

2020  
SESSION

WHAT THE  
BIBLE  
Is ABOUT

The epistles of John

1 John PART 1

**“We know  
nothing  
of religion here:  
we think only of  
Christ.”**

C.S. Lewis (1946). *The Great Divorce*.

# EPISTLES OF JOHN

Love

# LETTERS

The epistles of John

1, 2, 3

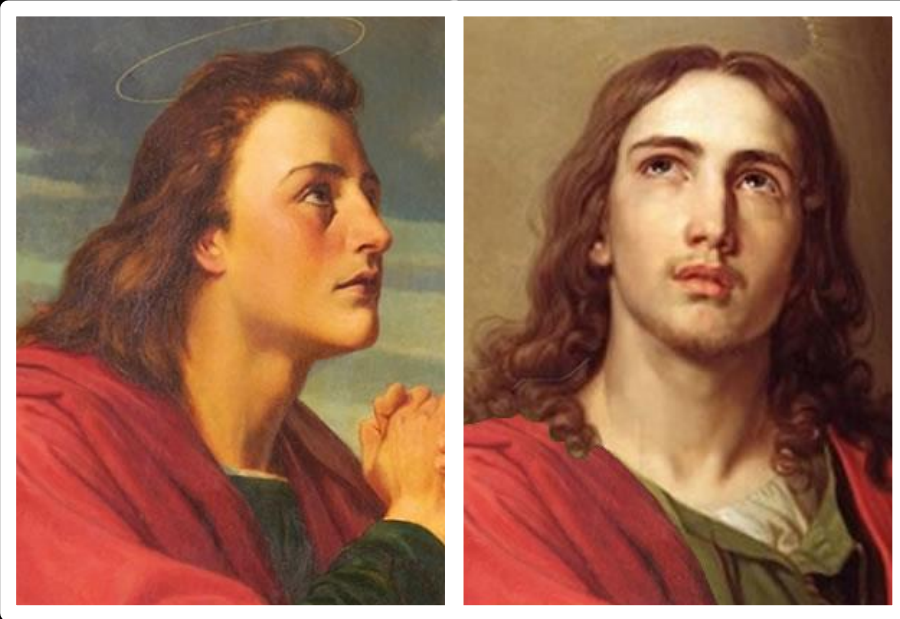
LIGHT  
LIFE  
LOVE

UNLAWFUL WRITTEN /SPOKEN TESTIMONY, FAILURE TO WORSHIP EMPEROR, JAIL BREAK

# WANTED BY ROME

## JOHN, SON OF ZEBEDEE

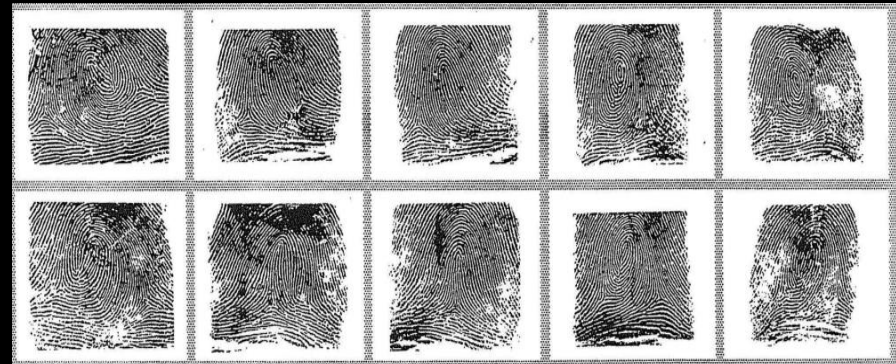
**ALIASES:** John the Apostle, Ἰωάννης (*Iōannēs*), John the Evangelist, John of Patmos, Son of Thunder, the Beloved Disciple



Right Facing

Front

(current photograph not available)



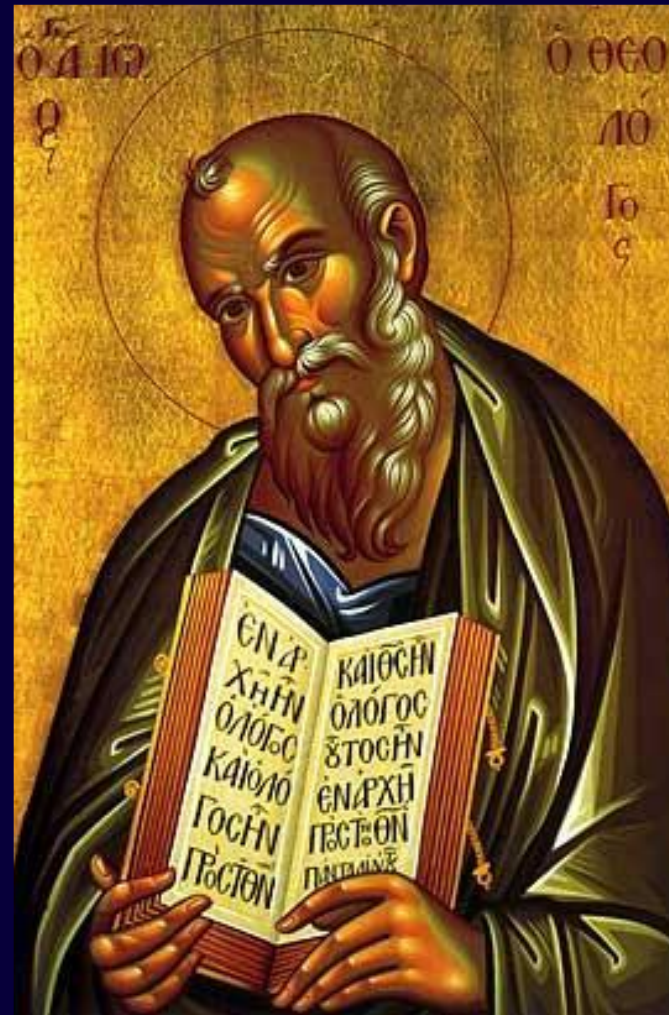
### DESCRIPTION

**AGE:** 94 est., born c.006 AD Bethsaida, Israel (no birth records)  
reported death c.100 AD, Ephesus, Turkey (grave stone)  
**HEIGHT:** 5'8" **WEIGHT:** 140-160 lbs **EYES:** brown **HAIR:** brown  
**BUILD:** medium **COMPLEXION:** swarthy **NATIONALITY:** heaven  
**OCCUPATION:** fisherman, author, apostle, aged carer, theologian  
**FATHER:** Zebedee **MOTHER:** Salome **BROTHER:** James  
**KNOWN ASSOCIATES:** Jesus Christ; Mary; Mary; the "Twelve";  
Peter, Paul and Mary; Polycarp; Ignatius of Antioch



# Who was John?

- First cousin of Jesus
- In Jesus' inner circle
- The “disciple whom Jesus loved”
- The restless fisherman
- The “son of thunder” in his youth
- The courageous follower
- The apostle of love
- The theologian and evangelist
- Protector of Jesus' mother Mary
- Wrote five N.T. books
- Only original disciple to die naturally.



