

NEW TESTAMENT SURVEY

GENERAL LETTER

1, 2 AND 3 JOHN AND JUDE

LESSON 26

LESSON OUTLINE

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1, 2 AND 3 JOHN

I. INTRODUCTION TO 1, 2 AND 3 JOHN

Who wrote 1, 2 and 3 John.

The three letters, 1 John, 2 John and 3 John were written by John. This is John, the son of Zebedee. He is also called John, the Beloved. The writer does not use his own name. However, he tells how he had been with Jesus.

When the letters were written.

These letters were all written about the same time. They were written near the end of John's life. They were written between 70 and 100 A.D.

Why these letters were written.

When John wrote, the Church and Judaism had separated. There were many Gentiles in the Church. Some of those in the Church were not true Christians. They taught things which were not right. They are called false teachers.

Some false teachers taught Gnosticism. Those who believe in Gnosticism are called Gnostics.

Gnostics believe all matter is evil. Matter is anything a person can touch or see. This means that the body is evil. To get away from evil, a person must get away from matter. A person must get above the things of the human body. One way to get above the sinful matter is through learning or knowledge.

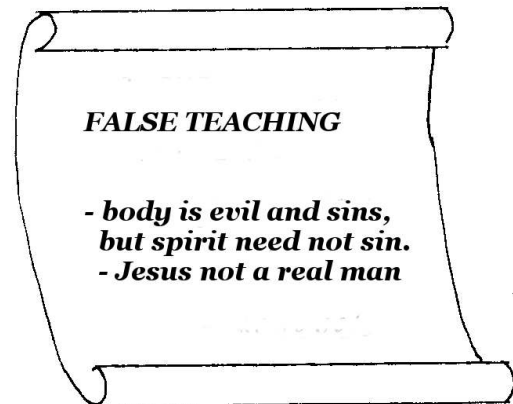
Gnostics believed that the body and spirit were not friends. They said the body sins, but the spirit need not sin. They said people could not control what the body did. This gave them an excuse to keep on sinning.

Because Gnostics believed the body and spirit were not friends, they could not see how a pure God could live in an evil body. The Gnostics said that Jesus Christ was not a real man. They said the Spirit came into Jesus when He was baptized and left again before He died on the cross.

John wrote to show that Jesus Christ is real. John had seen Jesus and had touched Him. Jesus was a real man, and Jesus was God. Jesus is God.¹ John also wrote to show that a person who belongs to Christ will live in fellowship with God. A person cannot be a child of God and keep on sinning.

The second letter of John was written to a lady. This lady may have been a lady who had church services in her house. This word "lady" may also mean the Church.

The third letter was written to a man called Gaius. Gaius was a Minister of a church. John warned Gaius about another man, Diotrephes. Diotrephes made himself the boss in the church. Diotrephes spoke against John. He did not take missionaries into his house. Diotrephes did not want others in the church to take missionaries into



¹M.C.Tenny, New Testament Survey, pp. 376,377.

their homes. He tried to put them out of the church. John told Gaius that Diotrephes was doing wrong.

How the Gospel of John and 1 John are alike.

Why the Gospel of John was written.

“But these are written so you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. When you put your trust in Him, you will have life that lasts forever through His name.” John 20:31 (N.L.T.).

Why the first letter of John was written:

“I have written these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God. Now you can know you have life that lasts forever.” 1 John 5:13 (N.L.T.).

The Gospel was written that a person could **have** life. The first letter was written that a person may **know** he has life.

Main thoughts in the letters.

First John. The main thought is fellowship. The key words are: love, know and fellowship. The key phrase is **“my little children.”** The key verse is 1 John 5:13.

Second John. The main thought is **knowing the truth.** The word “Truth” is used for the Scriptures.

