



# Letters of John

Jan 21, 2024, 1 John Ch 4

*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*
- *Feb 4, 2024 - 2 John*
- *Feb 11, 2024 – 3 John*

# Quick Update on Israel and Wars

- Israel is moving deep into Southern Gaza, in Khan Younis where many terrorist higher-ups live...destroying tunnels, weapons, and facilities
- Hamas still has over 100 hostages but is sending videos threatening to behead them if Israel does not stop “killing civilians” in Gaza
- Hezbollah and Iran are striking Israel in the North, and Israel is striking back hard in Syria and Lebanon killing terrorists and targeting Hamas, Iranian, and Hezbollah military leaders.
- This war is becoming more dangerous in the North.
- Iran has sent missiles to attack Pakistan and American bases in Iraq
- Houthi are attacking Ships in the Red Sea, and being attacked by the US and UK
- Israel is cleaning out terrorist camps in Judea and Samaria as well. Tension HIGH

# Recap of Last week...1 John Ch 3

- *The Privilege(s) of being a Child of God*
- *The Possibilities of the Christian Life*
- *The Obligation of Purity*
- *Marks of a Child of God and resentment of the world to the Christian way*
- *Do we keep His commandments?*
- *Do we believe in His NAME, and do we Love one another?*
- *Abiding in Him and listening to the Holy Spirit, **but not all spirits...***

1 John Ch 3:24 to 4:1

## *Test the Spirits*

***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.***

*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.***

# Some Signs of False Teachers and Cults

- 1. Demand a central authority to make decisions. It will not be rooted in scripture but in a person or group*
- 2. Claim to have “new” truth or special revelations by God directly to them that will counter or alter Christianity and its orthodox claims.*
- 3. Attack the Christian “Church” by showing all the failings, inconsistencies, and different doctrines to show the regular “orthodox” church cannot be the true church.*
- 4. Twist Christian Doctrine to establish their authority, especially doctrines of the Trinity, the Deity of Christ. Rely on the wording of particular translations/versions of the Bible*
- 5. Undermine Scripture by stringing together unrelated verses with gross context differences to prove an unsupported viewpoint or “truth”*
- 6. Promote Salvation through Works/Actions such as required meetings, training sessions, and groups as necessary for acceptance by God.*
- 7. Undermine the assurance of Eternal Life through God’s Grace and Provision. Typically stressing strict adherence to their teaching and practices or you will fall out.*

# 1 John Ch 4:2-3

<sup>2</sup> *This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God,*

<sup>3</sup> *but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming **and even now is already in the world.***



# William Barclay says this about these verses:

- ***To be of God, a Spirit must acknowledge that Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah***
  - *To deny that is to deny that He is the center of all history, the one for whom all history was preparation*
  - *It is to deny that He is the fulfillment of the promises of God*
  - *It is to deny His Kingship and Lordship*
- ***To be of God, a Spirit must acknowledge that Jesus has come in the flesh***
  - *To deny this is to deny that Jesus can ever be our pattern or example for Life*
  - *To deny this is to deny that Jesus can be our High Priest and mediator between us and God*
  - *To deny this is to deny that Jesus can be our savior*
  - *To deny this is to deny the possibility of salvation of the body*
  - *To deny this is to deny that there is any real union between God and Humans. Jesus is fully God and fully human*



# 1 John Ch 4:4-6      Key Insights into Faith and Life

*<sup>4</sup> You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because **the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.***

*<sup>5</sup> They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them.*

*<sup>6</sup> We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us.*

***This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood.***

*Pastor's Sermon Series on the Pillars of a Christian Worldview*

# 1 John Ch 4:7-12 God's Love (Agape Love)

***7 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.***

***8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.***

***9 This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.***

***10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.***

***11 Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.***

***12 No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is made complete in us***

# 1 John Ch 4:13-16 *Do we abide in Him?*

*<sup>13</sup> This is how we know that we live in him and he in us:  
**He has given us of (a share of..) his Spirit.***

*<sup>14</sup> And we **have seen and testify** that the **Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.***

*<sup>15</sup> If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God.*

*<sup>16</sup> **And so** we know and rely on the love God has for us.  
**God is love.** Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.*

# 1 John Ch 4:17-18 Love without fear

*17 This is how love is made **complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment**: In this world, we are like Jesus.*

*18 There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.*

# *God is Love* – One of the greatest verses in the Bible

## *It explains so much...*

- *Creation*
- *Free-will*
- *Providential Good*
- *Redemption – Seek and Save that which is lost*
- *Life beyond physical life on earth*
  - ***Jesus is the bringer of life***
  - ***Restorer of lost relationships***
  - ***Savior of the World***
- *Jesus is the Son of God*

1 John Ch 4:19-21    *Love GOD? Love each other*

***19 We love because he first loved us.***

***20 Whoever claims to love God **yet hates a brother or sister is a liar.** For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen.***

***21 And he has given us this command: **Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.*****



# Next Week

- *Read 1 John Chapter 5*
- *Pray for each other... a lot is 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 will be faithful to His Call and Direction*
- *Pray that the sermon series on a Biblical Worldview will make a difference in people's lives.*