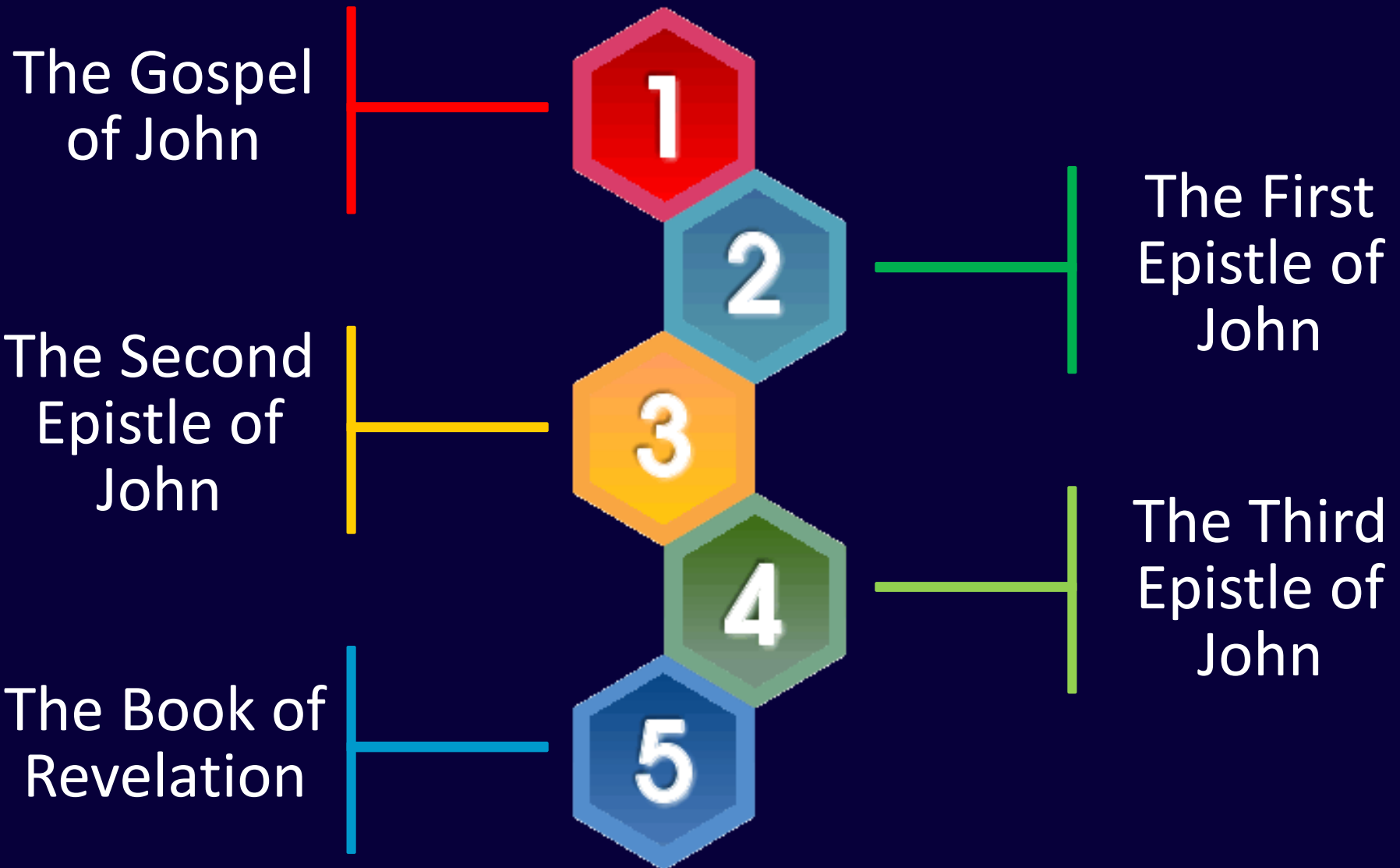
## **The purpose of John's ministry**

**And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.**

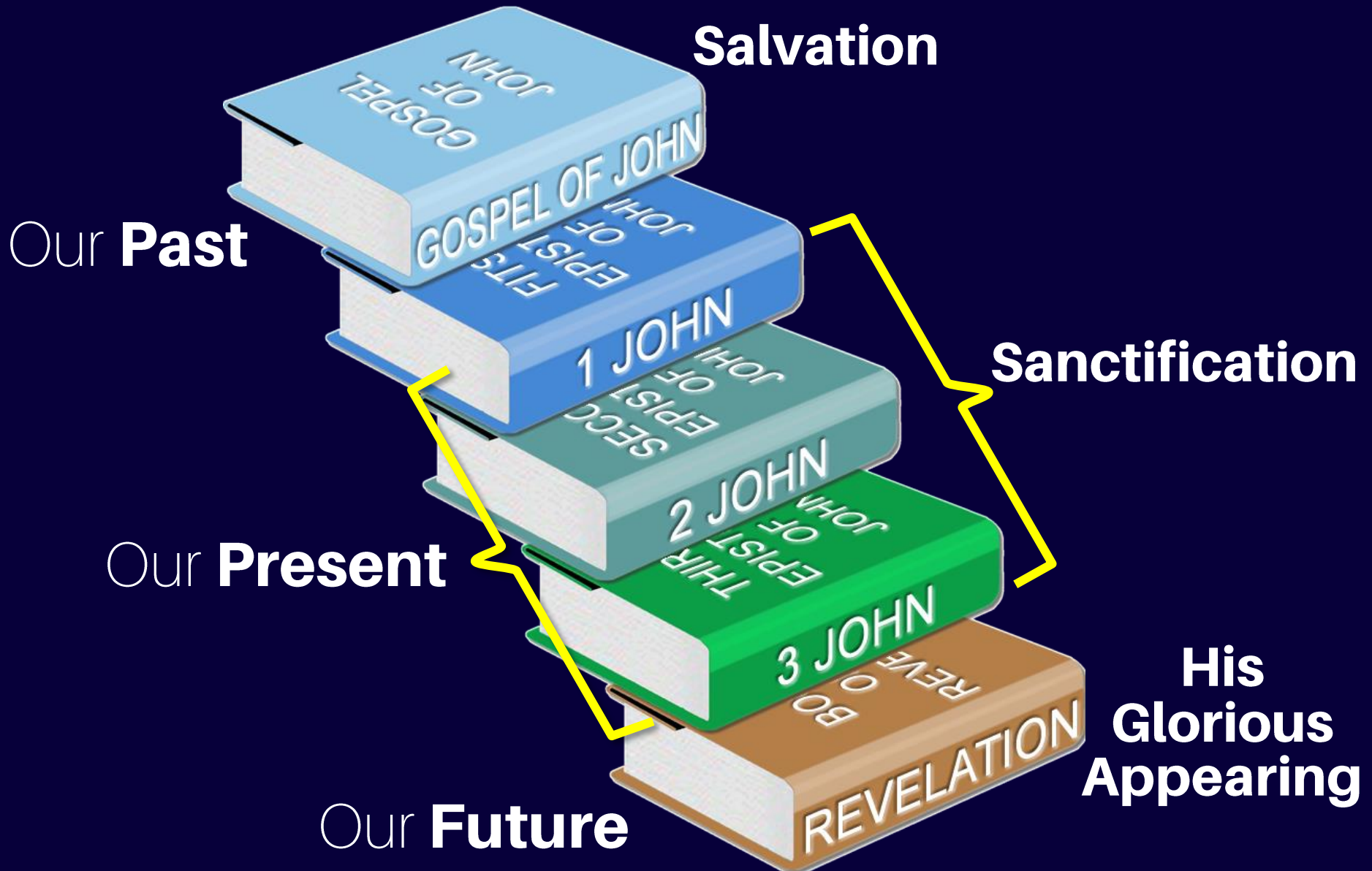
John 20:30-31



# What did John write?



# What did John have to say?



# The three epistles of John

01 The tests of reality in the Christian life.

02 The battle for truth and against apostasy is fought in the home.

03 The battle for truth and against apostasy is fought in the local congregation.

1

2

3

# The Epistles of John

# 1 John

# The 1<sup>st</sup> Epistle of John

## **Introduction** (1 John 1:1-4)

1 John 5:13

## **Tests of True Fellowship: God is Light** (1 John 1:5-2:29)

- Obedience – 1:5-2:6 (“saying” vs “doing”)
- Love — 2:7-17
- Truth — 2:18-29

## **Tests of True Sonship: God is Love** (1 John 3:1-5:21)

- Obedience – Chapter 3
- Love — Chapter 4
- Truth — Chapter 5



# 1 John

**Fight the battle for  
truth and against  
apostasy in the  
Christian life.**

# Heptadic Structure

- Seven Reasons why this epistle written (1 Jn 1:3, 4, 2:1, 13-17, 21-24, 26, 5:13).
- Seven contrasts related to truth versus error.
- Seven Tests of Christian genuineness (1 Jn 1:6, 8, 10; 2:4, 6, 9, 4:20).
- Seven Traits of the Born Again (1 Jn 2:29; 3:9; 4:7; 5:1 (2X), 4, 18).
- Seven Tests of Honesty and Reality (1 Jn 1:6, 8, 10; 2:4, 6, 9; 4:20).
- Six Liars: 1:6; 1:10; 2:4; 2:22; 4:20; 5:10

# John was a black and white person

- Life
- Light
- Truth
- Love
- Righteousness
- Children of God
- Love of The Father

- Death
- Darkness
- Lies
- Hate
- Lawlessness
- Children of Satan
- Love of The World

HE WROTE ABOUT OPPOSITES    THERE'S NO MIDDLE GROUND

# Seven Contrasts

● The Light	vs	● The Darkness
● The Father	vs	● The World
● Christ	vs	● The Antichrist
● Good Works	vs	● Evil Works
● Holy Spirit	vs	● Error
● Love	vs	● Pious Penance
