

2020
1
SESSION

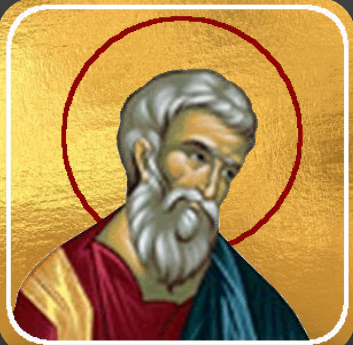
WHAT THE
BIBLE
Is ABOUT

The epistles of John

1 John PART 2

The Broad Perspective

Matthew



The Promised
One is here.

**See His
Credentials.**

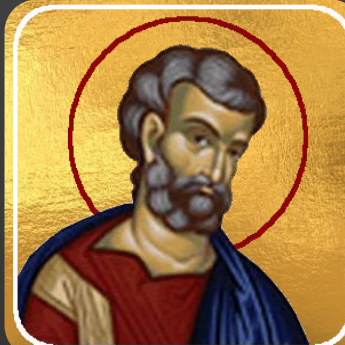
Mark



This is how
He worked.

**See His
Power.**

Luke



This what
He was like.

**See His
Nature.**

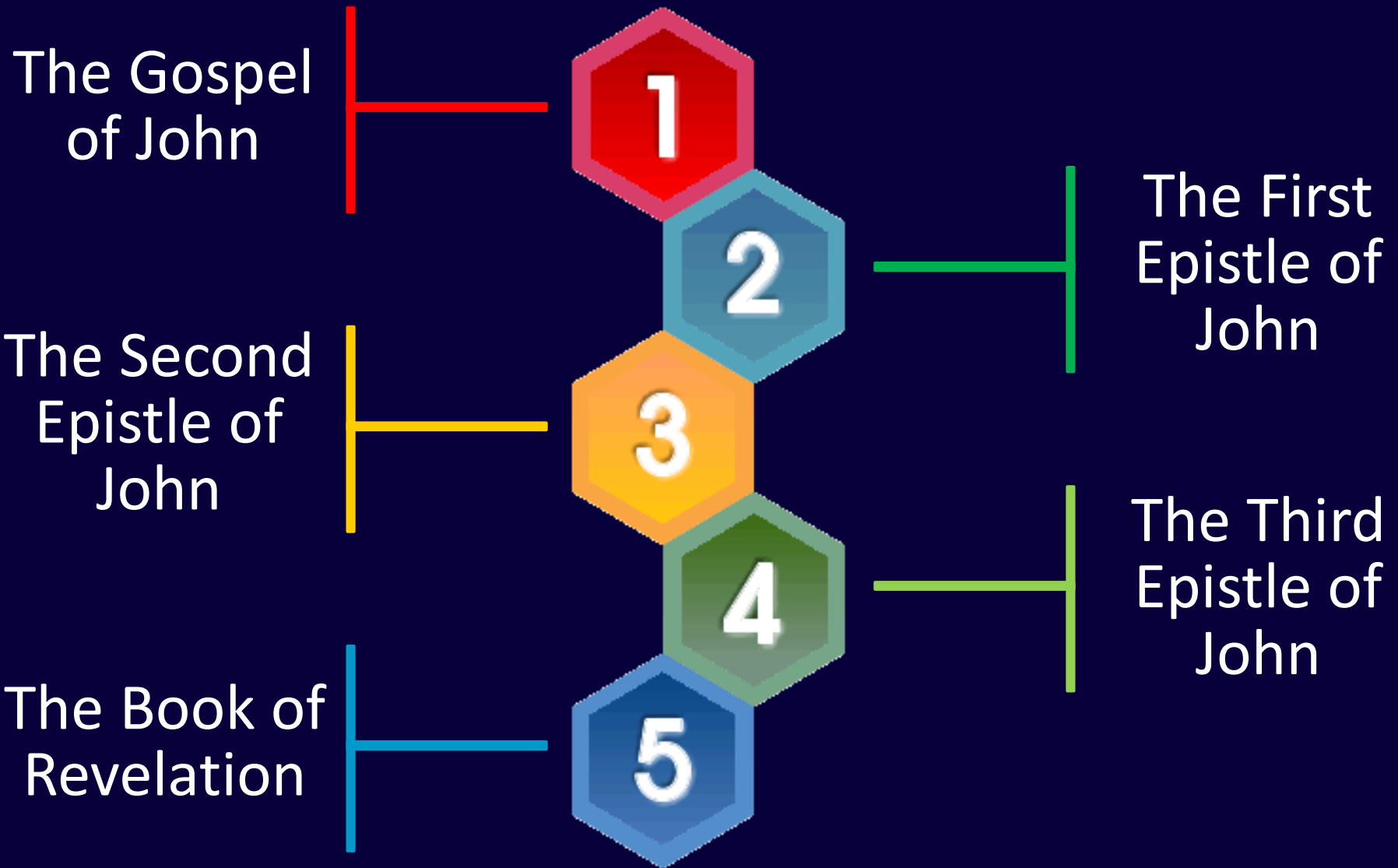
John



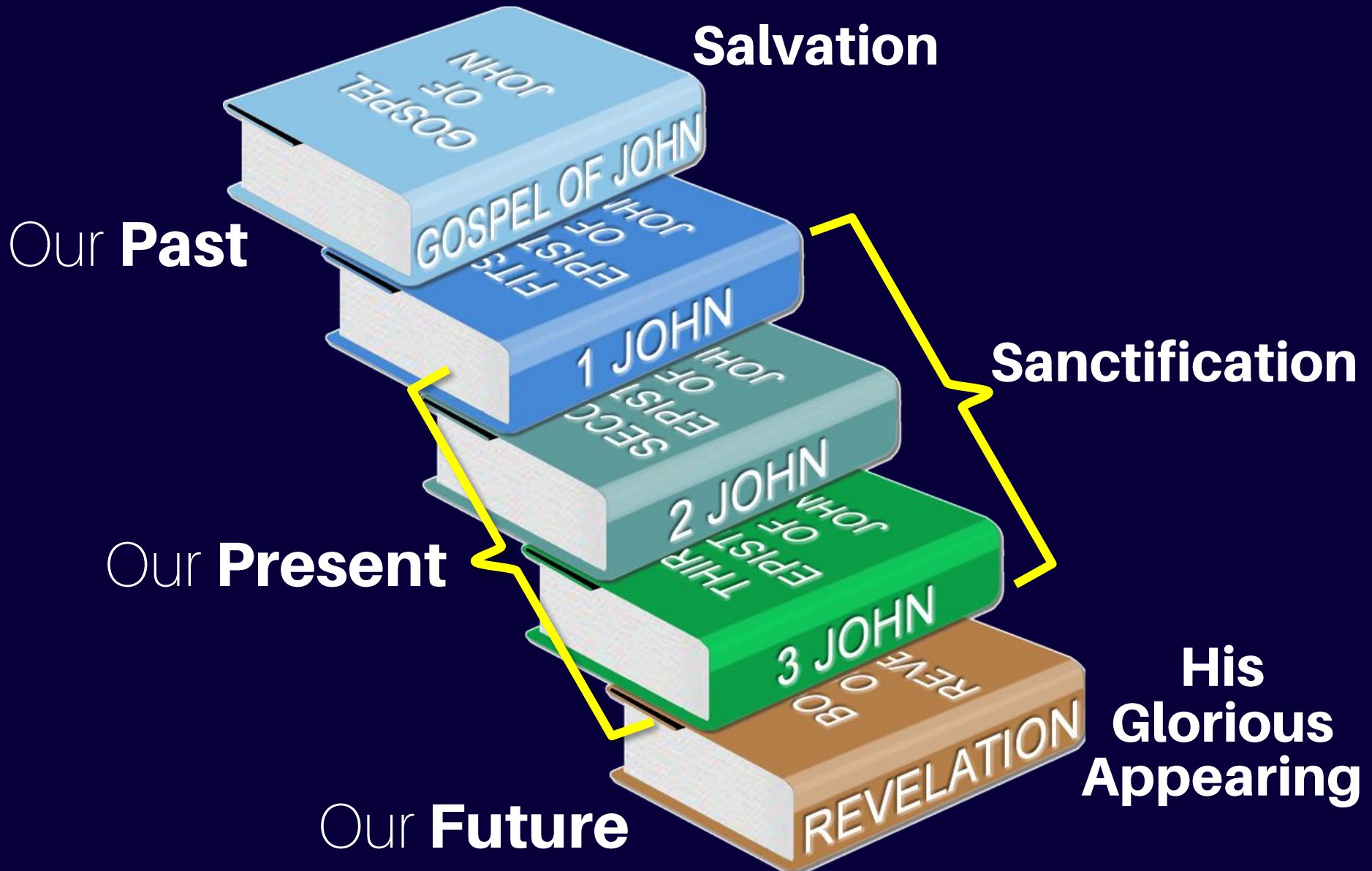
This who He
really was.

