

THE FIRST EPISTLE OF JOHN

WHAT WAS HEARD, SEEN, AND TOUCHED

1 That ^awhich was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have ^bseen with our eyes, ^cwhich we have looked upon, and ^dour hands have handled, concerning the ^eWord of life—^{2f}the life ^gwas manifested, and we have seen, ^hand bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was ⁱwith the Father and was manifested to us—³that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is ^jwith the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. ⁴And these things we write to you ^kthat ^lyour joy may be full.

FELLOWSHIP WITH HIM AND ONE ANOTHER

⁵This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that ^mGod is light and in Him is no darkness at all. ⁶ⁿIf we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. ⁷But if we ^owalk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and ^pthe blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is

not in us. ⁹If we ^qconfess our sins, He is ^rfaithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to ^scleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we ^tmake Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

2 My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, ^uwe have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. ²And ^vHe Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but ^walso for the whole world.

THE TEST OF KNOWING HIM

³Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. ⁴He who says, “I know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a ^xliar, and the truth is not in him. ⁵But ^ywhoever keeps His word, truly the love of God ^zis perfected ^zin him. By this we know that we are in Him. ^{6a}He who says he abides in Him ^bought himself also to walk just as He walked.

^{7b}Brethren, I write no new commandment to you, but an old commandment which you have had ^cfrom the beginning. The old commandment is the word which you heard

¹NU, M our ²has been completed ³NU Beloved

1:1 ^a[John 1:1]; 1 John 2:13, 14 ^bLuke 1:2; John 1:14 ^{c2} Pet. 1:16 ^dLuke 24:39; John 20:27 ^e[John 1:1, 4, 14] **1:2** ^fJohn 1:4; [1 John 3:5, 8; 5:20] ^gRom. 16:26; 1 Tim. 3:16 ^hJohn 21:24 ⁱ[John 1:1, 18; 16:28] **1:3** ^jJohn 17:21; 1 Cor. 1:9; 1 John 2:24
1:4 ^kJohn 15:11; 16:24; 1 Pet. 1:8 **1:5** ^lJohn 1:19; 1 John 3:11 ^m[1 Tim. 6:16]; James 1:17 **1:6** ⁿ[John 8:12]; 2 Cor. 6:14; [1 John 2:9–11] **1:7** ^oIs. 2:5 ^p[1 Cor. 6:11] **1:9** ^qPs. 32:5; Prov. 28:13 ^r[Rom. 3:24–26] ^sPs. 51:2 **1:10** ^tJohn 3:33; 1 John 5:10 **2:1** ^uRom. 8:34; 1 Tim. 2:5; Heb. 7:25; 9:24 **2:2** ^v[Rom. 3:25]; Heb. 2:17; 1 John 4:10 ^wJohn 1:29
2:4 ^xRom. 3:4 **2:5** ^yJohn 14:21, 23 ^z[1 John 4:12] **2:6** ^aJohn 15:4 ^bMatt. 11:29; John 13:15; 15:10; 1 Pet. 2:21 **2:7** ^cJohn 13:34; 1 John 3:11, 23; 4:21; 2 John 5

¹from the beginning. ⁸Again, ^da new commandment I write to you, which thing is true in Him and in you, ^ebecause the darkness is passing away, and ^fthe true light is already shining.

⁹He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is in darkness until now. ¹⁰^hHe who loves his brother abides in the light, and ⁱthere is no cause for stumbling in him. ¹¹But he who ^jhates his brother is in darkness and ^kwalks in darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

THEIR SPIRITUAL STATE

- ¹² I write to you, little children,
Because ^lyour sins
are forgiven you for
His name's sake.
- ¹³ I write to you, fathers,
Because you have
known Him *who is*
^mfrom the beginning.
- I write to you, young men,
Because you have overcome
the wicked one.
- I write to you, little children,
Because you have
ⁿknown the Father.
- ¹⁴ I have written to you, fathers,
Because you have
known Him *who is*
from the beginning.
- I have written to you,
young men,
Because ^oyou are strong,
and the word of God
abides in you,
And you have overcome
the wicked one.

¹NU omits *from the beginning* ²NU omits *the*
³NU *you all know.*

DO NOT LOVE THE WORLD

¹⁵^pDo not love the world or the things in the world. ^qIf anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, ^rthe lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. ¹⁷And ^sthe world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

DECEPTIONS OF THE LAST HOUR

¹⁸^tLittle children, ^uit is the last hour; and as you have heard that ^vthe² Antichrist is coming, ^weven now many antichrists have come, by which we know ^xthat it is the last hour. ¹⁹^yThey went out from us, but they were not of us; for ^zif they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but *they went out* ^athat they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us.

