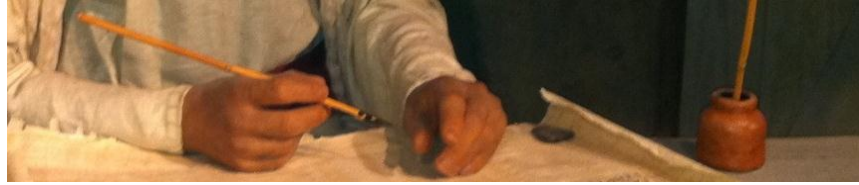


The 1<sup>st</sup> Letter of

# John



## Lesson 2-Walking Faithfully in the Light even 'til Death

*Focus: 1 John 2:7-29*

### ➤ **Obeying His Commandments; Walking in the Light of God's Love (v.7-11)**

- We must walk in the light of God's love by obey His commandments and loving our neighbors. God's laws are laws of love! The commandments in the Bible are to Love the Lord your God with all that is in you, and to love your neighbor as yourself (See Matthew 22:36-40). "Love is the fulfilling of the Law" (Romans 13:8-10) because true love does not do wrong to its neighbor, or to God. Obedience to God should be based upon love, and love must be obedient to God; otherwise, it is not love at all (See also what Christ said on this, John 14:15, 21).
- (v.7,8) It is not a "new commandment" to share these things (v.7), but has always been said by God to His people since the very beginning (Deuteronomy 6:5; Leviticus 19:18). John here says though (v.8) that he does give some kind of new commandment. It's not real new in its basic message, but old; only one aspect is new. The new part is that this idea is connected to Jesus Christ, "the true light" which is "now shining" (v.8) **Jesus Christ is that "true light."** Christ came into the world to reveal the light of God's love, character, and holy laws in person. Jesus is the "light of the world" (John 8:12; 9:5). Christ's glorious character is now shining out to us and we are to walk in that light, following His ways!
- (v.9-11) Hatred for a brother or sister in the human family is sin. We should have not hatred in our hearts. Jesus said we must love and forgive even our enemies (Matthew 5:43-48). As Christ was dying on the cross, He prayed for his enemies. Even the early Christian Martyr, Steven, was praying for his enemies as they were putting him to death, that they still would have an opportunity to be saved (See **Luke 23:34; Acts 7:60**). Jesus taught us many things about the dangers of hatred, bitterness, and anger being like the sin of murder, and about the necessity for us to practice forgiveness in our lives (See Matthew 5:21-24; 6:12-15). Anger is not the same as hatred. You could be angry with someone you love, about something. You might not be happy with them at all, at the time, but you don't hate them; you still love them. However, these things often go together; anger that is not appeased, concealed and stored up hatred whether provoked or not, and bitter feelings of heart for another. Jesus says to let those things go and to find forgiveness for them. See also **Ephesians 4:30-32**.

### ➤ **Every member of the family of God, whether big or small is addressed here (v.12-14)**

- Every person is written to because every person is important as a member of the family of God. All people, whether big or little, **must learn to obey God's holy laws of love and to walk in the light of the truth.** Children should be taught these principles diligently by their parents, and others, from their very youngest age! They should learn to look to

Jesus and to follow His light in everything! Adults are not too old to begin learning these things either, and should surrender their lives to Jesus Christ, to follow Him daily!

- **Love of the world should be crushed out of our lives, as God's people (v.15-17)**
  - We are not to follow the world and its evil lusts, principles, and desires. We should follow Jesus Christ and His holy things! We should seek for God's holy things and look to Him in everything! The attitude and mindset of the sinful world is not of God. Therefore, we should seek to learn the mind of Christ and not chase after the world with its vanities.
- **Be not an "anti-Christ" but be for Jesus Christ (v.18-23)**
  - John mentions here those who have the spirit of anti-Christ; that is, those who go out away from Christ and who live by the principles which are entirely opposite from Christ. These deny and reject Jesus as the Christ, Messiah, or Savior. But, some who do not deny Jesus by their words openly are denying Him more subtly by their evil actions, thoughts, and suggestions to others; though their mouth may confess Christ, yet their life denies Him! We must be careful not to follow after such examples of evil. We should be careful to have the truth Spirit of Jesus Christ and to obey His words! Those who do not obey His words will eventually just go out, or be cast out from among those people who are called by Christ's name!
  - (v.22,23) The Father and the Son are one and if you take one, then you must take the other (See also John 8:16-19, 28,29).
- **We are to continue in Christ and His righteousness (v.24-29)**
  - The true Children of God are to be the followers of God and His righteousness! We are to remain in God and not depart from Him for there is no other way to have life! God's way is the only righteous way and the only pathway to life eternal! Though we have once heard and been taught the truths of Heaven, and perhaps do not have to be taught again, yet to refresh our minds by recalling the truths of heaven and sharing them with others is essential!
  - (v.26) Some were being seduced away from the faith, as is Satan's work to try and do to us! We must not allow Satan to seduce or draw us away from the faith, after his own evil course and devising! Stick to the word of God! Follow its precepts and be kept safe in Jesus Christ until that very day when He returns again for us all! Let us not be found ashamed at His coming (v.28; Matthew 7:20-23; Revelation 6:15-17).

*Question (s) for the Heart:*

**Is it your prayerful desire to walk in the light of God's truth and to be faithful to the very end of life?**

---