**See His
Godship.**

What did John write?



What did John have to say?





Love

LETTERS

The epistles of John

1,2,3

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

Love

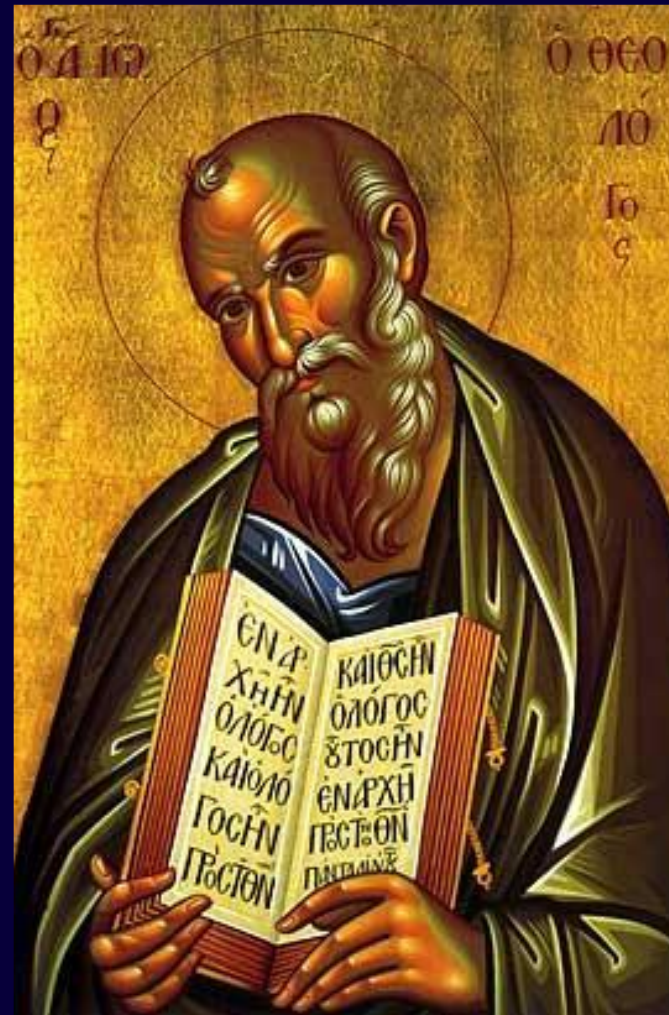
LETTERS

The epistles of John

1, 2, 3

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.



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)



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

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.

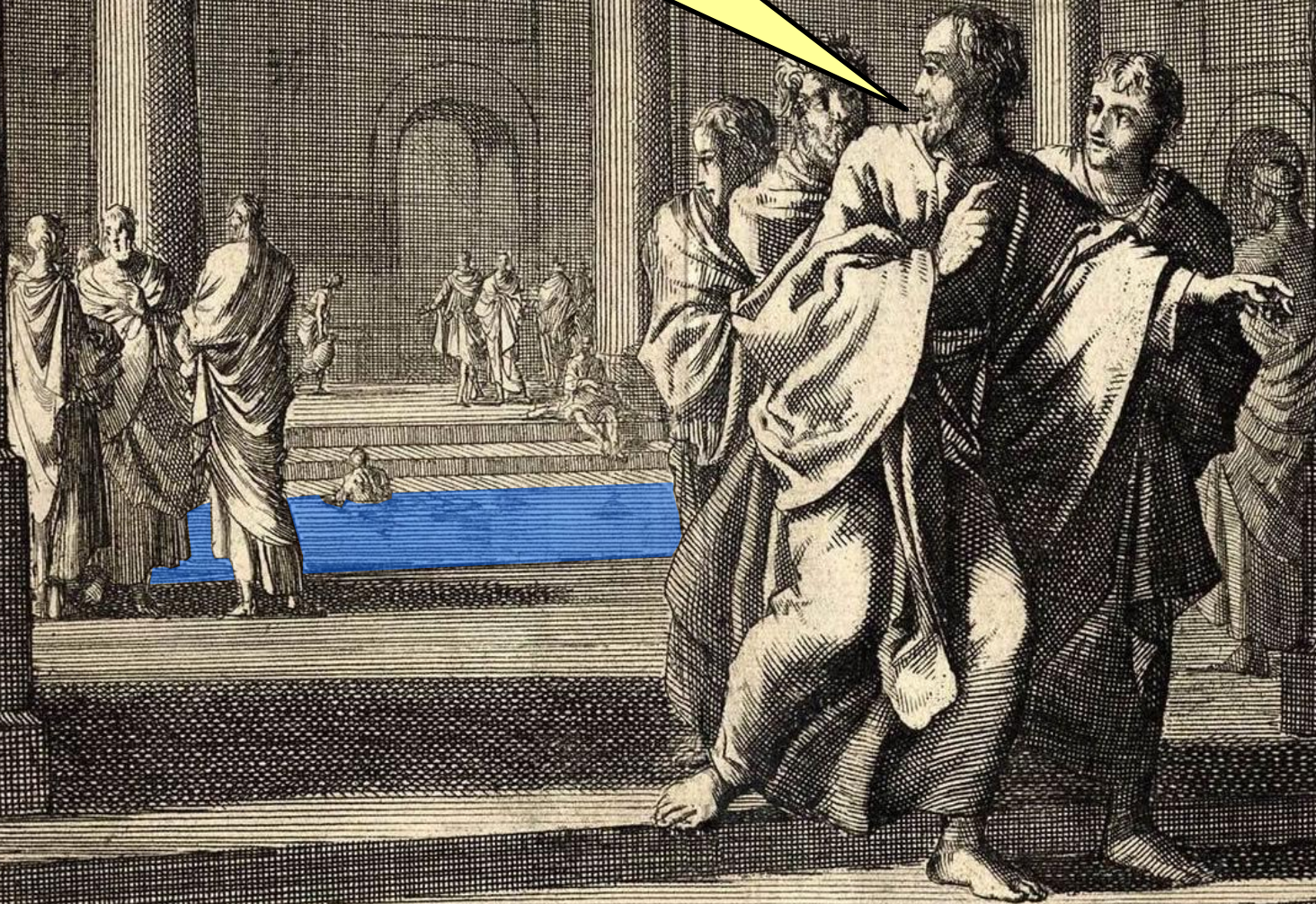
John 20:30-31

Issues addressed by 1 John

- ❖ 1 John was written to combat the false teachings of Gnosticism. Gnostics taught varying heresies, such as:
 - ❖ Some denied the role of God as Creator.
 - ❖ Others denied the divinity of Jesus.
 - ❖ Some saw Jesus as a spirit without a physical body.
 - ❖ Others taught that Jesus was a mere man whom Christ the pure spirit inhabited at His baptism.
 - ❖ Ebionites believe that God adopted the man Jesus.
 - ❖ Some believed that only Jews could become Christians.
 - ❖ Others saw angels as creators and world rulers.
- ❖ Like false beliefs today, this smorgasbord of supposed doctrines confuse many and drive people from faith.

A story about John from Polycarp (AD 69-155)

Let us fly, lest even the bath-house fall down, because Cerinthus, the enemy of the truth, is within.



Jerome's story of John in extreme old age



“Carried into the congregation in his disciples’ arms and asked to speak, John always said, ‘Little children, love one another.’