²⁰But ^byou have an anointing ^cfrom the Holy One, and ^dyou³ know all things. ²¹I 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.

²²^eWho is a liar but he who denies that ^fJesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son. ²³^gWhoever denies the Son does not have the ^hFather either; ⁱhe who acknowledges the Son has the Father also.

LET TRUTH ABIDE IN YOU

²⁴Therefore let that abide in you ^jwhich ^byou heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, ^kyou also will abide in

2:8 ^dJohn 13:34; 15:12 ^eRom. 13:12; Eph. 5:8; 1 Thess. 5:4 ^f[John 1:9; 8:12; 12:35] **2:9** ^g[1 Cor. 13:2]; 1 John 3:14
2:10 ^h[1 John 3:14] ⁱ2 Pet. 1:10 **2:11** ^j[1 John 2:9; 3:15; 4:20] ^kJohn 12:35; 1 John 1:6 **2:12** ^l[1 Cor. 6:11] **2:13** ^mJohn 1:1;
 Rev. 22:13 ⁿ[Rom. 8:15–17; Gal. 4:6] **2:14** ^oEph. 6:10 **2:15** ^p[Rom. 12:2]; Gal. 1:4; James 1:27 ^qMatt. 6:24; James 4:4
2:16 ^r[Eccl. 5:10, 11] **2:17** ^s1 Cor. 7:31; 1 Pet. 1:24 **2:18** ^tJohn 21:5 ^uRom. 13:11; 1 Tim. 4:1; Heb. 1:2; 1 Pet. 4:7 ^v2 Thess. 2:3
^wMatt. 24:5, 24; 1 John 2:22; 4:3; 2 John 7 ^x1 Tim. 4:1 **2:19** ^yDeut. 13:13 ^zMatt. 24:24 ^{aa}1 Cor. 11:19
2:20 ^{bb}2 Cor. 1:21; Heb. 1:9; 1 John 2:27 ^{cc}Acts 3:14 ^{dd}Prov. 28:5; [John 16:13]; 1 Cor. 2:15, 16
2:22 ^{ee}2 John 7 ^{ff}1 John 4:3 **2:23** ^{gg}John 15:23 ^{hh}John 5:23 ⁱⁱ1 John 4:15; 5:1; 2 John 9
2:24 ^{jj}2 John 5, 6 ^{kk}John 14:23; 1 John 1:3; 2 John 9

the Son and in the Father. ²⁵And this is the promise that He has promised us—eternal life.

²⁶These things I have written to you concerning those who *try to* deceive you. ²⁷But the ^manointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and ⁿyou do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing ^oteaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you ²will abide in Him.

THE CHILDREN OF GOD

²⁸And now, little children, abide in Him, that ³when He appears, we may have ^pconfidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming. ²⁹If you know that He is righteous, you know that ^reveryone who practices righteousness is born of Him.

3 Behold ^swhat manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that ^twe should be called children of ⁴God! Therefore the world does not know ⁵us, ^ubecause it did not know Him. ²Beloved, ^vnow we are children of God; and ^wit has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, ^xwe shall be like Him, for ^ywe shall see Him as He is. ³²And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

SIN AND THE CHILD OF GOD

⁴Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and ^asin is lawlessness. ⁵And you know ^bthat He was manifested ^cto take away our sins, and ^din Him there is no sin. ⁶Whoever abides in Him does not sin.

Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him.

⁷Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. ⁸He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, ^fthat He might destroy the works of the devil. ⁹Whoever has been ⁹born of God does not sin, for ^hHis seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.

THE IMPERATIVE OF LOVE

¹⁰In 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. ¹¹For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, ⁱthat we should love one another, ¹²not as ^jCain *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.

¹³Do not marvel, my brethren, if ^kthe world hates you. ¹⁴We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love ⁶his brother abides in death. ¹⁵Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that ^mno murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

THE OUTWORKING OF LOVE

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

¹lead you astray ²NU omits will ³NU if ⁴NU adds And we are. ⁵M you ⁶NU omits his brother

