

Letters of John

Jan 14, 2024, 1 John Ch 2B & 3

Logos Class. Mod 5 Room 1

Class Schedule for the next few weeks

- ✓ *Dec 31, 2023 – YE 2023 Review & Letters of John- 1 John Ch 1*
- ✓ *Jan 7, 2024 – 1 John Ch 2A*
- ✓ *Jan 14, 2024 – 1 John Ch 2B & 3*
- *Jan 21, 2024 – 1 John Ch 4*
- *Jan 28, 2024 – 1 John Ch 5*

I plan to continue both In-Person and Zoom in 2024

Recap of Last week

- We discussed the Israel update
 - Two brief updates – Israel in front of the Intl Criminal Court, and the US/UK response to the Houthi Rebel aggression
- Other world happenings related to America or prophecy
- And 1 John Chapter 2 A
 - Did not finish so we will pick up where we left off
- Key points
 - Letter written to believers so that would not <continue to> Sin
 - Keeping the commands means we know Him – Obedience
 - Living as Jesus did
 - Love and Hatred for fellow believers
 - Danger in denying the Son

Obedience – A much maligned word in our culture

Big Q: Why is this important for a Christian?

*The **LAB Commentary** lists these reasons:*

- *It acknowledges God's sovereignty over our lives (Lev 18:4)*
- *It leads to blessings (Deut 6:24, 12:8, 28:2; Josh 1:7; 2 Chr 31:21)*
- *It demonstrates Love for God (John 14: 15,24)*
- *It is how Christ lived (John 8:29; Heb 13:17)*
- *It results in fulfilling relationships (Eph 6:1, 5:6; Heb 13:17)*
- *It is evidence we truly "Know " God (1 John 2:3)*
- *It reveals our Destiny (Rom 6:16)*
- *It fulfills the Great Commission (Matt 28:20)*

Do you sense any steps of obedience God wants you to take today?

1 John 2:20-23 Lies and Liars

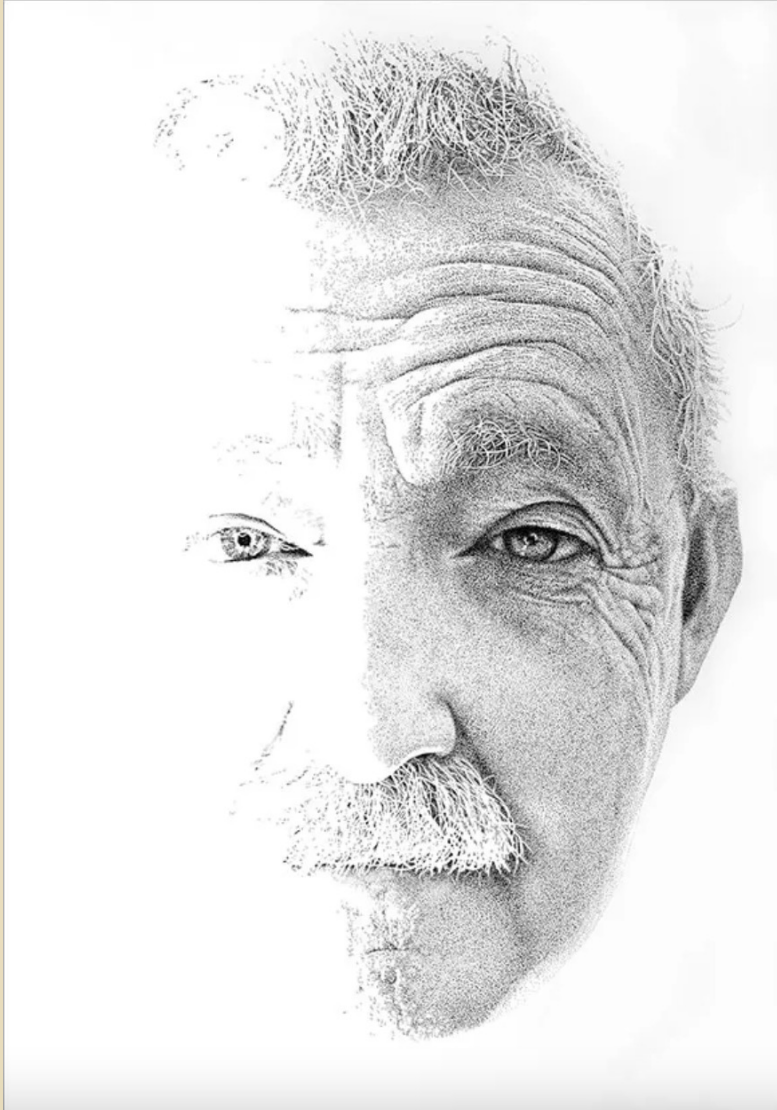
*²⁰ But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know **the truth**.*

*²¹ I do not write to you because you do not know the truth, **but because you do know it and because **no lie comes from the truth.**** >>Pointillism example*

²² Who is the liar? It is whoever denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a person is the antichrist—denying the Father and the Son.

²³ No one who denies the Son has the Father; whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also.

