

JOHN'S LETTER # 1

JOHN IS ENJOYING A DELIGHTFUL AND SPIRITUAL FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD. HE DESIRES HIS SPIRITUAL CHILDREN TO ENJOY THE SAME FELLOWSHIP -

~ GOD IS LIGHT ~

THEREFORE, TO BE IN FELLOWSHIP WITH HIM WE MUST WALK IN LIGHT AND NOT IN DARKNESS. WE CONFESS OUR SINS AND ALLOW THE BLOOD OF CHRIST TO CONTINUALLY CLEANSE US.

~ GOD IS LOVE ~

SINCE WE ARE HIS CHILDREN.. WE MUST WALK IN LOVE... JOHN STATES THAT IF WE DO NOT HAVE LOVE.. WE DO NOT KNOW GOD. GOD'S LOVE IS GIVING -- NOT GETTING -- GOD'S LOVE IS.. UNCONDITIONAL IN ITS ACTIONS AND NATURE... THIS TYPE OF LOVE IS EXPECTED OF US -- HIS CHILDREN. WHEN THIS UNCONDITIONAL LOVE CHARACTERIZES US -- WE WILL BE FREE -- FREE OF SELF-CONDEMNATION.. AND EXPERIENCE BEFORE GOD -- OUR LORD.

GOD IS LIFE

THOSE WHO FELLOWSHIP WITH HIM -- POSSESS HIS QUALITY OF LIFE... SPIRITUAL LIFE WHICH BEGINS WITH SPIRITUAL BIRTH.. WHICH HAPPENS THROUGH FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST..

FAITH

IN JESUS CHRIST.. INFUSES US -- WITH GOD'S LIFE -- WHICH IS ETERNAL LIFE -- JOHN WROTE SO WE CAN KNOW THAT.. WE LIVE FOREVER

1 JOHN = FELLOWSHIP... LIFE AT ITS BEST -

THEMES = LIGHT, LOVE, LIFE - WHICH BROUGHT:

STAY

① ASSURANCE... "THAT YOU MAY KNOW" -

② FELLOWSHIP... WITH CHRIST & THE BRETHREN -

③ JOY... IN AN UNALTERABLE STATE - FULL -

CH 1:2 = LIFE IN THE SON -

- MANIFESTED -

[VS 1:1-4] - IN FLESH AND BLOOD -

I] LIFE'S BEGINNING - ①

Ⓐ THE PRESENCE IS OVERSHADOWED BY -
THE PAST -

"THAT WHICH WAS FROM THE BEGINNING"

Ⓑ NOT JUST CIRCUMSTANCES BUT DESTINY -
"THE EVENT" - HAS ALWAYS BE ON THE
SCHEDULE -

Ⓒ NOT IN TIME... BUT IN ETERNITY -
- CHRIST IS AS... DATELESS AS GOD -

① CHRISTIANITY DATES WITH CHRIST...
- BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD -
[REV 13:8] "LAMB SLAIN FROM THE -
FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD"

② CHRIST DATES WITH GOD... THE FATHER
[JOHN 1:2] "HE WAS IN THE BEGINNING...
WITH GOD" -

① NOT THE MYTHICAL -- BUT PHYSICAL --
AND SPIRITUAL -- GOD IN FLESH --

-- INCLUDING --

OPTICAL PERCEPTION: [1 COR 15:3-8]

-- "CHRIST DIED FOR OUR SINS ACCORD TO THE
SCRIPTURE -- HE WAS BURIED -- HE "RAISED" --
ON THE THIRD DAY -- AND HE APPEARED TO
PETER -- AND TO THE 12 -- THEN HE APPEARED
TO MORE THAN 500 BROTHERS -- THEN HE
APPEARED TO JAMES -- AND LAST OF ALL -- HE
APPEARED TO ME" (PAUL) --

SPIRITUAL PERCEPTION:

LOOKED UPON THE FATHER -- IN FLESH --
IN CHRIST --

-- HANDLED --

-- A PHYSICAL REALITY -- AS WELL AS -- A
SPIRITUAL REALITY --

-- THEY HAD TESTED THEIR EXPERIENCE OF
CHRIST -- BY SO MANY EVIDENCES -- THAT
THEY -- COULD NOT BE MISTAKEN !!! --

II LIFE'S EXPERIENCE -- ②

-- NOT A THEORY OF RELIGION --

IT MUST BE A REALITY -- OF LIFE --
A REALITY THAT -- "ULTIMATELY" -- ENTERS
INTO -- EVERY DECISION -- OF LIFE --

① IT MUST BE... TO US... WHAT IT WAS... TO
THE APOSTLES...