2:25 [John 3:14–16; 6:40; 17:2, 3; 1 John 1:2 **2:27** ^m[John 14:16; 16:13]; 1 John 2:20 ⁿ[Jer. 31:33] ^o[John 14:16; 1 Cor. 2:12]; 1 Thess. 4:9 **2:28** ^pEph. 3:12; 1 John 3:21; 4:17; 5:14 **2:29** ^qActs 22:14 ^rJohn 7:18; 1 John 3:7, 10 **3:1** ^s[John 3:16; Eph. 2:4–7; 1 John 4:10] ^t[John 1:12] ^uJohn 15:18, 21; 16:3 **3:2** ^v[Is. 56:5; Rom. 8:15, 16] ^w[Rom. 8:18, 19, 23] ^xRom. 8:29; 2 Pet. 1:4 ^y[Ps. 16:11] **3:3** ^z1 John 4:17 **3:4** ^aRom. 4:15; 1 John 5:17 **3:5** ^b1 John 1:2; 3:8 ^c[Is. 53:5, 6]; John 1:29; [2 Cor. 5:21; Heb. 9:26] ^d[2 Cor. 5:21]; 1 John 2:29 **3:8** ^eMatt. 13:38; John 8:44; 1 John 3:10 ^fLuke 10:18; [Heb. 2:14] **3:9** ^gJohn 1:3; 3:3; [1 John 2:29; 4:7; 5:1, 4, 18]; 3 John 11 ^h1 Pet. 1:23 **3:11** ⁱ[John 13:34; 15:12]; 1 John 4:7, 11, 21; 2 John 5 **3:12** ^jGen. 4:4, 8 **3:13** ^k[John 15:18; 17:14] **3:15** ^lMatt. 5:21; John 8:44 ^m[Gal. 5:20, 21; Rev. 21:8] **3:16** ⁿ[John 3:16] ^oJohn 10:11; 15:13; Gal. 2:20

the brethren. ¹⁷But ^pwhoever 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?

¹⁸My little children, ^qlet us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth. ¹⁹And by this we ^rknow ^rthat we are of the truth, and shall ^sassure our hearts before Him. ²⁰^sFor if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things. ²¹Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, ^twe have confidence toward God. ²²And ^uwhatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments ^vand do those things that are pleasing in His sight. ²³And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ ^wand love one another, as He gave ^sus commandment.

THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH AND THE SPIRIT OF ERROR

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

4 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but ^atest the spirits, whether they are of God; because ^bmany false prophets have gone out into the world. ²By this you know the Spirit of God: ^cEvery spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, ³and every spirit that does not confess ^dthat Jesus ⁵Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the *spirit* of the Antichrist, which you have heard

¹NU shall know ²persuade, set at rest ³M omits us

⁴NU omits that ⁵NU omits Christ has come in the flesh

was coming, and is now already in the world.

⁴You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than ^dhe who is in the world. ⁵^eThey are of the world. Therefore they speak *as* of the world, and ^fthe world hears them. ⁶We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. ⁹By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

KNOWING GOD THROUGH LOVE

⁷^hBeloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who ⁱloves is born of God and knows God. ⁸He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹^jIn this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten ^kSon into the world, that we might live through Him. ¹⁰In this is love, ^lnot that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son ^mto be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, ⁿif God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

SEEING GOD THROUGH LOVE

¹²^oNo one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us. ¹³^pBy this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. ¹⁴And ^qwe have seen and testify that ^rthe Father has sent the Son *as* Savior of the world. ¹⁵^sWhoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and ^the who abides in love abides in God, and God ^uin him.

3:17 ^pDeut. 15:7 **3:18** ^qEzek. 33:31 **3:19** ^rJohn 18:37 **3:20** ^s[1 Cor. 4:4, 5] **3:21** ^t[Heb. 10:22; 1 John 2:28; 5:14] **3:22** ^uPs. 34:15; [John 15:7]; 1 John 5:14, 15 ^vJohn 8:29; Heb. 13:21 **3:23** ^wMatt. 22:39 **3:24** ^xJohn 14:23 ^yJohn 14:21; 17:21 ^zJohn 14:17; Rom. 8:9, 14, 16; 1 Thess. 4:8; 1 John 4:13 **4:1** ^{a1}1 Cor. 14:29 ^bMatt. 24:5 **4:2** ^c[Rom. 10:8-10]; 1 Cor. 12:3; 1 John 5:1 **4:4** ^dJohn 14:30; 16:11 **4:5** ^eJohn 3:31 ^fJohn 15:19; 17:14 **4:6** ^g[1 Cor. 2:12-16] **4:7** ^{h1}John 3:10, 11, 23 ^{h2}1 Thess. 4:9; [1 John 3:14] **4:9** ⁱRom. 5:8 ^kIs. 9:6, 7; John 3:16 **4:10** ^lTitus 3:5 ^{m1}John 2:2 **4:11** ⁿMatt. 18:33 **4:12** ^oJohn 1:18; 1 Tim. 6:16; 1 John 4:20 **4:13** ^pJohn 14:20 **4:14** ^qJohn 1:14 ^rJohn 3:17; 4:42; 1 John 2:2 **4:15** ^s[Rom. 10:9]; 1 John 3:23; 4:2; 5:1, 5 **4:16** ^t[1 John 3:24] ^u[John 14:23]

THE CONSUMMATION OF LOVE

¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that ^vwe may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There 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^wWe love ¹Him because He first loved us.