Third John. The main thought is **“taking missionaries into your home.”**

II. 1 JOHN

A. Outline of 1 John.

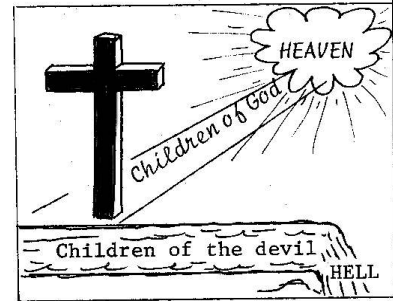
1. Jesus Christ, 1 John 1:1-4.
2. Fellowship, 1 John 1:5 - 2:11.
3. Love, 1 John 2:12-17.
4. Antichrist, 1 John 2:18-29.
5. Children of God, 1 John 3:1-24.
6. Testing the spirits, 1 John 4:1-6.
7. Love, 1 John 4:7- 5:3.

8. Power over sin, 1 John 5:4-9.
9. Know, 1 John 5:10-21.

B. Lessons in 1 John.

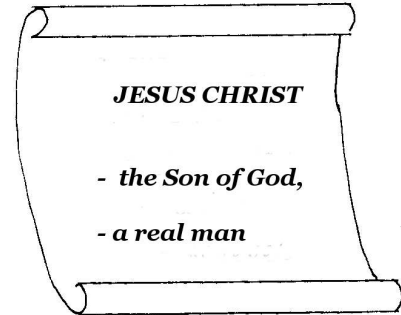
1. Jesus Christ lived in the world, 1 John 1:1-4.

John showed that Jesus Christ was the Son of God. John showed that Jesus was a man. John said he touched Christ. John heard Him speak and John had seen Him with his eyes.

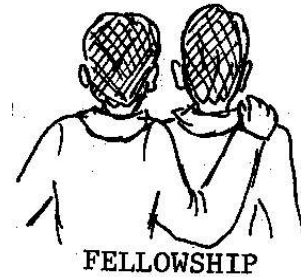


2. Fellowship in the Light, 1 John 1:5 - 2:11.

God is Light. There is no sin in God. To have fellowship with God a Christian must be right with God.



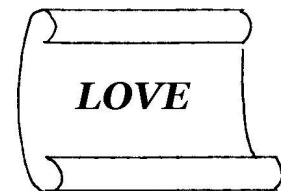
When a Christian is right with God he walks in the Light. His sin is forgiven through the blood of Jesus Christ. If a Christian sins, he must confess the sin. Jesus Christ will go to the Father for the Christian. The blood of Jesus Christ will cleanse him of the sin. Then the Christian can have fellowship with God again. When a Christian has fellowship with God, he will also have fellowship with other Christians.



3. Love, 1 John 2:12-17; 4:7 - 5:3.

John speaks much about love. First he shows that a Christian cannot love God and the world at the same time.

Further, John shows what God is. God is love. God loved us before we loved Him. When we really love God we will not be ashamed to stand in front of God. There is no fear in love. When a person loves God, he obeys God. When we love one another we show that God lives in us.



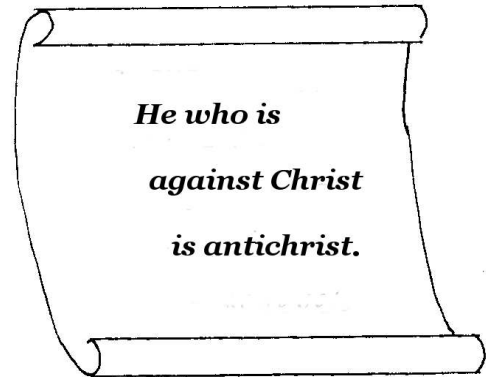
4. Children of God, 1 John 3:1-24.

John shows how the children of God are different from the children of the devil.

The children of God do not keep on sinning. They love each other. The children of God show love by doing good. They are right with God and they know they are right with God. The Holy Spirit is in the children of God.

5. False teachers, 1 John 2:18-29; 4:1-6; 5:4-9.

John shows that false teachers can be in the church. John wrote much against the group who said that Jesus Christ did not come as a man. John said that if a person did not believe Jesus Christ came as a man he was against Christ, or he was antichrist. This is a way to test if a person is teaching right.

