



The Canadian *Lord's Day* Association

Bible Course

Acts to Revelation

Lesson 66

Name: _____

I John/II John/ III John

The apostle John is widely seen as the author of these epistles. Early church fathers, such as Polycarp, refer to John as the author, plus the style and vocabulary used are very similar to those of the Gospel of John. In addition to being an apostle, he was the son of Zebedee and Salome, and brother of James. John was “known to the high priest,” and is called “the disciple whom Jesus loved.” John was one of the leaders in the Jerusalem church (Acts 8:4, Gal. 2:9). Tradition suggests that John left Jerusalem before its destruction in 70 A.D., and became the minister in and around Ephesus. These epistles are directed to the churches in that area. The date of these writings is not clear, but it is thought to be between 90 - 95 A.D. John is also the writer of *Revelation*, who was later exiled to the island of Patmos.

1. Why is John thought to be the author of these epistles? _____

2. Who was this John? _____

I John

The major theme of I John is “fellowship with God.” An experiential relationship with God is not a cold acceptance of the truths and doctrines of Scripture, but a vital and necessary dependence, trust, and communion with a Triune God. This epistle also refutes ideas of antichrists, by emphasizing righteous living, love for the brethren, and the belief that Jesus is God.

Read I John I

In chapter 1-2, we see that God is light. To have fellowship with God, believers must walk in the light: confess sins, keep the commandments, love their neighbor, see and hate evil in the world.

3. “... truly our _____ is with the Father, and with his Son

_____.”

4. "And these things we write unto you, that your _____ may be full."

5. "God is _____." The darkness does not comprehend this. (Walking in darkness is walking in sin.) If we know God, then we _____.

6. Confession of sin must be accompanied by _____.

Read 1 John 2

7. Write out verse 9. _____

8. "... these things write I unto you, that ye _____ not."

9. What does Christ do as "Advocate?" _____

10. According to verse 4, who are liars? _____

11. What is to be understood by "little children, fathers, and young men?" _____

12. Write a summary of verses 15-17. _____

Satan regularly uses three devices to tempt us to sin:

"Lust of the flesh"

- The desire for any pleasure which is forbidden.
- Example: Tempting Eve: Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?...woman saw that the tree was good for food.
- Example: Tempting Christ: Command that these stones be made bread (ignore God's plan and fill your physical desires/needs)
- Today's culture strongly promotes pleasure-seeking
- Lust springs from the belief hidden deep in the heart that the way to get the most out of life is to seek a never-ending flow of pleasure, fun, thrills, and excitement of any kind. Keep the senses happy. Keep the nerves tingling. Keep them stirred up and excited all the time.
- Hedonism

"Lust of the eye"

- The desire for some possession that you do not currently have.
- Example: Tempting Eve: Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? ...woman saw that the tree ... was pleasant to the eyes.
- Example: Tempting Christ: Satan showed Christ all the kingdoms of the world and said, "All these things will I give unto thee."
- This may be an illegitimate desire, or a desire for too much of something we could legitimately have in moderation.
- Materialism. Covetousness

"Pride of life"

- A craving for honor and awards or a stubborn mindset that will not repent and confess sin.
- Example: Tempting Eve: Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?...For God doth know that ... ye shall be as gods ...woman saw that the tree was ... to be desired to make one wise.
- Example: Tempting Christ: If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down (challenging Christ's superiority)
- Americans tend to have this third deadly belief: All around the world American's leave the impression that "We are number one!" We in America tend to project the image that we are somehow better than most other countries. We have been so blessed, and we have so much that it's easy to forget God and take credit for getting it all ourselves. We take pride in what we have and attribute it to our own superiority, our own accomplishments.
- Superiority. Pride. Arrogance.

Parts adapted from: <http://mt.verseminder.com>

13. How do we know that it is the “last time?” _____

_____.

14. What is meant by “antichrist?” See verse 22. _____

_____.

Read I John 3

15. “... abide in _____; that, when he shall _____, we may have _____, and not be _____ before him at his coming.”

In chapter 3 - 4:6: God’s work of regeneration, through the atoning work of Christ and the applying work of the Holy Spirit produces new spiritual life. Believers must be righteous or holy (not of their own merit) to have fellowship with a holy God.

16. According to verse 3, if you have a good hope in God, what will you do?

17. “... for sin is _____.

18. According to verses 6 and 9, a true believer doesn’t sin. Explain. _____

19. According to verse 8, what work did Christ come to do? _____

_____.

20. “... let us not love in _____, neither in _____, but in _____ and in _____.

_____.

Read I John 4

Another attribute of God is love. Some focus solely on this attribute and forget His justice, truth, etc. Yet, love is a very important attribute of God. God proved His love with His ultimate gift of His only begotten Son to provide a way of salvation for rebels. God’s children through their fellowship with Him also show love to God. Loving God means doing His commandments and that includes loving one another.

21. What does it mean to “try the spirits?” _____

22. Why must we “try the spirits?” See verse 1. _____

23. How must we “try the spirits?” See verse 2 and 3. _____

24. “... God is _____.” Give 2 other “God is” quotes from
Scripture. See Heb. 12:29 _____
and John 4:24. _____

25. Explain: “Perfect love casteth out fear.” _____

26. According to verses 19 and 21, if a person loves God, then what will be true?

Evaluator _____

Meditation

In the prophet Hosea, the gift of the Spirit is compared to dew: “I will be as the dew unto Israel.” Now it is peculiarly true of the dew, that it moistens everything where it falls; it leaves not one leaf unvisited; there is not a tiny blade of grass on which its diamond drops do not descend; every leaf and stem of the bush is burdened with the precious load: just so it is peculiarly true of the Spirit, that there is not a faculty, there is not an affection, a power, or passion of the soul, on which the Spirit does not descend—working through all, refreshing, reviving, renewing, recreating all. And if we are really in Christ Jesus, abiding in Him by faith, we are bound to expect this supernatural power to work through our understanding; for if we be not led by the Spirit, we are none of His. But the more implicitly we lean on this loving Spirit, is it not plain as day that we all the more implicitly follow the guidance of our understanding? We do not lean upon our own understanding; for we lean upon the Spirit of grace and wisdom, who is promised to guide us into all truth, and guide our footsteps in the way of peace. But we do not throw away our own understanding because it is through that understanding alone that we look for the guidance of the Spirit.

Gems of Robert Murray McCheyne