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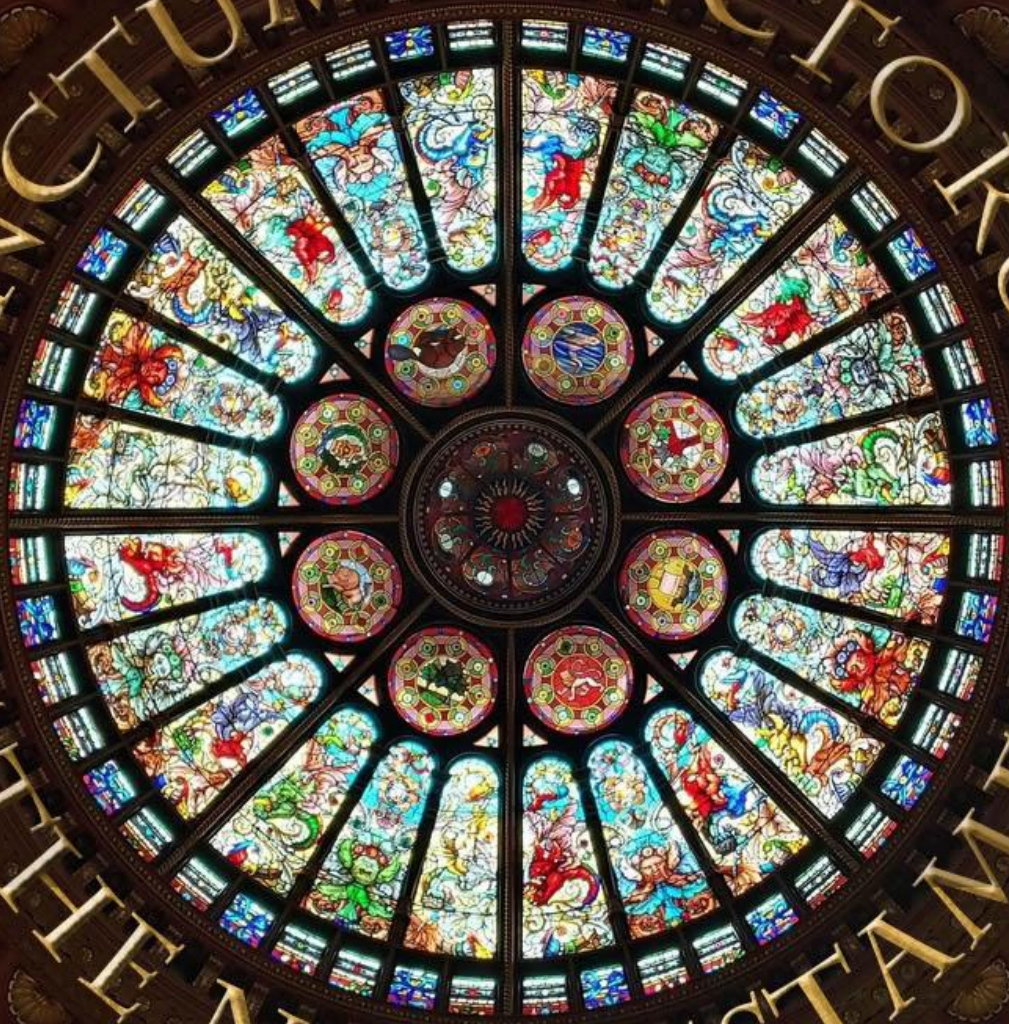


“Carried into the congregation in his disciples’ arms and asked to speak, John always said, ‘Little children, love one another.’

“At last, wearied that he always spoke the same words, they asked: ‘Master, why do you always say this?’

“‘Because,’ he replied, ‘it is the Lord's command, and if this only is done, it is enough.’”

IO SANCTUM SANCTO
THE NEW TESTAMENT WUR
NEW TESTAMENT



1 JOHN

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



If a person is wrong about Jesus Christ,
he or she is wrong about God.
But a person wrong about God
is also wrong about everything else.

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:

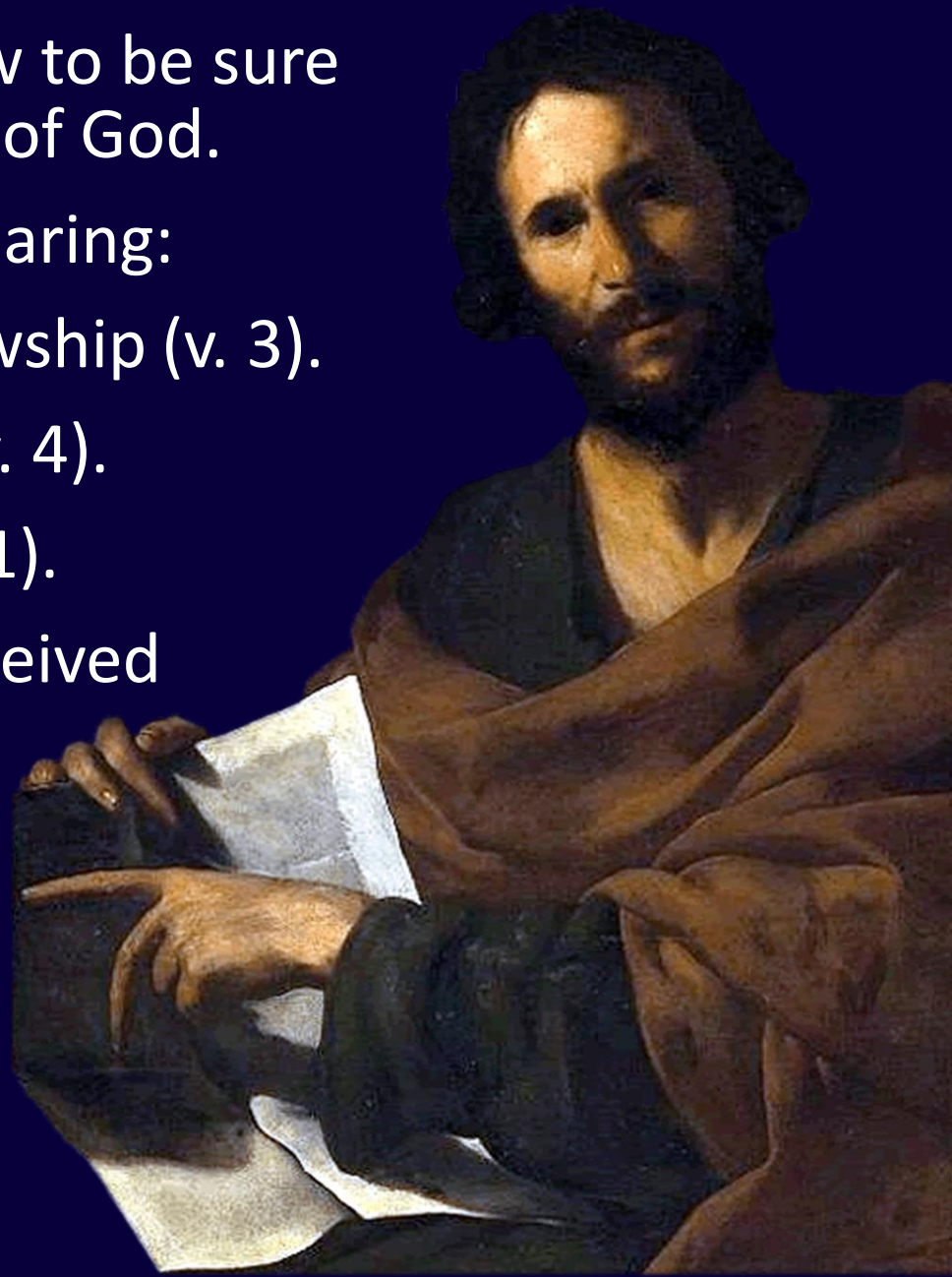
1. That we may have fellowship (v. 3).

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).



The 1st Epistle of John

Introduction (1 John 1:1-4)

What was heard, seen, and touched concerning Jesus Christ the Word of life we write to you that your joy may be full.