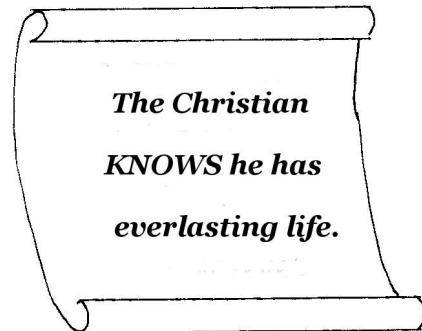


Then John showed that the child of God has power over the sins of the world. His will is not strong, but God (the Holy Spirit) lives in the child of God. God will help the child of God overcome sin.

6. Know, 1 John 5:10-21.

John did not preach a “may-be” religion. In these verses he lists the things a Christian knows.

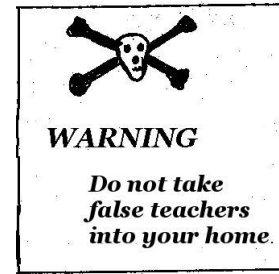
- 1) The Christian knows Jesus is the Son of God, 1 John 5:10.
- 2) The Christian knows the person who has the Son has life. That person knows he has everlasting life, 1 John 5:12,13.
- 3) The Christian knows God will hear him when he prays, 1 John 5:14.
- 4) The Christian knows that he will not keep on sinning, 1 John 5:18.
- 5) The Christian knows he belongs to God, 1 John 5:19.
- 6) The Christian knows that the Son of God has come, 1 John 5:20.



III. 2 JOHN

Lessons in 2 John.

John writes about Truth and love. These go together. The Christian who loves God, obeys God. The Truth is the Scriptures. The Scriptures show what is truth. The Scriptures show what is the right teaching.



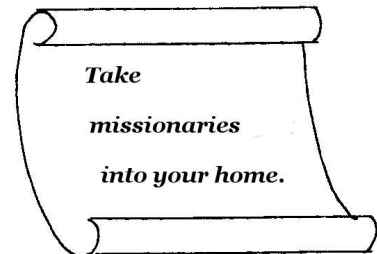
John wrote to the lady to warn her about false teachers. These false teachers said that Jesus Christ was not born as a man. These teachers were against Christ.

John showed how to treat false teachers. A Christian is not to take false teachers into his home. He is not to say "hello" to them.

IV. 3 JOHN

Lessons in 3 John.

John shows that Gaius did right in taking missionaries into his home. Gaius did right in helping missionaries. By doing this he helped spread the gospel to others.



Further, John showed that Diotrefes did not really belong to God. Diotrefes showed he did not belong to God by the way he lived. Diotrefes made himself a leader in the church. He would not even listen to John. Diotrefes would not help missionaries. He would not let others help missionaries.

JUDE

V. JUDE

READ THE BOOK OF JUDE.

A. Introduction to Jude.

Who wrote Jude.

Jude wrote the book of Jude. Jude is a short name for Judas. Jude said he was a brother to James. James was a half brother to Jesus. Jude also was a half brother to Jesus, Matthew 13:55; Mark 6:3.

Jude did not believe Jesus was the Son of God while Jesus lived on earth, John 7:5. He was not a disciple of Jesus. Jude must have been with the disciples in the upper room at the time of Pentecost, Acts 1:14. This was after Jesus went back to heaven. Jude was not a church leader or an apostle.

When and where the letter was written.

It is not known where Jude was when he wrote this letter. It is also not known when he wrote the letter. It is believed he wrote the letter around A.D. 67.

Why the letter was written.

Jude wanted to write about what God had done for the Christians. Something happened to change his thoughts. Some false teachers had come into the church. They did this without the Christians knowing it. Jude told the Christians to keep the faith which was once and for all given to them.

Jude wrote much the same way as Peter wrote in 2 Peter. Maybe he saw the letter Peter wrote.

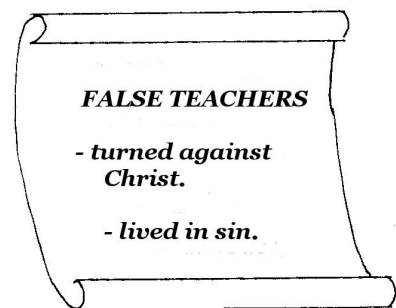
People were starting to sin in Jude's time the way they sinned in the Old Testament times.

