

3 Johns Study Series
Study #1: Darkness, Confession, and Light
1 John 1:1 - 10
Bible Sermon Study Notes by Cary Rodgers, pastor

Trump tweets lavish praise saying Israeli Jews love him like 'the King of Israel' and 'the second coming of God' [Tom Porter](#), Aug. 21, 2019, Business Insider

“Early Wednesday, [Trump tweeted](#): "Thank you to Wayne Allyn Root for the very nice words," before sharing a quote from Root:

‘President Trump is the greatest President for Jews and for Israel in the history of the world, not just America, he is the best President for Israel in the history of the world ... and the Jewish people in Israel love him like he's the King of Israel. They love him like he is the second coming of God. But American Jews don't know him or like him.’

‘Thank you to Wayne Allyn Root for the very nice words. ‘President Trump is the greatest President for Jews and for Israel in the history of the world, not just America, he is the best President for Israel in the history of the world...and the Jewish people in Israel love him....’

This is total foolishness, but fits the agenda of many American evangelicals who have partnered with a people who have rejected Jesus as the Messiah.

For the next few weeks we are going to study and explore short books of 3 Johns for the preparation of the last days and Heaven.

Before when go into the study of 3 John. Let’s learn more about its author:

- **The apostle John is the author of the books 3 Johns, the gospel of John, and the book of Revelation.**
- **John is one of the original of the twelve disciples of Jesus Christ who was personally trained by Jesus.**
- **John like Peter, Andrew and his brother, James, immediately left their fishing business to follow Jesus.**

Matthew 4:18-22

18 And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers.

19 And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.

20 And they straightway left their nets, and followed him.

21 And going on from thence, he saw other two brethren, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in a ship with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and he called them.

22 And they **immediately left the ship and their father**, and **followed him**.

Before John’s transformation and total conversion, what name did Jesus call John and his brother?

Mark 3:17

17 And James the son of Zebedee, and John the brother of James; and he surnamed them Boanerges, which is "The sons of thunder".

It was obvious at the beginning of their discipleship they had some character issues that needed to be changed.

Boanerges (Greek) = Sons of thunder or sons of commotion

As students of Jesus, John and James were obviously contributors of much chaos and commotion. They were probably some of the most vocal among the disciples.

Over time John became known as the Beloved instead of one of "the sons of thunder."

John (Greek) = "Jehovah is a gracious giver" - Thayer's Dictionary

John was one of the three disciples privileged to see Jesus glorified on the mountain known as the Mount Of Transfiguration.

Luke 9:28-35

28 And it came to pass about an eight days after these sayings, he took Peter and John and James, and went up into a mountain to pray.

29 And as he prayed, the fashion of his countenance was altered, and his raiment was white and glistening.

30 And, behold, there talked with him two men, which were Moses and Elias:

31 Who appeared in glory, and spake of his decease which he should accomplish at Jerusalem.

32 But Peter and they that were with him were heavy with sleep: and when they were awake, they saw his glory, and the two men that stood with him.

33 And it came to pass, as they departed from him, Peter said unto Jesus, Master, it is good for us to be here: and let us make three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias: not knowing what he said.

34 While he thus spake, there came a cloud, and overshadowed them: and they feared as they entered into the cloud.

35 And there came a voice out of the cloud, saying, This is my beloved Son: hear him.

This experience had a very profound impact on the ministry of the apostle John, especially as you read and study, 3 John's.

John was the only apostle who did not die from the result of being martyred for the gospel of Jesus Christ. It wasn't that persecutors did not try to kill John, but Jesus did not allow him to die.

Historical testimony reveals that John was boiled in hot oil for the sake of the Gospel, but the oil had no effect on him. So instead he was sent to prison on the isolated isle of Patmos. This is where he wrote the book of Revelation as revealed by God the Father and Jesus Christ.

In the book of John, John gives his witness of the ministry of John the Baptist and Jesus Christ.

It was John that wrote one of the most famous verses of the Bible.

John 3:16

16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

The books of the 3 Johns are three short powerful books of the Bible that we must completely understand especially for the end of time.

In the books of the 3 Johns, God gives us a powerful summary of the everlasting covenant, true love, victory over sin, clear distinction of true Christianity and worldliness, and what it takes to be true sons and daughters of Jesus.

Today, we are going to look at the 1 John chapter 1, verses 1 – 10.

How does John introduce us to the first chapter of First John and himself?

1 John 1:1-3

- 1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life;
- 2 (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)
- 3 That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

At beginning of the 3 John's, apostle John is giving his personal testimony of his experience with Jesus! John says that he was able to see Jesus face to face and bear record of the ministry of Jesus Christ!

Like in John 1:1 – 3, 14, John refers to Jesus as the Word that was manifested by God!

John 1:1-3, 14

- 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
- 2 The same was in the beginning with God.
- 3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.
- 14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

The introduction to the 3 books of John reveals that these books are the apostle John's personal testimony of the lessons that were taught to him and the other disciples by Jesus Christ.

Why does John give us the record of what he learned directly from Jesus to us?