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



LETTERS

1 John

CHAPTERS 1 & 2

**GOD IS
LIGHT**

CHAPTERS 1 & 2

**GOD IS
LOVE**

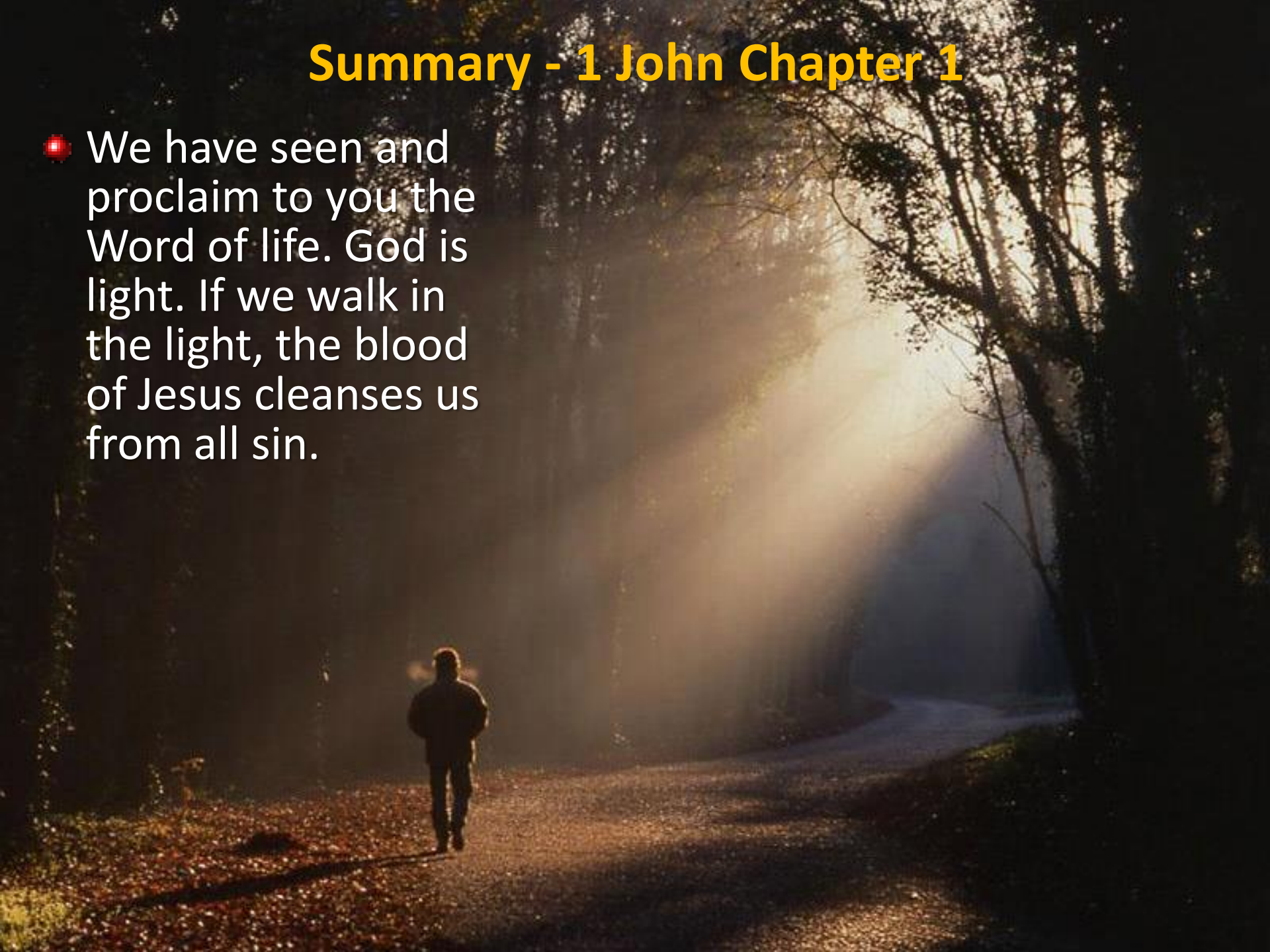
The background is a deep blue gradient, filled with numerous small, bright white stars of varying sizes. Several prominent, thicker white light rays or beams of light originate from the top and fan out across the frame, creating a sense of divine illumination and depth.

**GOD IS
LIGHT**

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

Summary - 1 John Chapter 1

- We have seen and proclaim to you the Word of life. God is light. If we walk in the light, the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin.



Summary - 1 John Chapter 2

- We know Christ if we keep his commands. Whoever loves his brother lives in the light. Do not love the world. Children, abide in Him and let Truth abide in you.



"Rejoice in His Light." Yongsung Kim.



The background is a deep purple with numerous bright, white, star-like specks scattered throughout. From the top center, several bright, white, diagonal light rays emanate downwards, creating a sense of divine light or inspiration. The overall effect is one of spiritual radiance and hope.

GOD IS LOVE

**BY THIS WE KNOW
LOVE, BECAUSE HE LAID
DOWN HIS LIFE FOR US.**

**John wanted people to know that
love is critically important.**

Love comes from God.

**When we feel love, it should
remind us that God is near.**

**John also wants everyone to be
wary of false teachers.**

1 John Chapter 3

The true child of God

- practices righteousness (lives a Holy life) because
 1. God the Father loves us (3:1-3)
 2. God the Son died for us (4-8)
 3. God the Holy Spirit lives in us (9-10)
- loves other Christians despite differences. (3:11-24)

1 John Chapter 3 teaches us to detect counterfeit Christians by studying **the real thing.**



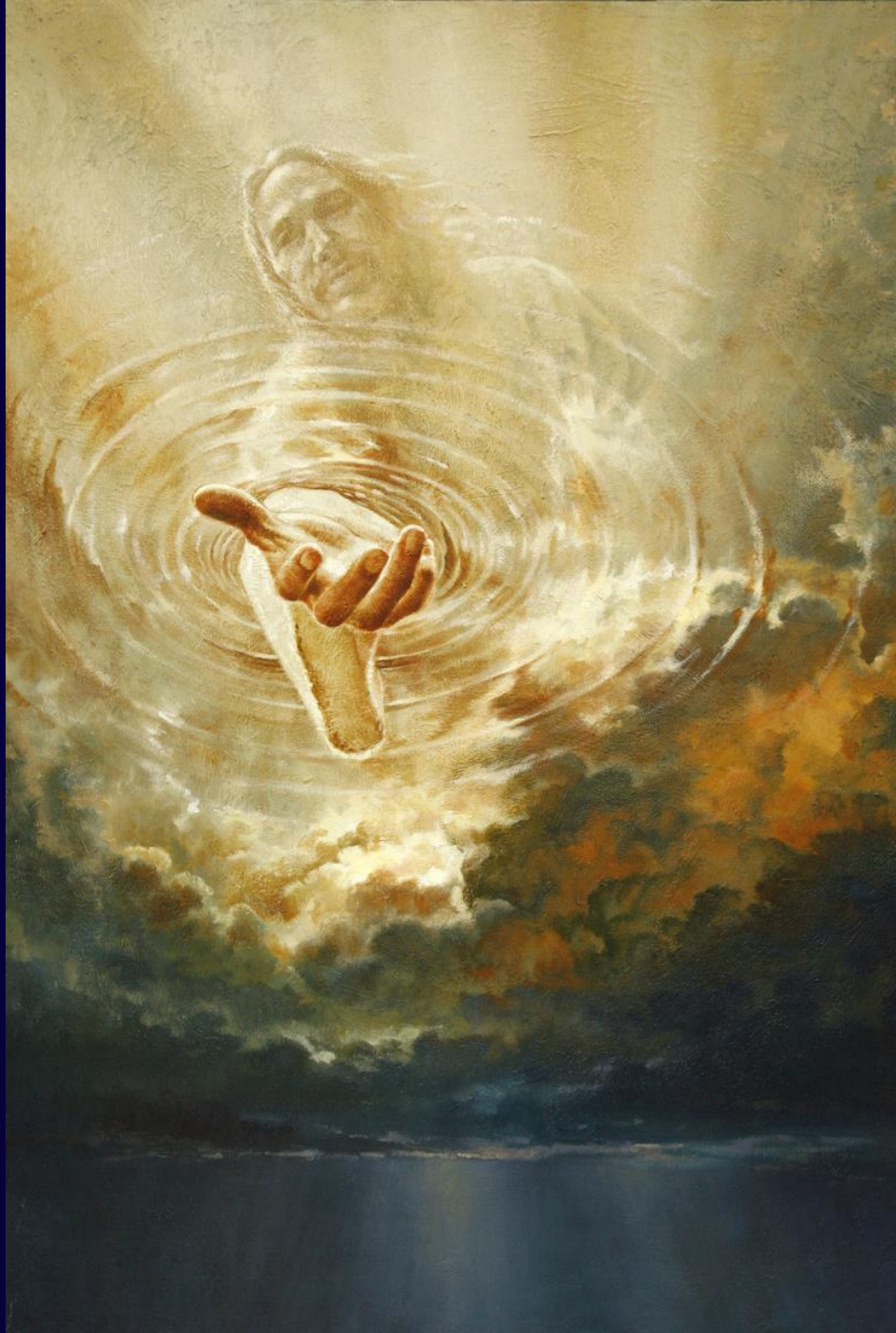
“The Ascension of Christ.” Rembrandt, 1636.

