

The first letter of John

^{1:1}*I am writing to you* concerning that which was from the beginning: that which we have heard, that which we have seen with our eyes, that which we have personally witnessed and our hands have *actually* handled – the Word of *God's* life.

^{1:2}For *God's very own* life was manifested and we have seen it and testify and declare to you the life – that eternal life of *God* – which was with the Father and was manifested to us.

^{1:3}That which we have seen and heard we declare to you so that you too may have fellowship with us. Yes! And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus the Anointed One. ^{1:4}We write these things to you so that your joy may be made complete.

^{1:5}And this is the message which we have heard from him and announce to you: that God is light and there is no darkness whatsoever in him.

^{1:6}If we say that we have fellowship with him and walk in the darkness, we are deceivers and do not practice the truth. ^{1:7}But if we walk in the light as he is in the light, we have fellowship with each other and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

^{1:8}If we say that we don't have any sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ^{1:9}When we agree *with God's judgment* concerning our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all immorality of character [of both heart and actions].*

^{1:10}If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar and his word is not in us.

*Notice that God will do two separate things when we “agree with God's judgment” (“speak together,” Gk) concerning our sins. First, he will forgive us. Then, he will “cleanse” us, which means he will work to clean up our lives so that we no longer sin.

CHAPTER 2

^{2:1}Little children, I write these things to you so that you do not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an Advocate with the Father: Jesus the Anointed, the righteous *One*.
^{2:2}He is the *One who* satisfied God's demands concerning our sins and not only for ours but also for the entire world.

^{2:3}And this is how we can be certain that we know him intimately: if we do what he leads us to do. ^{2:4}He who says, "I know him" but does not follow his instructions is a liar and the truth is not in him. ^{2:5}But whoever carefully observes what he shows him, the love of God has truly been perfected in him.

This is the way we know that we are *truly* in him: ^{2:6}he who says he abides in him ought to conduct his life just as he {Jesus} conducted his life.

^{2:7}Beloved, I am not writing you new instructions but the old instruction which you had from the beginning. This "old instruction" is the word which you heard.

^{2:8}And now, I am writing you a new commandment, which is true in him and in you because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining.

^{2:9}*It is this:* he who says he is in the light but mistreats his brother is *still* in darkness even until now. ^{2:10}He who loves his brother continues in the light and there is nothing in him which lures *other brothers or sisters* into sin. ^{2:11}But he who mistreats his brother [by luring him or her into sin] is in darkness and walks in darkness and doesn't know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

^{2:12}I write to you little children because your sins are forgiven for his name's sake. ^{2:13}I write to you fathers because you know him profoundly who is from the beginning. I write to you young men because you have overcome the evil one.

I have written to you little children because you have become acquainted with the Father. ^{2:14}I have written to you fathers because you come to understand him who is from the beginning. I have written to you young men because

you are strong, the word of God abides in you, and you have been victorious over [the temptations of] the evil one.

^{2:15}Do not love *the ways and values* of this present world {kosmos, Gk}, neither *love* the things that are in this world. If anyone loves the *ways, things, and values* of this world, the love of the Father is not in him. ^{2:16}For everything that is in this world – the impure desires of our flesh, the longings for what we see with our eyes, and the pride concerning our earthly life – does not have its source in the Father, but has its source in the system of this world [whose prince is the devil]. ^{2:17}But the system {ways, values and things} of this world will disappear along with the fleshly cravings for it. But he who does the will of God continues forever.

^{2:18}Little children, it is the last period of time. And as you have heard that the antichrist [the one who takes the place of Christ] will come, even now many antichrists have *already* arisen. This is how we know that it is the last period of time.

^{2:19}They went out from us but their source was not the same as ours. For if they had been from the same source, they would have continued with us, but *they went out* so that they might be exposed as not being from the same source that we have. ^{2:20}But you have an anointing from the Holy One and you understand all *these* things.

^{2:21}I have not written to you because you don't know the truth but because you do know it and *understand that* no lie has its source in the truth. ^{2:22}Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Anointed One? This is the *essence* of the antichrist [the one who takes the place of Christ], *someone* who denies the Father and the Son. ^{2:23}Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either. He who confesses the Son has the Father also.

^{2:24}As for you, let that which you heard from the beginning remain in you. If that which you heard from the beginning continues in you, you also will continue in the Son and in the Father. ^{2:25}And this is the promise which he promised us, *even* the eternal life of God.

