

Christian Certainties-1 John

by Mike Kauffmann

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*He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have
the Son of God does not have the life.*
1 John 5:12



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Worldview Wednesday
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Why Study 1st John?

To Increase Your Joy, Holiness and Assurance

- Joy. ...your joy may be made complete vs 1:4
 - John 15:11 "These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full."
- Holiness. That you may not sin. vs 2:1
- Assurance. That you may know that you have eternal life. vs 2:25, 5:11, 13.

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Background & Setting

"We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in *the power of* the evil one." 1 John 5:19

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Paul's Exhortation to Ephesian Elders

"Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears." Acts 20:28-31

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Authorship & Recipients

- This epistle, like Hebrews, does not contain the name of its writer, but from its very early history the church believed the Apostle John wrote it.
- John was addressing a community, made up of a number of house-churches in and around Ephesus, which was split in three ways.¹

1 - Multiple citations in this presentation from:
Notes on 1 John 2014 edition Dr. Thomas Constable

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Date Written

- Probably between A.D. 85 and 97, from Ephesus
- A date in the 90s seems most probable, following the writing of John's Gospel that 1 John seems to assume.

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Upper Room Discourse Influence (John 14-17)

"I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; *that is* the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, *but* you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you." John 14:16-17

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Heresies

The false teachers and teachings to which he alluded suggest that John wrote about conditions that existed in Asia: Judaism, Gnosticism, the teachings of Cerinthus (a prominent Gnostic), and others. These philosophies extended beyond Asia, but they were present there during John's lifetime

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Gnosticism - A Laymen's Definition

- The basic conviction which pervaded gnostic thought was that spirit is good and matter is bad; that the spirit in man is good, but it has a problem because it is locked in a body and body and matter is a real problem.
- Gnostics had a real issue over a bodily historical real Jesus who was at the same time God, because how could God Who is spirit, which is good, inhabit in any real sense matter, which is bad ?

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Cerinthus (John's Contemporary)

- The Cerinthians said that the divine Christ came on the human Jesus just for a brief time, that God didn't dwell in His material body permanently because that wouldn't be good--God would never do that.
- He came descending like a dove at His baptism and left at the cross because they couldn't tolerate an actual incarnation because of this dualism, i.e., matter = evil, spirit = good.

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Outline - A Chiastic Structure of 1 John

- A Prologue: Eternal Life (1:1-4)
- B Three Witnesses (1:5-2:2) (to deny sin is to make God a liar) (walk)
- C The love of God and the believer (2:3-17)
- D False Christs (2:18-27)
 - E Believer's confidence (2:28-3:10) (do not sin)
 - F Love proves abiding (3:11-18)
 - E' Believer's confidence (3:19-24) (do keep God's commands)
- D' False prophets (4:1-6)
- C' The love of God and the believer (4:7-21)
- B' Three Witnesses (5:1-12) (to deny Jesus is to make God a liar) (testimony)
- A' Epilogue: Eternal life (5:13-21) ²

² Ron Bigalke - Notes on 1 John 2014 Edition, Dr. Thomas L. Constable

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Primary and Secondary Purposes

What we have seen and heard we proclaim to **you also**, so that you too may have **fellowship** with **us**; and indeed our **fellowship** is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ. These things we write, so that our **joy** may be made complete. 1 John 1:3,4

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Paul's Desire

But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; [Phil 3:7-10](#)

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Paul's Desire cont.

in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. [Phil 3:11-14](#)

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The Gospel

"Here we are given, ([vs 1:3,4](#)) without any hesitation, a description, the *summum bonum*, of the Christian life; here, indeed, is the whole object, the ultimate, the goal of all Christian experience and all Christian endeavour. This, beyond any question, is the central message of the Christian gospel and of the Christian faith."³

3 D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones, *Fellowship With God: Studies in 1 John*, p. 77.

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Three Purposes in 1 John

- "These things we write so that our joy may be made complete 1:4
- "I'm writing these things to you that you may not sin." 2:1
- "These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God in order that you may know that you have eternal life." 5:13

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Three Keys to Fulfillment of Purposes

- This is His **commandment**, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ 3:23a
- and love one another, just as He **commanded** us. 3:23b
- The one who keeps His **commandments** abides in Him, and He in him. We know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us. 3:24 (cf. John 14:21)

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Three Main Components of Saving Knowledge of God

- Faith in Jesus Christ - **Doctrine**
- Obedient response to God's commands - **Holiness**
- Love for God and others as He loves us - **Joy/Assurance/Fellowship**

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Our Assurance of Salvation Rests on the Testimony of God

And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. 1 John 5:11,12

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Our Assurance Does Not Rest on the Presence of Spiritual Fruit

- These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life. 1 John 5:13
- “My Father is glorified by this, that **you bear much fruit, and so prove** to be My disciples”. John 15:8

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Light & Fellowship

This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. 1 John 1:5,6,7

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Three Sources of Worldly Temptation

For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. 1John 2:16

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The Christian's Three-Fold Enemy

The World (1John 2:15-17)

- The Lust of the flesh, Lust of the eyes, Pride of Life.
Solution - Flee (1Tim 6:11); 2Tim 2:22
- The Flesh (Romans 7:18-24)
Solution – Deny (Romans 6:12-13; 8:13)
- The Devil (1Peter 5:8)
Solution – Resist (1Peter 5:9)

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It Lasts Only a Short Time, It Results in Consequences

The world is passing away, and *also* its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever. 1John 2:17

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Practical Sanctification

- Test yourselves to *see* if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you—unless indeed you fail the test? [2Cor. 13:5](#)
- Concerned for practical sanctification: did they *demonstrate* that they were in the faith?

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His Love Is Perfected in Us

- Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.
- No one has seen God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us. [1John 4:11, 12](#)

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Prayer an Expression of Trust in Christ

- This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him. [1John 5:14-15](#) (cf. 3:21)

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