● The God-born	vs	● Others

Truth Error

# Seven Tests

- 1 Test of **Profession** 1 John 1:5-2:11
- 2 Test of **Desire** 1 John 2:12-2:17
- 3 Test of **Doctrine** 1 John 2:18-2:28
- 4 Test of **Conduct** 1 John 2:29-3:24
- 5 Test of **Discernment** 1 John 4:1-4:6
- 6 Test of **Motive** 1 John 4:7-4:21
- 7 Test of **New Birth** 1 John 5:1-5:21



# Six Liars

1. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. (1 John 1:6)
2. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us. (1 John 1:10)
3. He who says, “I know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. (1 John 2:4)
4. Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son. (1 John 2:22)
5. If someone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? (1 John 4:20)
6. He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; he who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son. (1 John 5:10)

# Three Simple Tests

- ❖ To **expose** those who are false.
- ❖ To **assure** those who are genuine.

## LIGHT

(Doctrinal test/**believing**/5X)

## LIFE

(Moral test/**being**/11X)

## LOVE

(Social test/**doing**/26X)

# Spoiler Alert!

## John was a Jewish fisherman!

- His thinking is circular, not linear like Paul.
- Plus, he's an old dude.
- Talks around a topic: on one hand, on the other hand
- Think Jewish wisdom literature (or Fiddle on the Roof)
- He builds his arguments like a sandwich:



LIFE (1.1-4)

LIGHT (1.5 -2.11)

LUST

LIES (2.15-3.10)

LAWLESSNESS

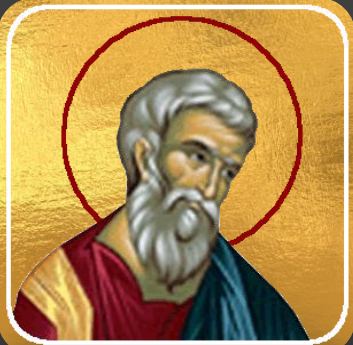
LOVE (3.11-4.21)

LIFE (5.1-21)



# The Broad Perspective

**Matthew**



The Promised  
One is here.

**See His  
Credentials.**

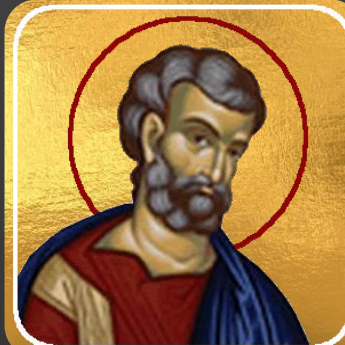
**Mark**



This is how  
He worked.

**See His  
Power.**

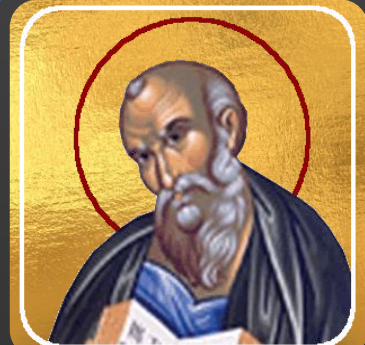
**Luke**



This what  
He was like.

**See His  
Nature.**

**John**



This who He  
really was.