^{2:26}I have written these things to you concerning those who would lead you astray. ^{2:27}And as for you, the anoint-

ing which you received from him remains in you and you don't need anyone to teach you. But just as his anointing teaches you concerning all things and is true and is no lie, even as it taught you *until now*, you *should continue* to abide in him. ^{2:28}And now little children, continue in him so that when he is revealed we may have confidence and not be ashamed, *and be separated from him* at his appearing.

^{2:29}Since you know that he is righteous, you understand that everyone who is expressing *this* righteousness is *someone who is begotten* by him.

CHAPTER 3

^{3:1}Look at what kind of love the Father has granted to us, that we should be called "children of God *himself*." The reason that the world does not recognize us is because it didn't recognize him.

^{3:2}Beloved, we are now the children of God but it is not yet unveiled what we will be. But we do know that when he is revealed, we [our bodies] will *be changed* to be like him for we will see him then as he really is *right now*. ^{3:3}And everyone who has this hope within himself purifies himself *in order* to be pure as he is.

^{3:4}Everyone who sins rebels against God's laws. Sin is rebellion against God. ^{3:5}And you know that he was manifested to remove our sin. There is no sin in him; therefore, ^{3:6}whoever abides in him does not sin. *But whoever continues in sin* has not seen him clearly and does not know him intimately.

^{3:7}Little children, don't let anyone lead you astray. He who exhibits righteousness is righteous in the same way as he [Jesus] is righteous. ^{3:8}He who *persistently* practices sin has his source in the devil for the devil sinned from the beginning. The son of God was revealed for exactly this purpose: to destroy the works of the devil [to destroy sin].

^{3:9}That which is begotten of God [i.e. the new spiritual man] does not sin because *it is* his {God's supernatural} seed *that* has come to live in him. In fact, he [the new spiritual man] cannot sin because it is something which is begotten by God [who is perfectly righteous].

^{3:10}This is the way in which the offspring of God are revealed and the children of the devil are *exposed*: whoever does not express purity of character is not of God, neither he who does not love his brother.

^{3:11}For this is the message which you heard from the beginning, that we should love each other. ^{3:12}We must not be like Cain who had his source in the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he kill him? Because his works were actively evil and his brother's righteous. ^{3:13}Don't be surprised then, brethren, if the world hates you.

^{3:14}We know that we have crossed over from death into the life of God because we love the brethren. Anyone who does not love the brethren *reveals that he* still remains in death. ^{3:15}*In fact*, whoever hates his brother is *really* a murderer and you know that no murderer has *the* eternal life of God abiding in him.

^{3:16}This is the way we know his love because he laid down his life for the sake of *servicing* us and, in the same way, we ought to lay down our lives for the sake of *servicing* the brethren. ^{3:17}*For example*, anyone who has this world's wealth and sees his brother is in need but shuts up his feelings of compassion towards him, in what way does the love of God reside in him? ^{3:18}Little children, our love must not consist of *mere* words or *empty* talking but of sincere actions.

^{3:19}This is the way we know that we have our source in the truth and, therefore, can assure our consciences before him. ^{3:20}But even if our conscience condemns us, God is greater than our conscience and understands everything.

^{3:21}Beloved, if our conscience does not condemn us we have great confidence toward God ^{3:22}and whatever we ask we receive from him because we follow his leading, doing the things that are pleasing in his sight.

^{3:23}And this is what he commands, that we should be believing in the name of his Son, Jesus the Anointed One, and love each other according to what he has ordered us to do. ^{3:24}And he who carefully follows his leading abides in him and he in him. And this is how we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit which he has given us.

CHAPTER 4

^{4:1}Beloved, don't believe every spirit, but scrutinize the spirits, whether *or not* they are of God because many false prophets have gone out into the world. ^{4:2}This is the way you know the spirit that is from God: every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus the Anointed One has come in a human body is of God. ^{4:3}Every spirit that does not acknowledge that Jesus [the Son of God] came in a human body is not of God. This is the *spirit of the one* who takes the place of Christ {antichrist}, which you have heard is coming and *even* now is already in the world.

^{4:4}Little children, your source is God and you *will* prevail over them because the One who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. ^{4:5}They [the followers of those who take the place of Christ] have their source in the world. Therefore, they speak what is in harmony with world and so the world hears them.