Pointillism Example



Painting by Dots

- As dots increase, the clearer the picture becomes
- **Each dot is pure color**
- Fully finished, the pictures are dramatically clear
- *Extend this to the church*
 - Picture of Christ
 - Each dot represents a person using his/her Spiritual Gifts
 - If they are not using them, there is no dot

The Church the World sees...*or should see*

- *Picture this view of the Church with everyone using their gifts to build up the body. Every dot a person*
- *Let's say this is 2 Million dots...what if 50% were not using their gifts*
- *What about 80% not using them?*
- *What about you, what about me?*
- *How faint does the picture get before it is unrecognizable?*
- *Another thought is the picture painted by the Pastors and teachers view of Christ*
- *When do the missing dots render the truth of the picture false?*



1 John Ch 2:24-27 Pay Attention and be Vigilant

24 As for you, see that what you have heard from the beginning remains in you. If it does, you also will remain in the Son and in the Father.

*25 And this is what he promised us—**eternal life.***

*26 I am writing these things to you **about those who are trying to lead you astray.***

*27 As for you, the **anointing** you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you.*

*But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as **that anointing is real, not counterfeit**—just as it has taught you, remain in him.*

Always remember this...

Always remember these things...

- *God is God...and we are not*
- *God is Truth...and His Word is Truth*
- *Jesus will always be God's Son, no matter what anyone says*
- *His sacrifice on the cross and atonement for our sin is both permanent and sufficient for all time*
- *Truth (Anyone's truth) will never contradict these basic teachings of the Bible*

1 John Ch 2:28-29 God's Children and Sin

*28 And now, dear children, **continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming.***

29 If you know that he is righteous, you know that everyone who does what is right has been born of him.

1 John Ch 3:1 What a privilege and Love

*3 See what **great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!** The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.*

Children of God – LAB Commentary

John provides a wonderful biblical image of our true identity as “Children of God”. How does it happen? When does it happen?

- *It is a privilege reserved only for those who have “received” the Gift of Christ (believed in Him) – John 1:12*
- *It becomes a reality the moment we are born again – John 3:3, 1 Peter 1:23*
- *We are **adopted** by God – and recipients of His infinite, lavish love – 1 John 3:1*
- *We are **heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ** - Rom 8:17*
- *We are **expected to “live up” to our identity** as God’s children – Eph 5:8*
- *We are **disciplined** if we go astray – Hebrews 12:5-11*

Let us hold fast to this privileged relationship, remaining loyal to God

1 John Ch 3:2-3 Children of God

*2 Dear friends, now we are children of God, and **what we will be has not yet been made known**. But we (do) know that **when Christ appears** (2nd coming), we shall be **like him**, for we shall see him as he is.*

*3 All who have this **hope** in him **purify themselves, just as he is pure**.*

***There is a lot to unpack here so I will start with a
paraphrase***

Scottish Paraphrase from early 1900s

Writer William Barclay quotes a Scottish Paraphrase, source not cited, that does a good job of capturing the essence of 1 John 3:1-2

*Behold the amazing gift of love the Father hath bestow'd
On us, the sinful sons of men, to call us sons of God!*

*Conceal'd as yet this honour lies, by this dark world unknown,
A world that knew not when he came, ev'n God's eternal Son.*

*High is the rank we now possess; but higher we shall rise;
Though what we shall hereafter be is hid from mortal eyes.*

Our souls, we know, when he appears, shall bear his image bright;

For all his glory, full disclos'd, shall open to our sight.

A hope so great, and so divine, may trials well endure;

And purge the soul from sense and sin, as Christ Himself is pure.

1 John Ch 3:4-8. The Obligation of Purity

⁴ *Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is **lawlessness**.*

⁵ *But you know that he **appeared** so that he might take away our sins. **And in him is no sin.***

⁶ *No one who lives **in him** keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him.*

⁷ *Dear children, do not let anyone **lead** you astray. The one who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.*

⁸ *The one who **does what is sinful** is of the **devil**, because the **devil** has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.*

1 John Ch 3:9-10. How can we tell?

⁹ No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in them; they cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God.

¹⁰ This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are:

Anyone who does not do what is right is not God's child, nor is anyone who does not love their brother and sister.

1 John Ch 3:11-15 Marks of Children of God

¹¹ For this is the message you heard from the **beginning**: We should love one another.

¹² Do not be like **Cain**, who belonged to the **evil one** and murdered his brother. **And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil, and his brothers were righteous.**

¹³ Do not be surprised, my brothers and sisters, if the world hates you.

¹⁴ We know that **we have** passed from death to life, because we love each other. **Anyone who does not love remains in death.**

¹⁵ Anyone who hates a brother or sister is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life residing in him.

1 John Ch 3:16-18 Love in Action

*¹⁶ This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ **laid down** his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.*

¹⁷ If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?

*¹⁸ Dear children, **let us not love with words or speech (alone) but with actions and in truth.***

1 John Ch 3:19-24 Anxiety and confidence

19 This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence:

20 If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.

21 Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God

22 and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep his commands and do what pleases him.

23 And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us.

24 The one who keeps God's commands lives in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

Belief>>Faith>>Trust>>Obedience

1 John Ch 4:1 Test the Spirits

*4 Dear friends, **do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.***

We will pick up next week in Ch 4

Any Q's or Comments?

Next Week

- *Come back again*
- *Read 1 John Chapter 4*
- *Pray for each other...there is a lot going on*
- *Pray for Israel and the Peace of Jerusalem*
- *Pray for our country and its leaders*
- *Pray for our State and County and their leaders*
- *Pray for our Church, its Pastors, Teachers, and Members that we would be faithful to His Call and Direction*
- *Pray that the sermon series on a Biblical Worldview will make a difference in people's lives.*