**See His  
Godship.**

- ❖ Paul's epistles, and all the other epistles, are Church epistles; but this is a family epistle. It may prove more important to the individual believer than all the Church epistles!
- ❖ It takes the child of God into the fellowship of the Father's home.
- ❖ 1 John has been called the *sanctum sanctorum* of the New Testament.
- ❖ Life is real. It is a battleground, not a playground.
- ❖ If a person is wrong about Jesus Christ, he is wrong about God;
- ❖ If wrong about God, he is wrong about everything else.



# 1 John (NKJV)

## What Was Heard, Seen, Touched and Studied

RE-  
LIV-  
ING-  
TY

- 1** That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life—
- 2** the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us—
- 3** that which we have seen and heard **we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us;** and truly our fellowship *is* with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.
- 4** **And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.**

John was writing to share the Jesus Christ he knew.

- He wrote to tell people how to be sure they have really been born of God.

- He had five purposes for sharing:

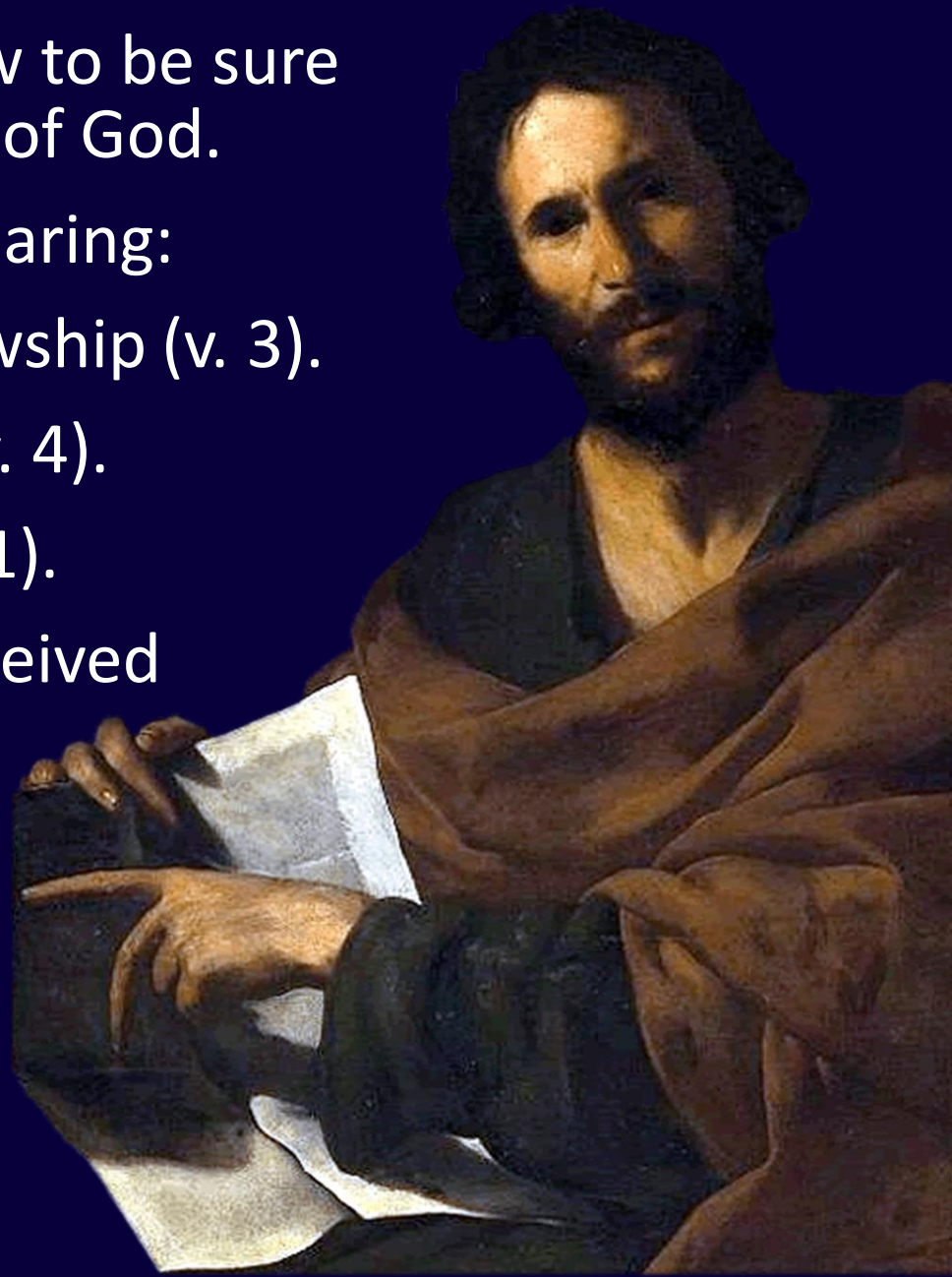
1. That we may have fellowship (v. 3).

2. That we may have joy (v. 4).

3. That we may not sin (2:1).

4. That we may not be deceived (2:26).

5. That we may know we are saved (5:13).



## Fellowship with Him and One Another

<sup>5</sup> This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

**GOD IS  
LIGHT**

**AND IN HIM IS NO  
DARKNESS AT ALL.**

# Three Professions of Faith

- ❖ “If we say we have fellowship...” v.6
- ❖ “If we say we have no sin...” v.8
- ❖ “If we say have not sinned...” v.10