God the Father loves us

3 Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.



God the Son died for us

- 4 Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.
- 5 And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin.
- 6 Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him.



Sins are the fruit,
but **sin** is the **root**!

Immorality Lies Drunkenness
Gossip Murder Deceit Perjury
Selfishness Adultery Division
Sloth Theft Gluttony Idolatry
Envy Wrath
Lust



Sin

Pride

*goes before destruction, and
a haughty spirit before a fall.*

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- 5 And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin.
- 6 Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him.
- 7 Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous.
- 8 He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

Jesus

EXTRACTED FROM **"That's My King!"**

Dr. Shadrach Meshach Lockridge of San Diego Calvary Baptist

- ❖ He was born of a woman
so that we could be born of God;
- ❖ He humbled Himself
so that we could be lifted up;
- ❖ He became a servant
so that we could be made joint-heirs;
- ❖ He suffered rejection
so that we could become His friends;
- ❖ He denied Himself
so that we could freely receive all things;
- ❖ He gave Himself
so that He could bless us in every way.



God the Spirit lives in us

- 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.

God the Spirit lives in us

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.

Really???

Sin in Believers (1 John 3:9)

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.

Is sin:

Indubitable?

Inevitable?

Incompatible?

Intolerable?

Inexcusable?

Inapplicable?

Inconceivable?

Ask yourself:

Is sin certain?

Can we escape sin?

Is it human to sin?

Can we endure some sin?

Are some sins defensible?

Is some sin appropriate?

Is sin simply unthinkable?

Sin in Believers (3.9)

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.

1 John 3:9 applies to those who are:

- Born of God (have his seed/sperm in them)
- Abiding in God

Why can't those born of God practice sin?

A child of God is given a new nature, and that new nature does not and will not commit sin. John calls this new nature God's "seed."

¹⁰ In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor *is* he who does not love his brother.



The Imperative of Love

¹¹ For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another,

¹² not as Cain *who* was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous.

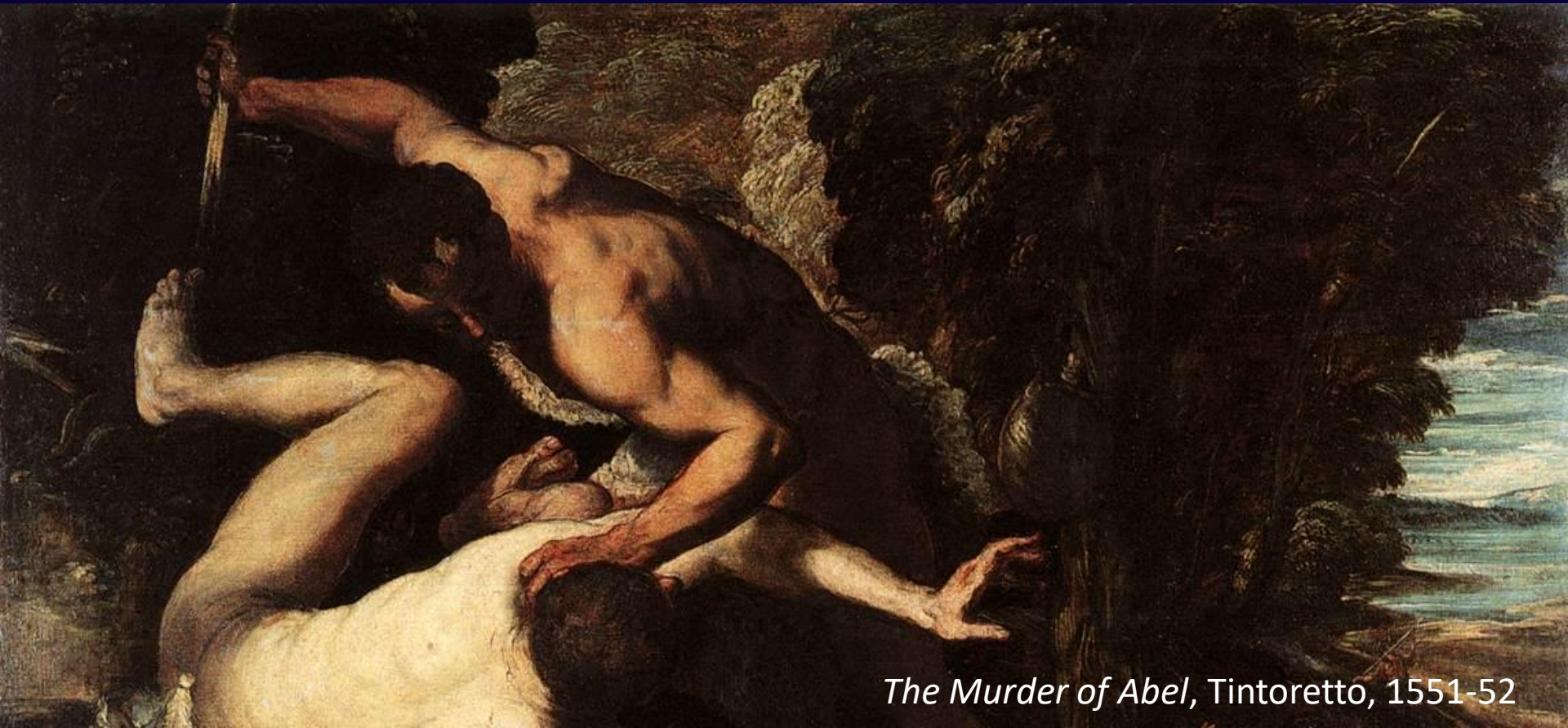


Cain and Abel, Pietro Novelli, c. 1645.

¹³ Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world hates you.

¹⁴ We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love *his* brother abides in death.

¹⁵ Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.



The Murder of Abel, Tintoretto, 1551-52

¹⁶ By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down *our* lives for the brethren.

¹⁷ But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?



