

BROTHERLY LOVE

BIBLE TEXT : Epistles of John

LESSON 361 Junior Course

MEMORY VERSE: "If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin" (I John 1:7).

BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

1 John 1:1-5:21

¹ That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life;

² (For the life was manifested, and we have seen *it*, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)

³ That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship *is* with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

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

⁵ This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

⁶ If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:

⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

⁸ If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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

¹ My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

² And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for *the sins of* the whole world.

³ And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.

⁴ He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

⁵ But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.

⁶ He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.

⁷ Brethren, I write no new commandment unto you, but an old commandment which ye had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which ye have heard from the beginning.

⁸ Again, a new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in him and in you: because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth.

⁹ He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now.

¹⁰ He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him.

¹¹ But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes.

¹² I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake.

Bible References:

Notes:

The Disciple Whom Jesus Loved

The Apostle John was known as the "disciple whom Jesus loved" when Jesus was on earth. He spent much time with Jesus; and with Peter and James, he enjoyed a closer fellowship with the Saviour than any of the other Apostles.

When John finished writing his Gospel, he said: "These are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name" (John 20:31). John believed that Jesus was the divine Son of God, the Second Person in the Trinity. He wrote: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. . . . And The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us" (John 1:1, 14). That was Jesus.

After living with Jesus for three and a half years, listening to His ministry, seeing the miracles He wrought, and then seeing Him crucified and come back alive in the body, John was convinced that Jesus was indeed the Christ. He gave all his time and attention to prove that fact to others.

When John became an old man, after many years of faithful service to God and man, he was inspired of God to write some letters that have been saved for us in the Bible. He opened the first one with the same thought that he had expressed in his first writing: that Jesus had been from the beginning with God, and had come to earth to dwell with man.

Knowing

John spoke of the things which he had proved. More than thirty times in these letters he used the word "know." He was sure of everything he said. He had proved that Jesus saves from sin and keeps from sin, and he wanted the world to know that truth.

John gave four reasons for writing these letters: to add to the joy of believers; to warn them to guard against sin; to warn them against false teachers; and to strengthen their faith in Christ and assure them of eternal life, so long as they continued to walk with God in the light of His Word, the Bible.

Fullness of Joy

"That your joy may be full." There is no true happiness in the world without a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. Because Jesus is the Son of God, He gives His people power to live without sin. He is the Light of the world, and if we walk with Him we must walk in the light.

"This is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil" (John 3:19). When people do the wrong thing they like to cover it up. Even a little child knows when he has done wrong, and many times he tries

¹³ 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. I write unto you, little children, because ye have known the Father.

¹⁴ I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him *that is* from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one.

¹⁵ Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

¹⁶ 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.

¹⁷ And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

¹⁸ Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.

¹⁹ They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would *no doubt* have continued with us: but *they went out*, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.

²⁰ But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things.

²¹ I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth.

²² Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.

²³ Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: *(but) he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also.*

²⁴ Let that therefore abide in you, which ye have heard from the beginning. If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall continue in the Son, and in the Father.

²⁵ And this is the promise that he hath promised us, *even eternal life.*

²⁶ These *things* have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you.

²⁷ But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.

²⁸ And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.

²⁹ If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him.

¹ Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

² Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

³ And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

⁴ Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

⁵ And ye know that he was manifested to take away

to hide it from his mother or lie about it.

We who are Christians must live so that everything we do can be exposed to the light. If we want to walk with Jesus, we must live as He lived. "He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked" (I John 2:6).

No Sin

John's second reason for writing his epistles was given thus: "My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not" (I John 2:1).

It is hard for a sinner to understand that one can live without sin in this world. Many professing Christians have read what John wrote, and have said that John did not mean what he said. They say it is not possible to live as John said. But John did; and if one man could, all other people can, by the help of God.

John said: "if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin" (I John 1:7). We have to be saved from sin to walk in the light. Then when we walk in that light, the Blood of Jesus cleanseth from all sin – which means sanctification. Even the nature of sin, the inclination to sin that was born in us, is cleansed out of our lives.

Some will read this verse: "If we say that we have no sin, we deceived ourselves, and the truth is not in us" (I John 1:8), and believe that that gives them a right to say that everyone sins. But that verse is written to the people who have not been born again and yet think that they are not sinners. They think they are good enough without being saved. They think they will go to Heaven without repenting. Such people deceive themselves.

The very next verse tells us that "if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (I John 1:9). We have all sinned; and we must admit that we are sinners. The next step is to repent of our sins. Then Jesus forgives, and we live without sin so long as we obey the Lord.

Overcoming the Wicked One

John said he was writing to the young men because they had "overcome the wicked one" (I John 2:13). Being an overcomer means being triumphant. The wicked one is Satan, and when we are Christians we do not yield to the temptations he puts before us. "I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the world of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one" (I John 2:14). Overcomes live above sin.

The reason that many people say that we cannot live without sin is that they love certain sins and want to hold to them. If a person really wants to live without sin, God will give him the power.

Loving the World

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him" (I John 2:15). It may be that the thing a person loves is not wicked, but if he loves it more than he loved God he is doing wrong. God wants first place in our lives; and if we think more of houses, lands, money, power, or honour, than we do of Jesus, the love of the Father is not in us. The things of this world are going to pass away, and if we do not have the love of God in our heart we will

our sins; and in him is no sin.

⁶ Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him.

⁷ Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.

⁸ He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.

⁹ Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

¹⁰ In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.

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

¹² Not as Cain, *who* was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous.

¹³ Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you.

¹⁴ We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not *his* brother abideth in death.

¹⁵ Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.

¹⁶ Hereby perceive we the love *of God*, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down *our* lives for the brethren.