<sup>6</sup> If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

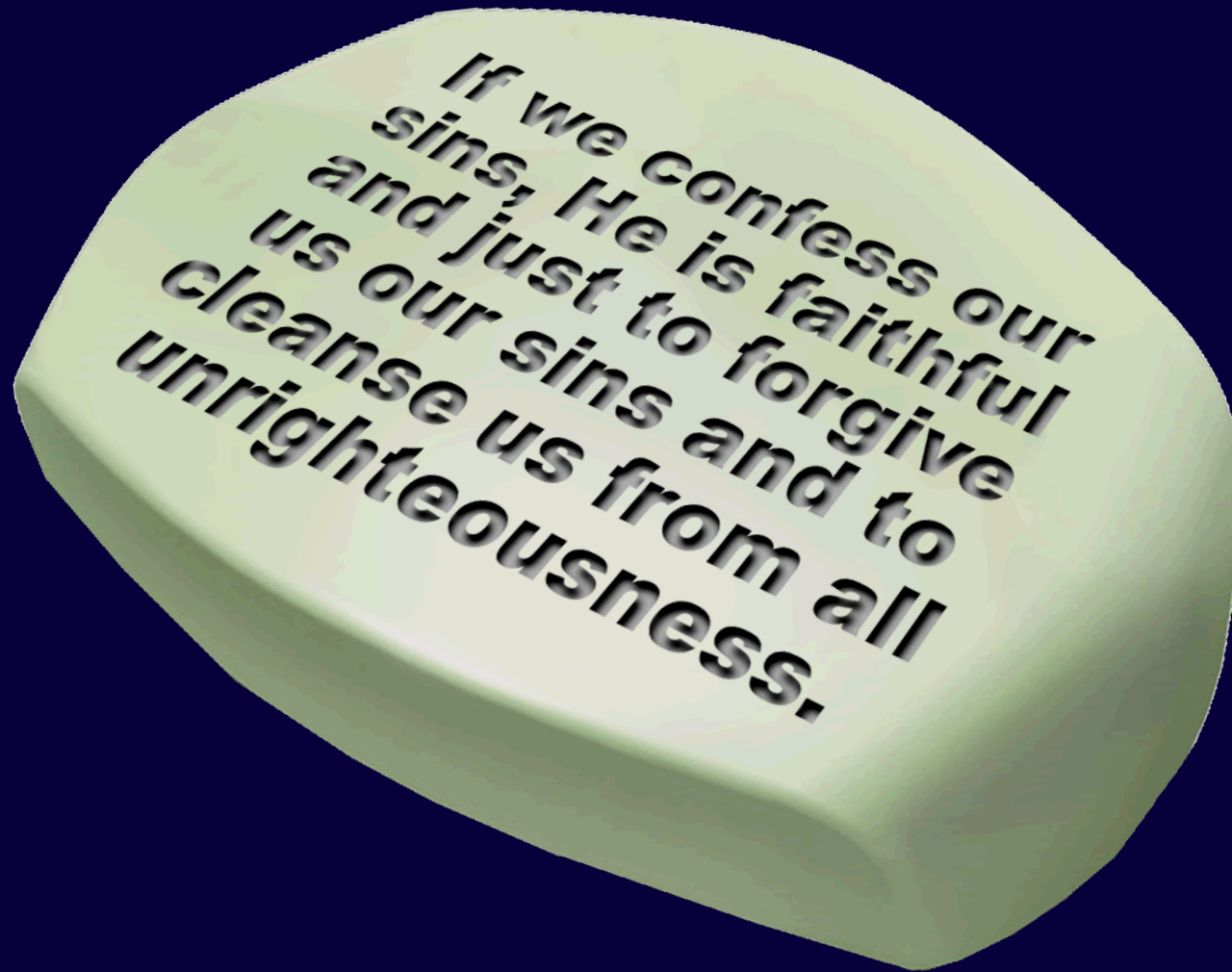
<sup>7</sup> **BUT IF WE WALK  
IN THE LIGHT  
AS HE IS IN THE LIGHT,  
WE HAVE FELLOWSHIP  
WITH ONE ANOTHER,  
AND THE BLOOD OF  
JESUS CHRIST HIS SON  
CLEANSES US  
FROM ALL SIN.**



<sup>8</sup> If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.



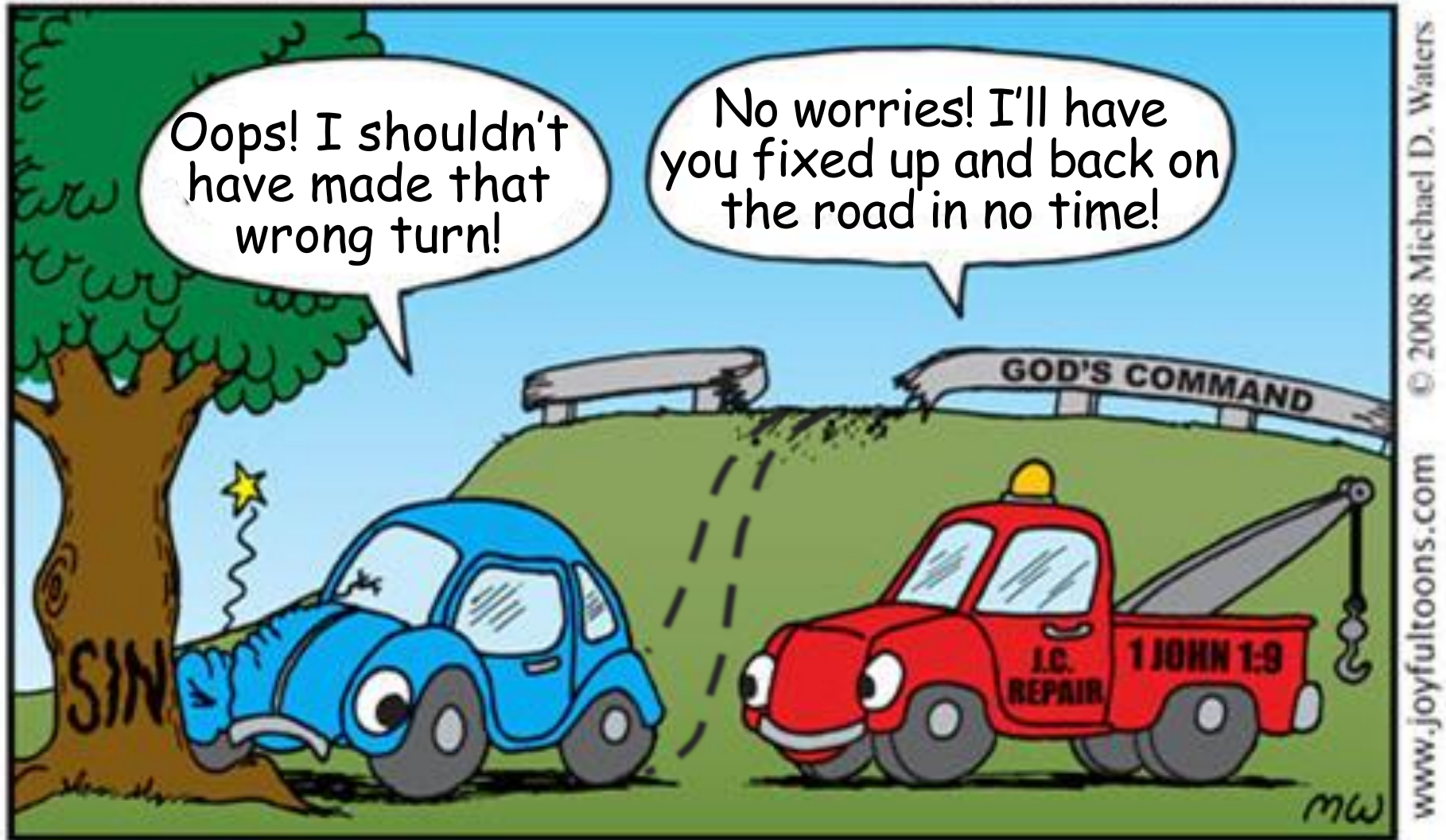
- <sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.