The Mocking of Christ,
Annibale Carracci, c. 1596



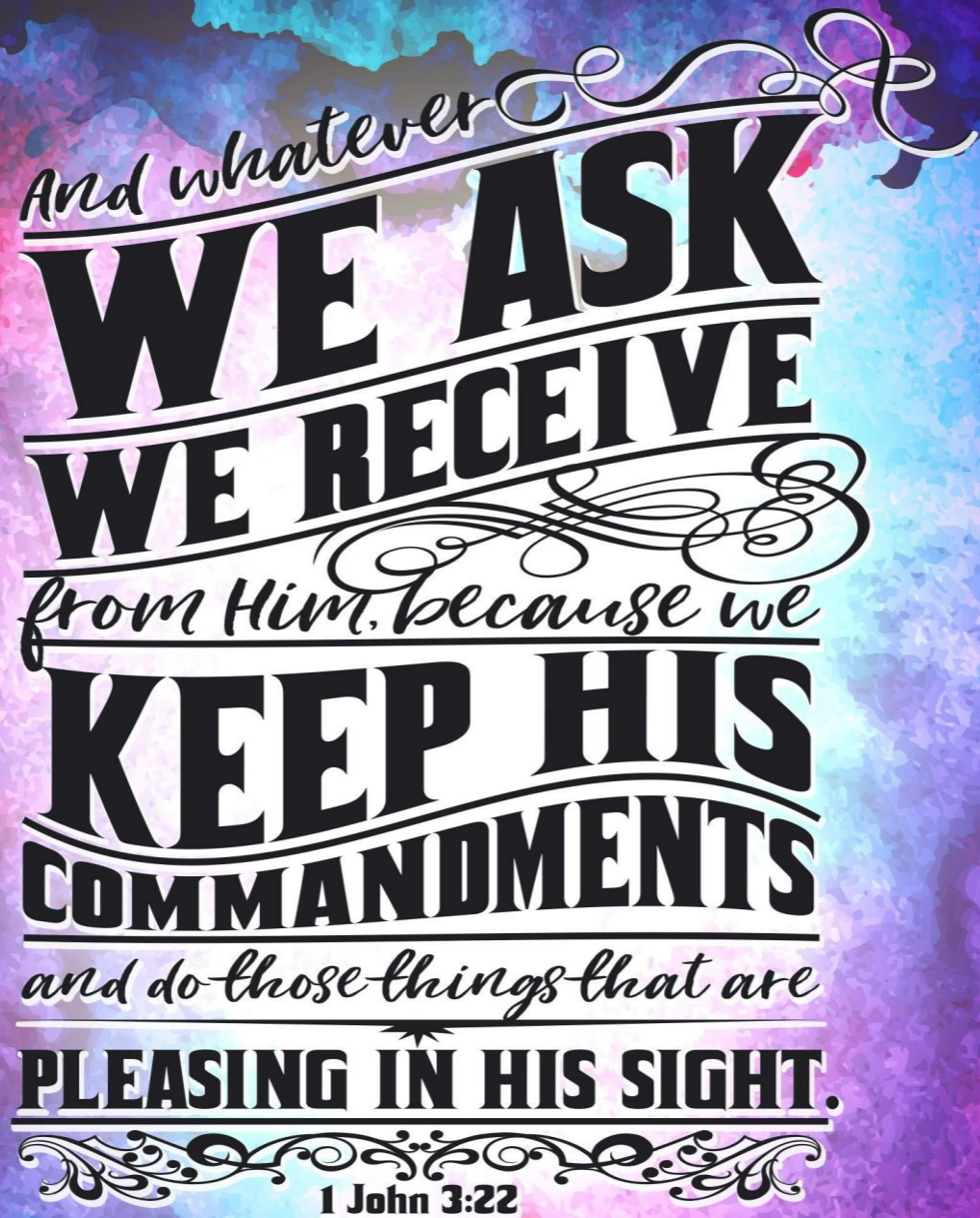
¹⁸ My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth. ¹⁹ And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him.



²⁰ For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things. ²¹ Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God.

²² And whatever we ask
we receive from Him,
because we keep His
commandments and
do those things that
are pleasing in His
sight.

²³ And this is His
commandment: that
we should believe on
the name of His Son
Jesus Christ and love
one another, as He
gave us
commandment.



And whatever
WE ASK
WE RECEIVE
from Him, because we
KEEP HIS
COMMANDMENTS
and do those things that are
PLEASING IN HIS SIGHT.
1 John 3:22

²⁴ Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

ABIDING = FOLLOWING

Abide in Me, and I in you.

(John 15:4)

God's commands



TRUSTING

His promises



DOING

His Will



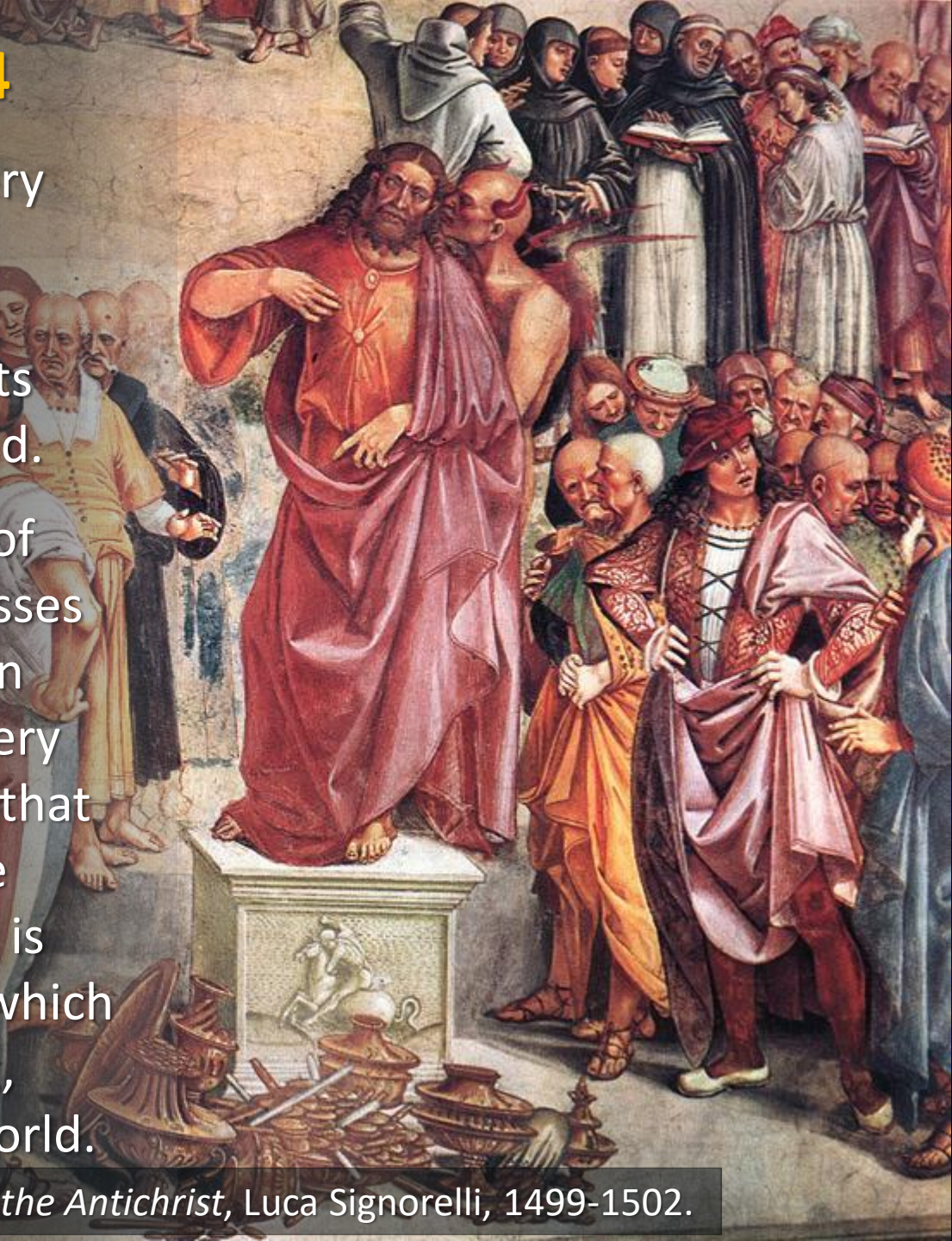
BEARING

fruit.

1 John Chapter 4

- 4** Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.
- 2** By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, ³ and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the *spirit* of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.

Sermon and Deeds of the Antichrist, Luca Signorelli, 1499-1502.



- 4 You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.
- 5 They are of the world. Therefore they speak *as* of the world, and the world hears them.
- 6 We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.



SPIRIT OF TRUTH

or

SPIRIT OF ERROR

you choose!

The Word

LIFE
LOVE
LIGHT

CHILDREN OF GOD

CHILDREN OF DARKNESS

LAWLESSNESS

LUST

LIES

The World

Knowing God Through Love

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

A dramatic landscape at sunset or sunrise. The sky is filled with soft, golden light and wispy clouds. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a strong lens flare effect that radiates across the scene. The foreground shows dark, silhouetted hills and mountains. The text 'GOD IS LOVE' is overlaid in large, bold, blue capital letters. The word 'LOVE' is significantly larger than 'GOD IS' and is positioned centrally, with the sun's light shining through the letter 'O'.