^{4:6}*On the other hand*, we have our source in God. He who knows God intimately hears us. He who does not have his source in God does not listen to us. In this way, we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

^{4:7}Beloved, let us love each other for God is the source of *genuine* love and everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God well. ^{4:8}He who does not love does not know God intimately, for God is love. ^{4:9}This is the way that the love of God was revealed to us. God has sent his only begotten Son into the world so that we might have *God's own* life through him.

^{4:10}Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the means of appeasing *himself* concerning our sins. ^{4:11}Beloved, if God loved us so much, we also ought to love each other.

^{4:12}No one has seen God *the Father* at any time, *yet* if we love each other, *this is proof that* God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. ^{4:13}This is the way we know that we abide in him and he in us because he has given us [a portion] of his Spirit. ^{4:14}And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world.

^{4:15}Whoever agrees *with God* that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him and he in God. ^{4:16}And we have seen and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love. He who abides in love abides in God and God abides in him. ^{4:17}This "*abiding in him*" is the way in which love is perfected in us so that we may have confidence on the day of judgment because the way he is [in His character, speech, and actions, etc.]; this is the same way we are [in our character, speech, and actions, etc.] in this world.

^{4:18}There is no fear in love, but perfect love throws fear out because fear brings *mental* torment. He who is fearful has not yet been made perfect in love. ^{4:19}We have God's love in us because he first loved us.

^{4:20}If someone says, "I love God" but despises his brother, he is a liar. For he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how is it possible that he loves God whom he cannot see? ^{4:21}And this commandment we have from him, that he who loves God must love his brother also.

CHAPTER 5

^{5:1}Whoever believes that Jesus is the Anointed One is conceived by God [has God's life born into him]. And whoever loves him who fathered [this new life] also loves the one who is conceived by him.

^{5:2}The evidence of our love for the children of God is that we love God and do what he leads us to do. ^{5:3}For this is the expression of the love of God, *i.e.* when we follow his directions. And his directions are not a severe burden.

^{5:4}That which is begotten of God [the new spiritual man] overcomes the world. This victory of overcoming the world is *gained through* our faith. ^{5:5}And who is he who overcomes the world? It is the one who is *actively* believing because Jesus is the Son of God.

^{5:6}This is he who came by water and blood, *even* Jesus the Anointed One, not by the water only but by the water and by the blood. ^{5:7}And it is the Spirit who testifies of this because the Spirit is the *Spirit of* truth. ^{5:8}For there are three who testify: the Spirit, the water, and the blood, and the three agree as one.

^{5:9}If we believe what men say, the testimony of God is greater. The testimony of God is this: he has testified concerning his Son. ^{5:10}He who is believing into the Son of God has this same witness inside of himself. He who does not believe God is calling him a liar because he has not believed in what God has testified concerning his Son.

^{5:11}And this is the evidence that God gave to us: *his own* eternal life. And this life is in his Son. ^{5:12}He who is laying hold of the Son is possessing *God's eternal* life. He who is not laying hold of the Son of God does not have *God's* life.

^{5:13}I have written these things to you so that you may be knowing that you have *God's* eternal life, *even* you who are believing into the name of the Son of God. ^{5:14}And this [having the Father's own life] is the *source of the* confidence which we have with respect to him *so we know* that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.

^{5:15}And when we perceive that he is hearing us when we ask, we know that we will receive from him our petitions for which we have asked.

^{5:16}If any man sees his brother sinning a sin which does not lead to death, he may ask *God* and *God* will give him *more of his own* life. *I say this* concerning someone whose sin is not one which leads to death. There is a sin which leads to death. In that case, I do not say that we should *even* ask. ^{5:17}All unrighteousness is sin. But there is sin which does not result in death.

^{5:18}We know that that which is begotten by God [the new spiritual man] does not sin; therefore, he who is begotten by God keeps himself *from habitually practicing sin* and the evil one does not fasten himself onto him. ^{5:19}We know that we have our source in God and that the whole world is held in the power of the evil one.

^{5:20}And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us *spiritual* understanding so that we intimately know the true One. And we are in the true One, *even* in his Son, Jesus the Anointed One. This One is the true God – even the eternal life.

^{5:21}Little children, guard yourselves from idols [the things which take the place of God in your heart and life].