**1 John 1:9 – The Christian’s “bar of soap”**

# WRONG TURN

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



www.joyfultoons.com © 2008 Michael D. Waters

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

- 1 John 1:9 NKJV



# Does this mean that ALL sins can be forgiven?

## 'THE UNPARDONABLE SIN'

BY RAY SARLIN

THEN WAS BROUGHT UNTO HIM ONE POSSESSED WITH A DEVIL, BLIND, AND DUMB:

AND HE HEALED HIM, INASMUCH THAT THE BLIND AND DUMB BOTH SPAKE AND SAW.

AND ALL THE PEOPLE WERE AMAZED, AND SAID,

JESUS DID MIRACLES BY THE POWER OF GOD, YET PHARISEES ATTRIBUTED IT TO BEEZLEBUB.

IS NOT THIS THE SON OF DAVID?

THIS FELLOW DOES NOT CAST OUT DEMONS EXCEPT BY BEELZEBUB, THE RULER OF THE DEMONS.

PRAISE THE LORD!

THEREFORE I SAY TO YOU, EVERY SIN AND BLASPHEMY WILL BE FORGIVEN MEN, BUT THE BLASPHEMY AGAINST THE SPIRIT WILL NOT BE FORGIVEN MEN.

ANYONE WHO SPEAKS A WORD AGAINST THE SON OF MAN, IT WILL BE FORGIVEN HIM;

BUT WHOEVER SPEAKS AGAINST THE HOLY SPIRIT, IT WILL NOT BE FORGIVEN HIM, EITHER IN THIS AGE OR IN THE AGE TO COME.

AND THE DISCIPLES CAME AND SAID TO HIM,

WHY DO YOU SPEAK TO THEM IN PARABLES?

THEREFORE I SPEAK TO THEM IN PARABLES, BECAUSE SEEING THEY DO NOT SEE, AND HEARING THEY DO NOT HEAR, NOR DO THEY UNDERSTAND.

MATTHEW 12:22-24  
MATTHEW 12:31-32  
MATTHEW 13:10, 13

PARABLES SERVE THE DUAL PURPOSE OF REVEALING AND CONCEALING; PRESENTING "THE MYSTERIES OF THE KINGDOM" TO THOSE WHO KNOW AND RELISH THEM. BUT TO THOSE WHO ARE INSENSIBLE TO SPIRITUAL THINGS OR SEE THEM AS MERE ALLEGORY, PARABLES ARE BUT TEMPORARY ENTERTAINMENT, IF THAT.

**Matthew 12:31-32**

# Why all the misunderstandings today?

- ❖ Classical Greek is very complex.
  - | for example, there are both nouns and verbs that take forms in Classical Greek that English has no equivalents for.
- ❖ Thus, some Greek words require at least a phrase to convey the meaning.
- ❖ Alas, most translations take the easy way out and simply assign the “closest” English word.

# What's the main difference?

Greek doesn't always work the way English does. For example:

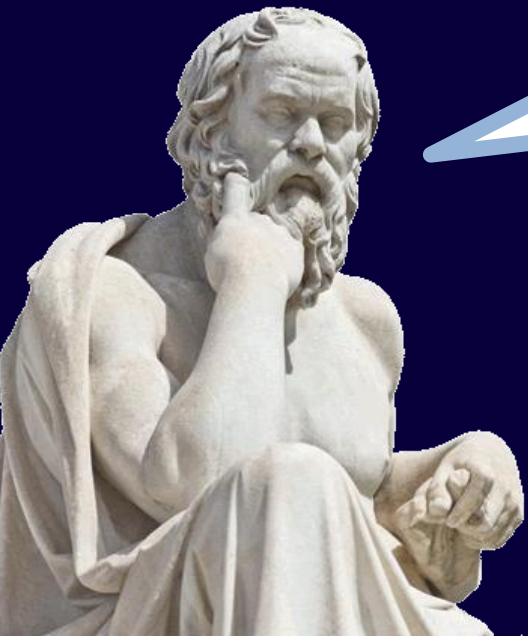
- 🔴 English: **verb tense** mainly is past, present or future.
- 🔴 Greek verbs have seven tenses, not just three. They can also refer to time of action and also the type of action.
  - 🟡 **Present tense** - continuous (or progressive) action.
  - 🟡 **Aorist tense** - simple occurrence (like past tense)
  - 🟡 **Imperfect tense** – action that happened continually or repeatedly in the past.
  - 🟡 **Perfect tense** – action completed but results are ongoing.
  - 🟡 **Future tense** – anticipated or certain future happening.
  - 🟡 Plus 2 more rarely used in the New Testament.



- Of course, Greek grammar really isn't so simple.
- Every Greek verb has four aspects besides tense, including person (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>); number (singular, plural); voice; and mood. Each verb changes form to define these aspects.
- **But fortunately we're not here to learn Greek!**

ΟΙ ΦΑΡΙΣΑΙΟΙ ΕΛΕ  
ΓΟΝΑΥΤΩ ΙΔΕΤΙ Π  
ΟΥΣΙΝ ΤΟΙΣ ΑΒΒΑ  
ΣΙΝ ΟΟΥΚ ΕΣΤΙ  
ΚΑΙ ΛΕΓΕΙ ΑΥΤΟΙΣ  
ΔΕΠΟΤΕ ΑΝ ΕΓΝΩ

- Of course, Greek grammar really isn't so simple.
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- **But fortunately we're not here to learn Greek!**
- So let's just focus on why the grammatical differences can adversely affect our Bible understanding.



IT'S ALL GREEK  
TO ME, MATE!

## Two of the main culprits

### 🔴 **Present Tense** (continuous ongoing action)

The continuous present can be expressed as "I am \_\_\_\_ing"  
or "I am continuing to \_\_\_\_."

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock..." (Rev. 3:20)

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### 🔴 **Perfect Tense** (a.k.a. present progressive tense)

The perfect tense expresses perfective action. Perfective action involves a present state which has resulted from a past action. The present state is a **continuing state or a finished product**; the past action is a completed action.

Pilate answered, "That which I have written, I have written." (Jn 19:22)



# LET'S EXAMINE SOME FAMILIAR BIBLE VERSES.



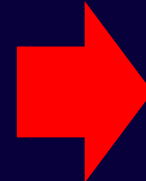
## John 3:16

For God so loved the world that He gave  
His only begotten Son, that whoever  
**believes** in Him should not perish but  
have everlasting life.



**ΠΙΣΤΕΥΩ**

Present  
Active  
Participle  
Nominative  
Singular  
Masculine



**Continuous  
ongoing  
action**

## John 3:16

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever **believes** in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever [***continues to***] **believe** in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

## Matthew 12:32 - Unpardonable sin

Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whosoever **speaks** against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come.