GOD IS
LOVE

1 JOHN 4:7-12

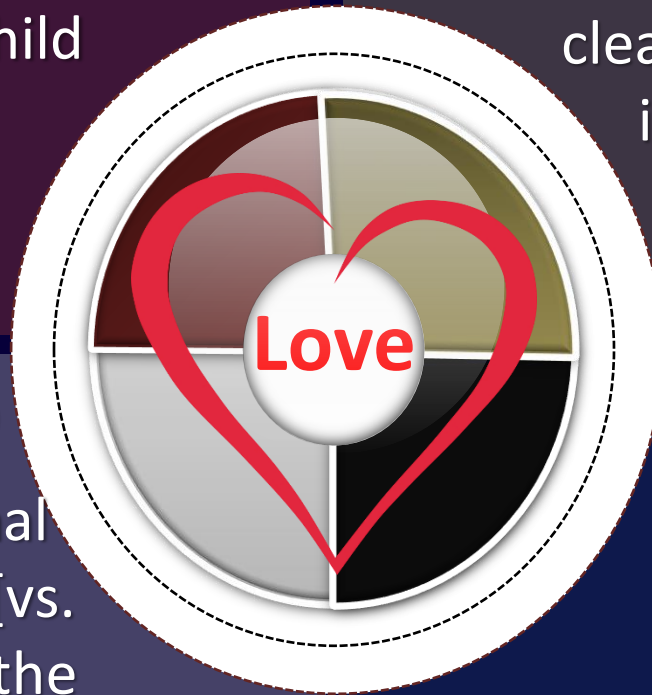
Four of the seven Ancient Greek words for “love” are:

στοργή **storgē**

natural, instinctual, affectionate love, as a parent toward a child (blood is thicker than water).

ἔρως **eros**:

sensual, sexual love (not used in the N.T.). Even the Greeks clearly understood that it was essential that *eros* be bridled or restrained.



ἀγάπη **agapē** (n)

God's unconditional love; love dearly; [vs. ἀγαπάω *agapaō*, the verb: which means totally given over to].

Φιλέω **phileō**

friendly love;
brotherly love;
having things in common



⁸ He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

⁹ In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.

¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins.

¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.



Conversion of Mary Magdalene, Paolo Veronese, c. 1547

Seeing God Through Love

¹² No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.



HOW DO WE KNOW THAT WE ABIDE IN HIM?

¹³ By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.

¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son *as* Saviour of the world.

¹⁵ Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

¹⁶ And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.

The Consummation of Love

¹⁷ Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.

¹⁹ We love Him because He first loved us.



Obedience by Faith

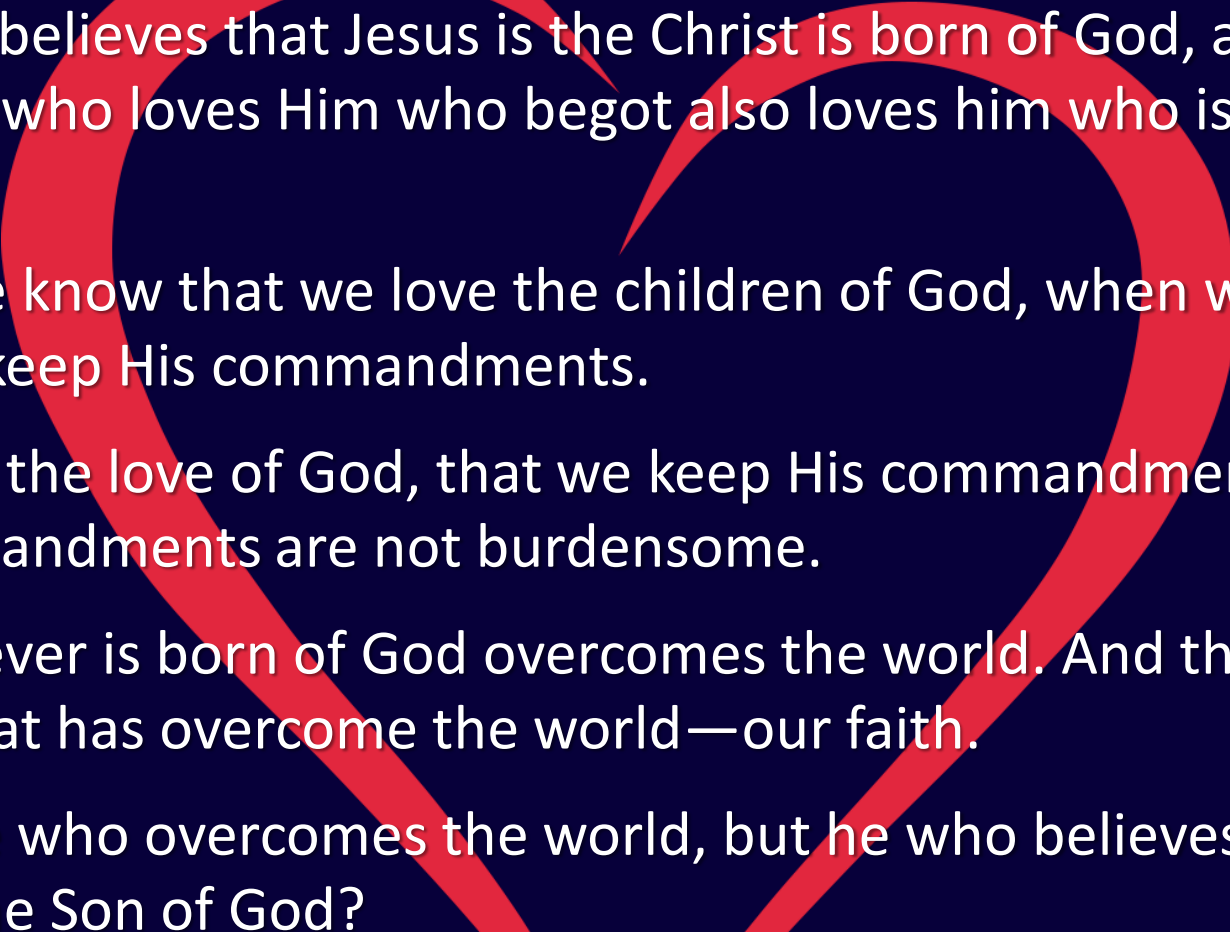
²⁰ If someone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?

²¹ And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God *must* love his brother also.

**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? AND THIS COMMANDMENT WE HAVE FROM HIM:
THAT HE WHO LOVES GOD MUST LOVE HIS BROTHER ALSO.**

1 JOHN 4:20-21

1 John Chapter 5

- 
- 5 Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him.
- 2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments.
- 3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.
- 4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.
- 5 Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

The Certainty of God's Witness

- ⁶ This is He who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not only by water, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth.
- ⁷ For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one.
- ⁸ And there are three that bear witness on earth: the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree as one.

The Certainty of God's Witness

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- ⁷ For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one.
- ⁸ And there are three that bear witness on earth: the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree as one.

TESTIMONY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT	TESTIMONY OF MAN'S SPIRIT
Hear - John 6:44	Hear
Believe – Hebrews 11:6	Believe
Repent – Luke 13:3	Repent
Confess Christ – Matthew 10:32-33	Confess Christ
Be Baptized – Acts 2:38	Be Baptized
If the testimony of the two witnesses agree, then one is a Child of God!	

Johannine Comma (Heavenly Witness)

Majority Test

⁷For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. ⁸And there are three that bear record in earth, the spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three are one.

(1 John 5:7-8 NKJV)

Modern Texts

- ⁷For there are three that bear witness, ⁸the Spirit and the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement. (NASB)
- ⁷For there are three that testify: ⁸the Spirit, the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement. (NIV)
- ⁷For there are three that testify, ⁸the Spirit and the water and the blood, and these three are in agreement.” (NET Bible)

The Certainty of God's Witness

- ⁶ This is He who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not only by water, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth.
- ⁷ For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one.
- ⁸ And there are three that bear witness on earth: the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree as one.
- ⁹ If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater; for this is the witness of God which He has testified of His Son.
- ¹⁰ 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.**

¹¹ And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. ¹² He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

Know Jesus know life.

No Jesus.... no life.



¹³ These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may *continue* to believe in the name of the Son of God.

Confidence and Compassion in Prayer

- ¹⁴ Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.
- ¹⁵ And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.
- ¹⁶ If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin *which does not lead* to death, he will ask, and He will give him life for those who commit sin not *leading* to death. There is sin *leading* to death. I do not say that he should pray about that.
- ¹⁷ All unrighteousness is sin, and there is sin not *leading* to death.

Know the True—Reject the False

¹⁸ We know that whoever is born of God does not sin; but he who has been born of God keeps him, and the wicked one does not touch *[grab hold of]* him.

¹⁹ We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies *under the sway of* the wicked one.

²⁰ And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know *[know through experience]* Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

²¹ Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.

1. We have a real relationship with a real God who is really there.
2. Idolatry whether obvious or subtle will always choke out God.
3. This will damage our other real relationships with brothers and sisters in Christ.