¹⁷ But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels *of compassion* from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?

¹⁸ My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

¹⁹ And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him.

²⁰ For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things.

²¹ Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, *then* have we confidence toward God.

²² And whatsoever we ask, we receive of 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.

²⁴ And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.

¹ Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

² Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:

³ And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that *spirit* of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.

⁴ Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

⁵ They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them.

⁶ We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the

have nothing left. But if we do the will of the Father, we shall "abide" forever.

False Teachers

John's third reason for writing was to warn the people against false teachers. The church had been established for only a short time, and Satan was coming, in one way or another, to rob the people of their faith, just as he is doing today.

One way Satan comes is to try to make people doubt that Jesus is the Son of God, that He was in the beginning with God, and that by Him the worlds were made. But John believed it, and he said that anyone who does not believe it is a liar, an antichrist. Think of all the people who go to church and who admit that Jesus was a great teacher and prophet, but who believe that He was but a man as we are. Those people are antichrist. If you study evolution in school, remember that it is but man's theory, and is not true. Scientists keep changing their minds about the origin of the earth and its inhabitants, but the Word of God never changes. Remember, the Bible says of Jesus: "All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made" (John 1:3).

The Spirit of Truth

Jesus said that after He went back to Heaven He would send the Comforter, the Spirit of truth. "When he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth" (John 16:13). John speaks of the Spirit of truth as the "unction from the Holy One"; also "the anointing which ye have received of him" which "abideth in you, . . . and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him" (I John 2:20, 27).

So we see that John was preaching three spiritual experiences as he wrote his epistles: the forgiveness of sins, justification; the cleansing of the heart, sanctification; and the baptism of the Holy Ghost — "the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you."

John's Description of a Christian

"Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is" (I John 3:2). If we are the "sons" of God we will have the characteristics of our Father. "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin" (I John 3:9).

There is a difference between the children of God and the children of Satan. We look at people who say they are Christians, and we sometimes wonder how they differ from the world. "In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother" (I John 3:10).

Does it seem very important to you that you love your brother? The Word tells us that "whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer" (I John 3:15). And no unrepentant murderer will go to Heaven. We prove our love for our brother by our actions. "My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth" (I John 3:18).

If we are living as God wants us to live, He will hear and answer our prayers. "Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God. And whatsoever we ask, we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his

spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.

⁸ He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

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

¹⁰ Herein 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 ought also to love one another.

¹² No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³ Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.

¹⁴ And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son *to be* the Saviour of the world.

¹⁵ Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.

¹⁶ And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.

¹⁷ Herein is our love made perfect, 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 casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

¹⁹ We love him, because he first loved us.

²⁰ If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?

²¹ And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.

¹ Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that 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 grievous.

⁴ For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, *even* our faith.

⁵ Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

⁶ This is he that came by water and blood, *even* Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth.

⁷ For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.

⁸ And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.

⁹ If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son.

¹⁰ He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.

commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight" (I John 3:21,22). And when we keep His commandments, His Spirit will bear witness with our spirit that we are His children.

QUESTIONS

1. By what title was the Apostle John known?
2. Why did he write the Gospel of John?
3. What is the key word of the Epistles of John?
4. Give three reasons why John wrote these Epistles.
5. Why do people love darkness rather than light?
6. How are we Christians to walk in this world?
7. What will Jesus do for us if we confess our sins?
8. What did John say about people who love the world?
9. What did John call people who do not believe that Jesus is the Son of God?
10. What did John say about loving our brother?

¹¹ And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

¹² He that hath the Son hath life; *and* he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

¹³ These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

¹⁴ And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:

¹⁵ And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

¹⁶ If any man see his brother sin a sin *which is* not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it.

¹⁷ All unrighteousness is sin: and there is a sin not unto death.

¹⁸ We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not.

¹⁹ *And* we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness.

²⁰ And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, *even* in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

²¹ Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.

2 John 1:1-13

¹ The elder unto the elect lady and her children, whom I love in the truth; and not I only, but also all they that have known the truth;

² For the truth's sake, which dwelleth in us, and shall be with us for ever.

³ Grace be with you, mercy, *and* peace, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.

⁴ I rejoiced greatly that I found of thy children walking in truth, as we have received a commandment from the Father.

⁵ And now I beseech thee, lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment unto thee, but that which we had from the beginning, that we love one another.

⁶ And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it.

⁷ For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.

⁸ Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward.

⁹ Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.

¹⁰ If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into *your* house, neither bid him God speed:

¹¹ For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.

¹² Having many things to write unto you, I would not *write* with paper and ink: but I trust to come unto you, and speak face to face, that our joy may be full.

¹³ The children of thy elect sister greet thee. Amen.

3 John 1:1-14

¹ The elder unto the wellbeloved Gaius, whom I love in

the truth.

² Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.

³ For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth.

⁴ I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.

⁵ Beloved, thou doest faithfully whatsoever thou doest to the brethren, and to strangers;

⁶ Which have borne witness of thy charity before the church: whom if thou bring forward on their journey after a godly sort, thou shalt do well:

⁷ Because that for his name's sake they went forth, taking nothing of the Gentiles.

⁸ We therefore ought to receive such, that we might be fellowhelpers to the truth.

⁹ I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not.

¹⁰ Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth *them* out of the church.

¹¹ Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that doeth good is of God: but he that doeth evil hath not seen God.

¹² Demetrius hath good report of all *men*, and of the truth itself: yea, and we *also* bear record; and ye know that our record is true.

¹³ I had many things to write, but I will not with ink and pen write unto thee:

¹⁴ But I trust I shall shortly see thee, and we shall speak face to face. Peace *be* to thee. *Our* friends salute thee. Greet the friends by name.