OBEDIENCE BY FAITH

²⁰^xIf 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, ²how can he love God ^ywhom he has not seen? ²¹And ²this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God *must* love his brother also.

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

THE CERTAINTY OF GOD'S WITNESS

⁶This is He who came ⁱby water and blood—Jesus Christ; not only by water, but by water and blood. ^jAnd it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth. ⁷For there are three that bear witness ⁴in heaven: the Father, ^kthe Word, and

the Holy Spirit; ¹and these three are one. ⁸And there are three that bear witness on earth: ^mthe Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree as one.

⁹If we receive ⁿthe witness of men, the witness of God is greater; ^ofor this is the witness of ⁵God which He has testified of His Son. ¹⁰He who believes in the Son of God ^phas the witness in himself; he who does not believe God ^qhas made Him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son. ¹¹And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. ¹²^rHe who has the Son has ⁶life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. ¹³These 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, ⁷and that you may *continue* to believe in the name of the Son of God.

CONFIDENCE AND
COMPASSION IN PRAYER

¹⁴Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that ^sif we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. ¹⁵And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

¹⁶If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin *which does not lead to death*, he will ask, and ^tHe will give him life for those who commit sin not *leading to death*. ^uThere is sin *leading to death*. ^vI do not say that he should pray about

¹NU omits *Him* ²NU *he cannot* ³M *your* ⁴NU, M omit the words from *in heaven* (v. 7) through *on earth* (v. 8). Only 4 or 5 very late mss. contain these words in Greek. ⁵NU *God, that* ⁶*Or the life* ⁷NU omits the rest of v. 13.

4:17 ^v[James 2:13]; 1 John 2:28 **4:19** ^{w1} John 4:10 **4:20** ^x[1 John 2:4] ^{y1} Pet. 1:8; 1 John 4:12 **4:21** ^zLev. 19:18; [Matt. 5:43, 44; 22:39]; John 13:34 **5:1** ^{a1} John 2:22; 4:2, 15 ^bJohn 1:13 **5:2** ^cJohn 15:10; 2 John 6 **5:3** ^dJohn 14:15; 2 John 6 ^eMic. 6:8; Matt. 11:30; 23:4 **5:4** ^fJohn 16:33 ^{g1} John 2:13; 4:4 **5:5** ^{h1} Cor. 15:57 **5:6** ⁱJohn 1:31–34; [Eph. 5:26, 27] ^j[John 14:17] **5:7** ^k[John 1:1] ^lJohn 10:30 **5:8** ^mJohn 15:26 **5:9** ⁿJohn 5:34, 37; 8:17, 18 ^o[Matt. 3:16, 17]; John 5:32, 37 **5:10** ^p[Rom. 8:16]; Gal. 4:6; Rev. 12:17 ^qJohn 3:18, 33; 1 John 1:10 **5:12** ^r[John 3:15, 36; 6:47; 17:2, 3] **5:14** ^s[1 John 2:28; 3:21, 22] **5:16** ^tJob 42:8 ^u[Matt. 12:31] ^vJer. 7:16; 14:11

that. ^{17w}All unrighteousness is sin, and there is sin not *leading* to death.

KNOWING THE TRUE—
REJECTING THE FALSE

¹⁸We know that ^xwhoever is born of God does not sin; but he who has been born of God ^ykeeps¹ ²himself, and the wicked one does not touch him.

¹guards ²NU him

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

²⁰And we know that the ^aSon of God has come and ^bhas given us an understanding, ^cthat we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. ^dThis is the true God ^eand eternal life.

²¹Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.

5:17 ^w1 John 3:4 **5:18** ^x[1 Pet. 1:23]; 1 John 3:9 ^yJames 1:27 **5:19** ^zJohn 12:31; 17:15; Gal. 1:4 **5:20** ^a1 John 4:2
^bLuke 24:45 ^cJohn 17:3; Rev. 3:7 ^dIs. 9:6 ^e1 John 5:11, 12