Tests of True Sonship

OBEDIENCE

LOVE

TRUTH

LIFE
LOVE
LIGHT

cannot be separated!

1. Christian love is affected by light and darkness.
2. Christian love is a matter of life or death. To live in hatred is to live in spiritual death.
3. Christian love is a matter of truth or error.

Lessons from 1 John

- God is Light

- Embrace Light

- God is Love

- Express Love

- God is Life

- Enjoy 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

7 reasons why 1 John was written








- 1:3 We declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us.
- 1:4 And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.
- 2:1 These things I write to you, so that you may not sin.
- 2:13-17 I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I write unto you, young men, because ye have overcome the wicked one.
- 2:21 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.
- 2:26 These things I have written to you concerning those who *try to* deceive (seduce) you.
- 5:13 These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may believe in the name of the Son of God.

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 of Christian Genuineness

-  **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

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)

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)

5 reasons why 1 John was written

1. To promote **HARMONY** (v. 1.3)
2. To produce **HAPPINESS** (v. 1.4)
3. To protect **HOLINESS** (v. 2.1)
4. To prevent **HERESY** (v. 2.26)
5. To provide **HOPE** (v. 5.13)

4 reasons why 1 John was written

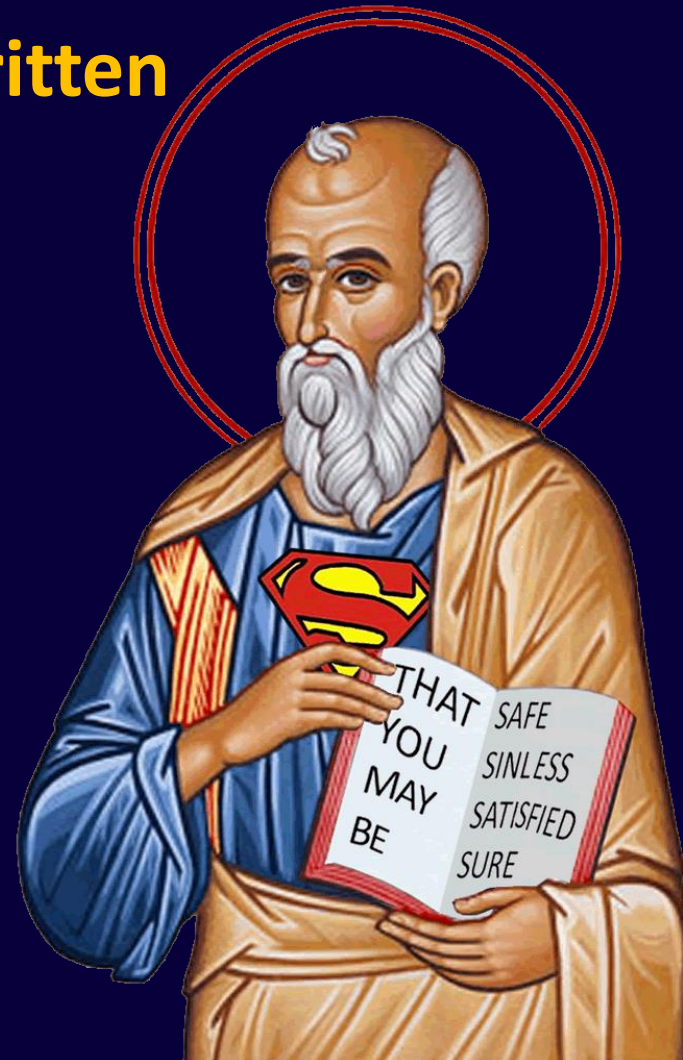
That **you** may be:

• **SATISFIED** (v. 1.4)

• **SINLESS** (v. 2.1)

• **SAFE** (v. 2.26)

• **SURE/CERTAIN** (v. 5.13)



Do you have the love of the Father in you?

- | | | |
|---------------------|--|---|
| 1. Doctrinal | Light of Christ
(not heresy) | How do you think of Christ? |
| 2. Spiritual | Reception of Spirit
(not of Satan) | Assurance comes from Spirit not from scripture |
| 3. Moral | Live Righteously
(not lawlessly) | The proof is in the pudding |
| 4. Social | Love Brethren
(not hatred) | Love of others proves you have the love of the Father in you.
Do you love the Jewish people? |

Assurance



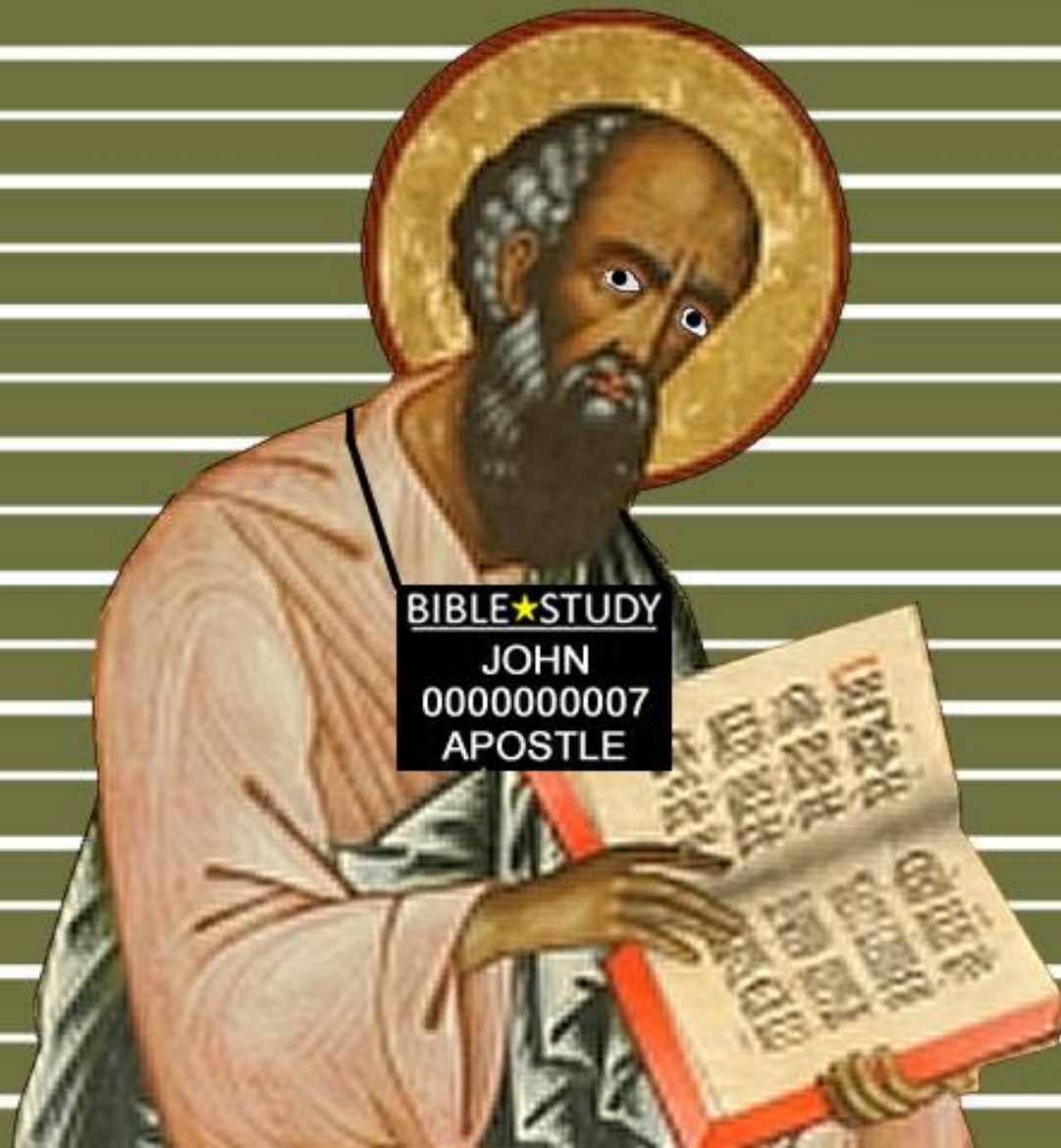
Confidence

Within ourselves

Before others

Towards God

Welcome Home!



BIBLE★STUDY

JOHN

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APOSTLE