1 John 1:4

- 4 And these things write we unto you, **that your joy may be full.**

John records these powerful lessons in the books of 3 Johns so our joy or cheerfulness in the Lord may be FULL! These books are a must study. This is packed with nuggets that will empower us in the Lord in the last days.

John records these words from Jesus in the gospel book of John, "that your joy may / might be full." In John chapter 15, Jesus refers to himself as the vine and that we must be branches the remain in

Christ daily. Also Jesus says that if we truly love the Father and Him that we will keep His commandments and abide in His love.

John 15:10-11

10 If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.

11 These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and **that your joy might be full.**

Again, throughout the books of the 3 Johns this truth is clear with no confusion - that True Love is displayed by obedience to the commandments of God.

What is the first lesson of John's witness?

1 John 1:5

5 This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

What does John record about Jesus being the "light"? What did Jesus say?

John 8:12

12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, **I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.**

Not only is Jesus the light, but those who walk in the light, should not have any fellowship with darkness.

1 John 1:6

6 If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:

Fellowship (Greek) = koinōnia [koy-nohn-ee]: "**partnership**, that is, (literally) **participation, or (social) intercourse**, or (pecuniary) benefaction: - (to) communicate (-ation), **communion**, (contri-), distribution."

The Devil and his demons are of the darkness and not the light.

Darkness is the environment and social connections with those who do not walk in the light of God.

In other words, if we say we have partnership or communion with Christ, but commune with the darkness we are liars and do not the truth! (Example: Hanging out with "friends" who do evil things contrary to the will of God and participate in the worldly fashions, entertainments, and attractions.)

What does Paul say about fellowship with darkness?

Ephesians 5:11

11 And have **no fellowship** with the **unfruitful works of darkness**, but rather reprove them.

Reprove (Greek) = elegchō [el-eng'-kho]

"to **confute**, admonish: - convict, **convince**, **tell a fault**, **rebuke**." - Strong's Dictionary

John 3:19

19 **And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.**

The majority of the world loves to live in darkness. We **MUST** follow the **LIGHT** continually in order to stay out of darkness.

What is the type of fellowship that God approves?**1 John 1:7**

7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

This is true fellowship and communion with others who also WALK in the Light. Those who walk in the Light are cleansed from ALL SIN.

Verse 7 also reveals that those who now walk in the LIGHT, were at one time “sinners” before they were changed through the power of Jesus Christ.

What does Paul say concerning this?**Romans 3:22-25**

22 Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:

23 For **all have sinned**, and come short of the glory of God;

24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

25 Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

9 **Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived:** neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,

10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

11 And such **were** some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

Those who are now washed in the blood are **former sinners** cleansed from sin, justified and sanctified through Jesus Christ! So we all need a Saviour.

We can never say that we have always been sin free.

1 John 1:8, 10

8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

But if you repent, turn from sin, and confess your specific sins to Jesus, He will not only forgive you, but cleanse you from ALL SIN!

1 John 1:9

9 If we **confess our sins**, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from **all unrighteousness**.

Confession (Greek) = homologeō [hom-ol-og-eh'-o]

From a compound of the base of G3674 and G3056; to assent, that is, **covenant, acknowledge**: - con- (pro-) fess, confession is made, give thanks, **promise**.

Confession of sins is the key component of the everlasting covenant.

According to Leviticus 5:5 when you confess your sins to God, all sins committed must be confessed individually and specifically to God.

Leviticus 5:5

5 And it shall be, when he shall be guilty in one of these things, that he shall confess that he hath sinned in that thing.

If you have committed sins that require restitution, such as stolen money or goods, the Bible reveals that you have to restore what you have stolen plus **one fifth** of the value that that was stolen.

Numbers 5:7-8

7 Then they shall confess their sin which they have done: and he shall recompense his trespass with the principal thereof, and add unto it the **fifth part** thereof, and give it unto him against whom he hath trespassed.

8 But if the man have no kinsman to recompense the trespass unto, let the trespass be recompensed unto the LORD, even to the priest; beside the ram of the atonement, whereby an atonement shall be made for him.

For example, if a person has stolen \$100 they must return the \$100 but add at least \$20 for a total of \$120.

The additional 1/5 is a minimum in restitution.

If a person is truly sorry and confesses what they have taken, they will restore what they have taken plus restitution.

Do you think the same applies for those who have stolen from the God in tithes and offerings? Yes.

How much did Zacchaeus, who was a Jewish tax collector for the Romans that were known as publicans, return to those whom he scammed out of money after he was converted to Christ?

Luke 19:8-9

8 And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold.

9 And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house, forasmuch as he also is a son of Abraham.

Tax collectors were known for their corruption and taking more money than was needed to pay the Roman tax. For example, if a Jewish person owed \$100 in taxes, the Jewish publicans, would increase that bill to \$200 and keep the \$100 for themselves.

Zacchaeus confessed his sins and gave restitution for all that he stole in the past by fourfold! In other words, Zacchaeus gave back four times the amount that he had stolen from his victims! For example, if he took \$1000 from a victim, he returned \$4000!

Appeal...

1 Peter 2:9

9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

As we continue our study in the 3 Johns it takes us from darkness to the marvelous light and true love of Jesus Christ.

Next study is 1 John chapter 2! Powerful study.