## John 3:16

If we **confess** our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness..

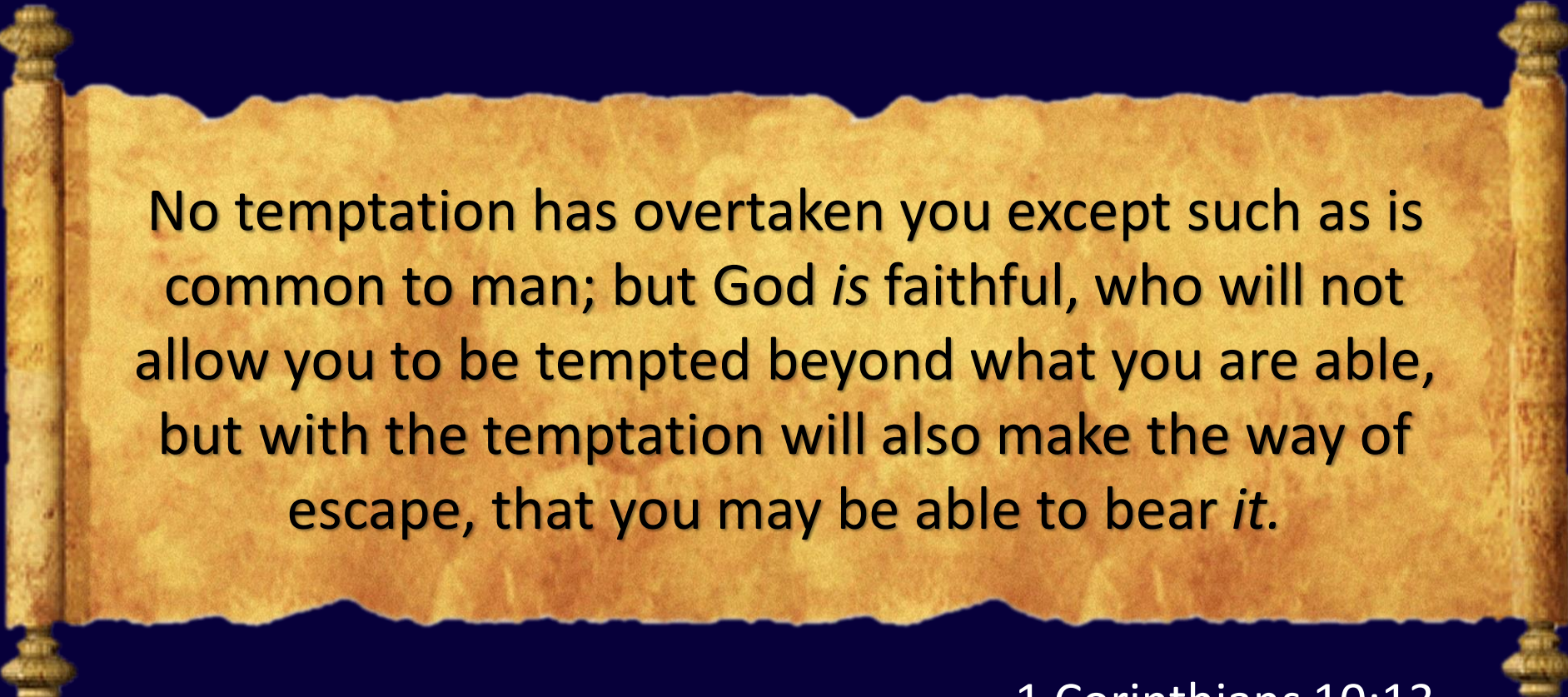
## 1 John 1:9

Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for his seed **remains** in him; and he cannot **sin**, because he has been born of God.

## Matthew 7:8

For everyone who **asks** receives,  
and he who **seeks** finds, and to  
him who **knocks** it will be opened.

<sup>10</sup> If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.



No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God *is* faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear *it*.

1 Corinthians 10:13



# 1 John Chapter 2

- 2 My little children (Τέκνιον, “my little bairns”; all born again ones), **these things I write to you, so that you may not sin.** And if anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.
- 2 And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

IT MAY BE THAT DEITY  
CAN FORGIVE SINNERS,  
BUT I DO NOT SEE HOW.

(Socrates, to Plato)



## Comparison

# GRACE

Getting  
what we do  
**not deserve**

**G**OD'S  
**R**ICHES  
**A**T  
**C**HRIST'S  
**E**XPENSE

# MERCY

Not getting  
what we do  
**deserve**

**M**y sins forgiven through Jesus Christ,  
**E**rased by His blood sacrificed.  
**R**estored by God's compassionate grace,  
**C**ondemnation lifted from my face;  
**Y**ou, loving Jesus, have paid my price.

## The Test of Knowing Him

- <sup>3</sup> Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.
- <sup>4</sup> He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.
- <sup>5</sup> But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him.
- <sup>6</sup> He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.

**KNOWING  
JESUS**

will result in a  
change of life.

**KNOWING  
ABOUT JESUS**

*may* result in a  
change of mind.

Do you know Him?

7 Brethren, I write no new commandment to you, but an old commandment which you have had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which you heard from the beginning.

And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these. (Mark 12:29-31)

8 Again, a new commandment I write to you, which thing is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away, and the true light is already shining.

A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another. (John 13:34,35)

## How is this commandment “new”?

Greeks had two different words for “new”:

- 1) νέος *neos*, “new in time” (the latest model);
  - 2) καίνος, *kainos*, “new in quality”; radically different; (English “recent” and “fresh” are rough equivalents).
- 

The commandment to “love one another” is not new in time, but it is new in character. In Christ it now takes on a new meaning in 1 John 2:7-11:

- new emphasis (1 John 2:7)
  - new example (1 John 2:8)
    - new experience (1 John 2:9-11)



<sup>9</sup> He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is in darkness until now.

<sup>10</sup> He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him.

<sup>11</sup> But he who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.



## Their Spiritual State

<sup>12</sup> I write to you, **little children** (Τεκνία, “my little born again ones”),  
because your sins are forgiven you for His name’s sake.

<sup>13</sup> I write to you, **fathers**,  
because you have known Him *who is* from the beginning.

I write to you, **young men**,  
because you have overcome the wicked one.

I write to you, **little children** (παίδιον, “infants in the LORD”),  
because you have known the Father.

<sup>14</sup> I have written to you, **fathers**,  
because you have known Him *who is* from the beginning.

I have written to you, **young men**,  
because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you,  
and you have overcome the wicked one.

