divine, but only seemed to be human.

Cerinthians: They taught that the "Christ spirit" descended on "Joe the carpenter" *and then left before the crucifixion.*

Secessionists: Not just backsliding, but teaching others and helping others leave...

Imperial cultists: These were individuals that decided to go back into Judaism or Romanism.

So you could be a Roman, you could be a Jew. *But just don't worship Jesus.*

Gnostics: They taught that the material world (our bodies, everything) Was evil.

So this resulted in two types of behavior:

either y *punished yr body into total obedience* through fasting, prayer ascetism;
or you said, since the body can't be controlled, *just let it do whatever it wants,*

Now if you look at all these put together, has anything really changed? It is all the same lies....

"Well, Jesus was just a good man, but he wasn't God" (or)

"Jesus was just a prophet. He spoke truth, but he was not God." (or)

"If you meditate long enough, you'll reach the Nirvana of the Christ-spirit
and you'll unite with the cosmic consciousness." (Buddhism, New Age...)

"It doesn't really matter what we do with our bodies. Love is love! Love the one you're with! "

"My body, my choice!"

John makes it very clear from the beginning that Jesus is not JUST a prophet. He's not JUST a God, he's not JUST a good man.

He was from the beginning God of god, light of light, very God of very god,

FIRST: THIS LIFE IS FROM THE BEGINNING

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

:could not seize it; lay hold; grasp its depths; understand its majesty...

The Word became flesh, dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, *the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.*

And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace.

So John reiterates his writings from the Gospel: This Jesus is... God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God.

And if we are in this light, have this life and say we are in His love...

Then we have to walk the way he walked; talk the way he talked; LIVE the way he lived!

SECOND: THIS ETERNAL LIFE WAS MANIFESTED

The great thing about our belief system is that it ***begins with life***

We start with an empty CROSS; follow it to an empty TOMB and Trace it to a seated God-man on an eternal Throne

When you look at all of the enemies that were arrayed against the early church...*It's amazing that we are here right now!*

Starting from the very beginning:

The leader of this group was crucified as a criminal

His disciples ran away into the darkness, afraid of everyone.

He was buried in a borrowed tomb

But something that should've ended 2000 years ago, been CRUSHED by every Rome *is NOW reaching half of the world*

In 1764 Voltaire wrote (philosopher and printer):

- “The Bible. That is what fools have written, what imbeciles commend, what rogues teach...
we are living in the twilight of Christianity!”

In a 1767 letter to Frederick the Great, King of Prussia, he wrote:

- “Christianity is the most ridiculous, most absurd, and bloody religion that has ever infected the world...”
- He ended every letter to friends with “Ecrasez l’infame” (crush the infamy...Xianity).

BUT...

In August 1836, 58 years after Voltaire’s death, Rev. William Acworth of the British and Foreign Bible Society worked with Colonel Henri Tronchin to make Voltaires house a ***“repository for Bibles and Religious tracts.”***

IF the devil couldn't kill 12 men....and he couldn't kill a 120...and he couldn't kill 3000: *IT's TOO LATE FOR him to Kill 4 BILLION*
It's almost as if the gates of hell are not prevailing against us

THIRD: THIS ETERNAL LIFE BRINGS FELLOWSHIP AND JOY

"Sheesh. Ok John. John 1; 1 John 1; Revelation...we get it! Jesus is Lord!"

Our fellowship together rests ONLY on the Lordship of Jesus. Our JOY rests ONLY on the Lordship of Jesus.

Other two meanings... Cheerfulness Calm delight

It is obvious that the fabric of society is unraveling...so...

Throw all caution to the wind and ***relax with calm delight!***

He was from the beginning; He is NOW and He ever shall be our Father and Lord of all Creation!