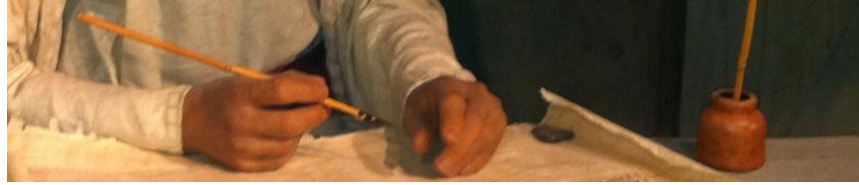


The 1st Letter of

John



Lesson 1-Walking in the Light and Confessing our Sins

Focus: 1 John 1:1-2:6

- **Introduction:** The letters of John were written by the Apostle John, as all the earlier church leaders generally attested to, including Polycarp and Papias in the early 2nd century. Polycarp even knew John in his youth. Although his name is not mentioned in this book, there is plenty of other evidence stylistically in his writing, theologically, and again externally from witness of others which makes the strong case for him being the author. These letters were well accepted at an early time and understood by church leaders to be from the hands of the Apostle John. This is the same John who wrote the gospel of John and the book of Revelation. He was known as the “disciple whom Jesus loved” and who had a very close relationship with Jesus when He was here on earth (John 13:23; 21:20). This same John also focused a lot on God’s love in his writings. Although we do not have an exact date for the writing of John’s letters, **we do have a general agreement as to the order in which John’s writings were produced.** The **Gospel of John would have been first** (estimated between AD 60-90), **the letters of John would have been second, and the book of Revelation is considered to be the last** writing produced by the Apostle John (from the Island of Patmos in the Aegean sea just off the coast line of Turkey). Revelation is often thought to have been produced in AD 90. A person might guess then that sometime between A.D. 60-90 this letter was produced. Some have tried to put it later (from AD 95-110), while others mark it earlier from AD 60-65. The fact is, we don’t have an exact date.

John’s ministry focused a lot towards the Jewish communities (See Galatians 2:9), but the truths he shared also extended to others from a non-Jewish background as well. It is evident and understood from history that **John’s ministry focused a lot on the churches in Asia Minor** (the area known as Turkey today). It is basically agreed on by most all scholars that **this letter of John was written from Ephesus** (the same place where it is believed that John’s Gospel was written from). And it would have been circulated to the churches throughout Asia Minor to which John had a special ministry. It is also noteworthy that the book of Revelation would have been circulated in that area as well, “to the seven churches which are in Asia” (See Revelation 1:4,11). This is primarily where John’s ministry was focused. This letter encouraged the believers to follow the light, love, and life which God had called them to experience, and it warned believers not to fall in Satan’s traps of worldliness and false teachings.

As to the death of John, we have no record. We do not know at what time he died, and he is the only one of the Apostles who as we know did not die a Martyrs death. Instead, he was made a prisoner on the island of Patmos where he penned the book of Revelation after the vision God gave to him, and where he lived out the rest of his days. The idea that John’s life would end this way was a little bit hinted at by Jesus when He spoke to Peter about Peter’s death (See John 21:18-24).

- **The Testimony of John the Apostle and that of the other Apostles (v.1-5)**

- A testimony was given of what these men had touched and tasted and handled themselves. These people knew of the goodness and love of God! They knew of the truth and the righteousness of God! And they knew that in God there was “no darkness AT ALL” (v.5). John (and the others as well) testified to what they had seen and experienced in God! They wanted us to know that God was love! His ways were ways of light and truth only! Before Peter’s death he also gave his own testimony as to the goodness and the truth of God (See 2 Peter 1:14-18). Paul gave his testimony numerous times (1 Cor. 15:1-8; Acts 26:3-26).
- We must “**taste and see**” that Jesus Christ is good; the truth and love of God! (Ps. 34:8)
- **Walking in the Light of Heaven’s Truth and renouncing our sins (v.6-10)**
 - We are to confess our sins and to not hide them. We cannot pretend that we do not have sins, for truly, we do and have had sin in our lives. We must approach to Jesus Christ and see our sins for what they really are in the light of His perfection and righteousness. Then we can receive the true healing and forgiveness from God for our sins (See John 3:16-21). The Holy Spirit is leading us to this so that we can be cleansed, healed, and saved by Jesus Christ! (See John 16:8; Matthew 1:21).
- **Walking in the loving commandments of God (2:1-6)**
 - (v.1,2) This truth is written so that we would NOT sin. The whole truth of God’s word is that we would turn away from our sins and seek God! (See John 8:10-12; Psalm 119:11). However, if we do sin, God has mercy for us, as we repent of it! (See also Hebrews 4:14-16). Christ’s blood was shed for every soul in the world. The gift of forgiveness is paid for! However, we have to receive the gift to receive the benefit of it! (See Revelation 3:20).
 - (v.3-6) Those who truly know and love God will and must live by His holy commandments! His commandments are love and truth! Therefore, we must live by them (See John 14:15,21; Psalm 111:7,8; 19:7; Romans 13:9). We must keep and obey God’s word for us to be able to grow in His love!! We should walk as Jesus walked and follow His perfect manner of life! That should be the aim of every Christian! (So that we can grow into such, by His grace and power—See John 15:4,5; Phil. 4:13).

Question (s) for the Heart:

Will you choose to walk in the light of truth as Jesus is in the light of truth? _____