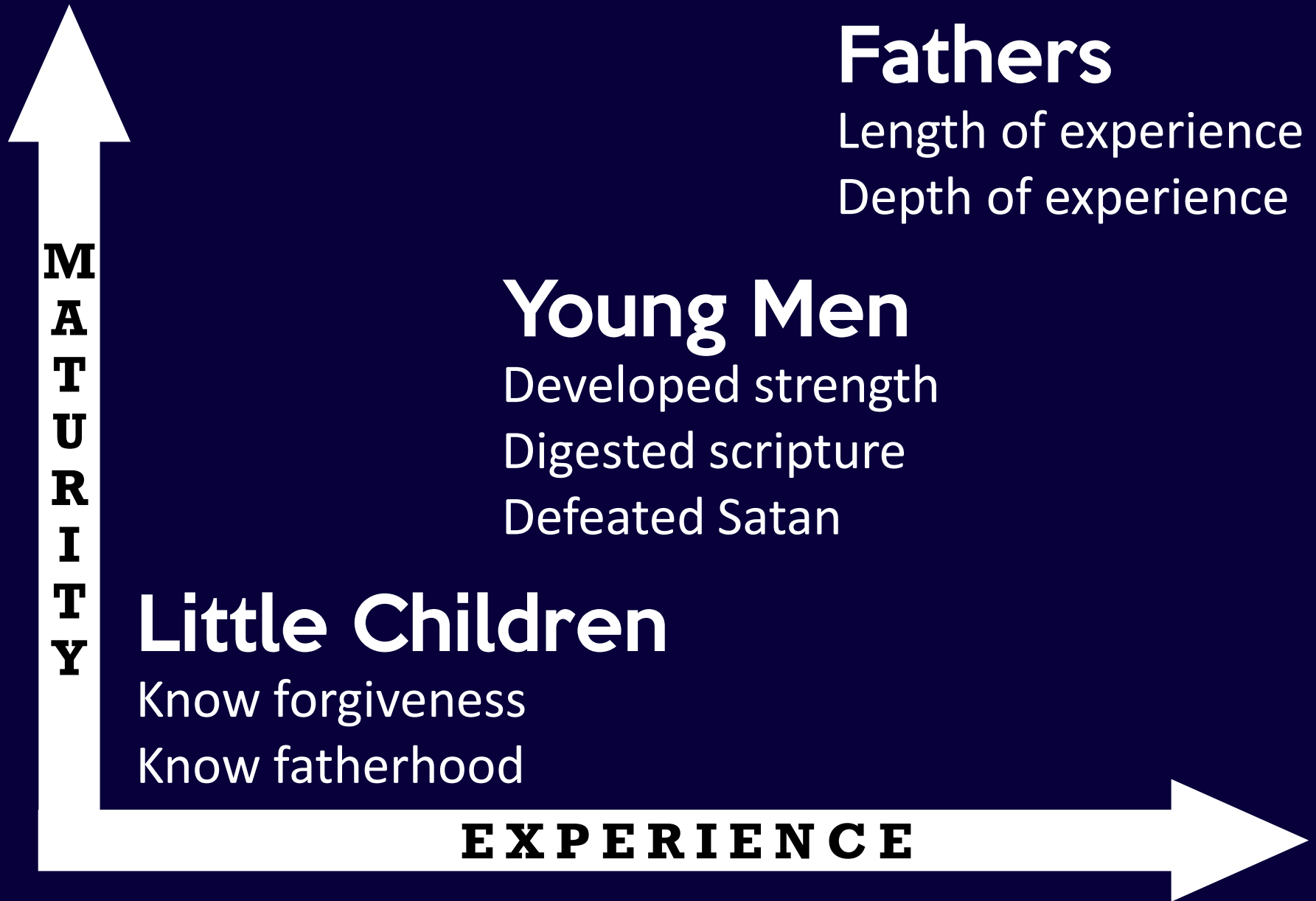
## Four types of address

1. Little children (τεκνίον, “my little born again ones”; “bairn ones”). **All Christians** who have been born into God’s family through faith in Christ.
2. Fathers (πατήρ *pater*). Mature believers with an intimate personal knowledge of God—they know the dangers of the world.
3. Young men (νεανίσκος *neaniskos*) Adolescents; here, conquerors: they have overcome the evil one through the Word of God. Not yet fully mature; but on their way.
4. Little children (παίδιον, “infants in the LORD”) carries the idea of immature ones, still under authority of teachers and tutors.

All are born again, but some have grown out of infancy into adulthood.



# Three spiritual ages



# Why the male emphasis in NT

Cultural

Social

Practical

- The strength and character of a church can be seen in its men
- Where men are strong in faith, church will be strong
- Where men are strong, the family will be strong

# Do Not Love the World

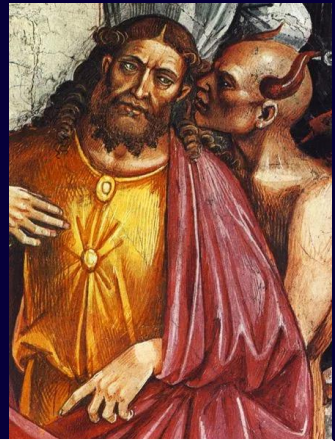
- <sup>15</sup> Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.
- <sup>16</sup> For all that *is* in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.
- <sup>17</sup> And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

## Why Christians should not love “the world”:

1. because of what the world is (a spiritual system opposed to God; see 1 John 5:19);
2. because of what a Christian is (1 John 2:12-14);
3. because of what the world does to us (1 John 2:15-16);
4. because of where the world is going (1 John 2:17).

# Deceptions of the Last Hour

<sup>18</sup> Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour.



## Who or what is the “antichrist”?

1. a spirit that is in the world that opposes or denies Christ;
2. the false teachers who embody this spirit;
3. a specific leader—a satanic superman—who will head up the final world rebellion against Christ.

The prefix “anti” can mean (a) against and/or (b) instead of.

Characteristics of a false teacher:

1. Departs from the Fellowship (vv. 18, 19);
2. Denies the Faith (vv. 20-25; & 4:1-6);
3. Tries to Deceive the Faithful (vv. 26-29).

<sup>19</sup> They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but *they went out* that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us.

<sup>20</sup> But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things.

<sup>21</sup> I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and that no lie is of the truth.

## CAUTION

<sup>22</sup> **Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son.**

<sup>23</sup> **Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who acknowledges the Son has the Father also.**

# Let Truth Abide in You

<sup>24</sup> Therefore let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father.

<sup>25</sup> And this is the promise that He has promised us—eternal life.



AND THIS  
IS WHAT  
HE PROMISED US

**ETERNAL LIFE**

<sup>26</sup> These things I have written to you concerning those who *try to* deceive [*seduce*] you.

<sup>27</sup> But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.

## **The Children of God**

<sup>28</sup> And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.

<sup>29</sup> If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him.