B. Lessons in Jude.

1. False teachers.

Jude tells what the false teachers were like. He tells how God sees them. Some of the things he says about the false teachers are:

- 1) they turned against Jesus Christ.
- 2) they lived in sin.
- 3) they did not listen to the church leaders.
- 4) they thought only about themselves.
- 5) they wanted money.



- 6) they thought they were good enough - they did not need the sacrifice of Jesus.
- 7) they were not happy, but complained.
- 8) they could not help others.

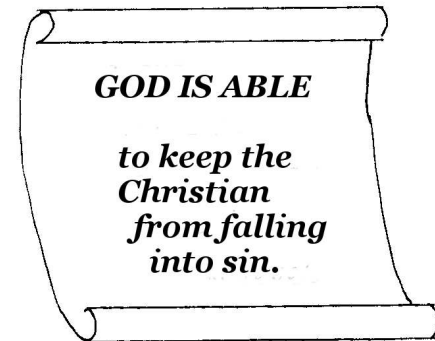
Jude used very sharp words to talk about these false teachers.

Jude showed what happened to people in the Old Testament who disobeyed God. The people of Israel died in the wilderness because they did not trust God. The angels were punished because they did not obey God. Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed because they lived in terrible sin. As God punished these people, so He will punish the false teachers.

2. Christians.

Jude comforted the Christians. He told the Christians God could keep them from falling into sin. When Jesus Christ brings the Christians to stand before God they will be without sin. Jesus Christ can do this because He paid for their sin.

Jude warned the Christians to have nothing to do with the false teachers.



VI. WORDS TO LEARN

1. antichrist - against Christ.
2. Gnostics - believe all matter is evil - - - (see page 182)
3. Gnosticism - the teaching of Gnostics.
4. matter - is anything which a person can touch or see.

VII. ASSIGNMENT

1. John gives four reasons for writing the first letter of John. These are:
 - 1) 1 John 1:4
 - 2) 1 John 2:1
 - 3) 1 John 2:26
 - 4) 1 John 5:12,13
2. John shows what God is like. He is seen as

- 1) 1 John 1:5
- 2) 1 John 2:29
- 3) 1 John 4:8,16
- 4) 1 John 5:11,12

3. There are seven tests which show if we are walking with God. They are:

- 1) 1 John 1:6
- 2) 1 John 1:8
- 3) 1 John 2:4
- 4) 1 John 2:6
- 5) 1 John 2:9,10
- 6) 1 John 2:15
- 7) 1 John 2:29

4. What is the child of God to believe?

- 1) 1 John 4:2; 5:20
- 2) 1 John 4:15; 5:5
- 3) 1 John 4:8
- 4) 1 John 5:10-12

5. What does the child of God have?

- 1) 1 John 5:13
- 2) 1 John 5:14
- 3) 1 John 5:4,5
- 4) 1 John 5:18

6. The word "Truth" in 2 John means

7. As we live in truth and love, we have _____ , _____ , _____ , (2 John verse 3).

8. What is the law spoken of in 2 John verses 5 and 6?

9. How is the Christian to treat those who try to deceive him?

10. 2 John verse 2. A Christian has the _____ within him for

11. What kind of life did Gaius live? 3 John

12. What kind of life did Diotrephes live? 3 John 9,10
13. Which man has not seen God? 3 John verse 11
14. What kind of life Demetrius live? 3 John verse 12
15. How can a Christian help spread the gospel?
16. False teachers (sinful men) came into the Church. What did they do?
Jude verses 4,8,12
17. What were these false teachers (sinful men like)? Jude verses 10,12,13

v. 10	v. 12
v. 12	v. 13
v. 13	
18. Who will come with the Lord when He comes to judge? Jude verses 14,15
19. How do we become strong in our faith? Jude verses 20 to 23

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