... "SOMEONE"

WE HAVE EXPERIENCE... THAT CHANGED...
MY OUTLOOK... AND WALK IN LIFE -

② IT MUST BE AN EXPERIENCE... - SO --
"DEFINITE"

THAT I CAN... BEAR WITNESS OF IT -

③ IT MUST BE... THE EXPERIENCE... OF A
GOD...

"WHO WALKS WITH US"

NOT MERELY... A GOD WHO LIVES IN A TEMPLE
WHOM

WE MUST GO AND WORSHIP... YOU SEE
WE

ARE THE TEMPLE... OF GOD - THE HOLY SPIRIT -
[COR 3:16] "KNOW YE NOT... THAT YE ARE THE
TEMPLE OF GOD... THAT THE SPIRIT OF GOD
"DWELLETH"

IN YOU"

Ⓐ THE INCARNATION [IS GOD IN CHRIST]

Ⓑ THE REGENERATION [IS GOD IN MAN]

- MANIFESTATION -

IS A MAGNIFICATION;

IS A LIFE... MADE "VISIBLE"... TO DECLARE
... TESTIFYING... TO OTHERS "THROUGH" HIS
SONS & DAUGHTERS... [THE WORD OF LIFE]

THUS

III] LIFE'S FELLOWSHIP - ③

THIS FELLOWSHIP WITH CHRIST ---
MEANS A LIFE OF "COMPANIONSHIP" &
COMRADESHIP = (SHARES ALL ACTIVITIES)

IT IS

— COMMUNITY OF THOUGHT & INTEREST —

IT IS

— A STATE OF UNITY & HARMONY —

A MUTUAL "ENTERING INTO" OF —

— ONE ANOTHER'S EXPERIENCE —

"DECLARED"

IN TWO PHASES OF FELLOWSHIP - 3

(A) FELLOWSHIP WITH OTHERS - ③

PARTNERS WITH US

THIS MEANS:

— ONE WITH EACH OTHER —

COMMON EXPERIENCE OF "ETERNAL LIFE"

"A"

BOND OF "AFFECTION" & "INTIMATE" —

— UNDERSTANDING —

BASIS ON "NEW LIFE & A NEW LORD" —

WHICH

AMPLIFIES — [OUR PURPOSE IN LIFE]

INTENSIFIES — [OUR EXPERIENCES OF]

LIVING OUR LIFE —

③ FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD - ③

BECAUSE -- OF OUR IDENTIFY TO CHRIST
— BY FAITH —

NOTE! WHAT THIS FELLOWSHIP IS NOT OF —
A DENOMINATION — A SECT —
A CLIQUE OF SOME SECLUDED FEW —
OR

— SOMEONE WHO THINKS THEY HAVE A CORNER
ON DIVINE TRUTH —

"THIS FELLOWSHIP"

BEGINS — BY FAITH —

NOT WHAT WE THINK (ETHICAL)

NOT WHAT WE DO (MORALISTIC)

NOT BY KEEPING THE LAW (LEGALISTIC)

BY FAITH — A DISTINGUISHING MARK OF

CHRISTIANS — "FELLOWSHIP" — ③

— "WITH THE FATHER.. AND.. WITH THE SON"

(JESUS CHRIST THE MESSIAH)

JOHN SAYS:

CHRIST WAS MANIFESTED [GOD INCARNATE] —

— NOT MERELY APPEARING — IN GOD-LIKE-QUALITIES —
CHRIST

IS GOD MANIFESTED IN FLESH:

① THE EXHIBITION OF DIVINE LOVE —

② THE REVELATION OF DIVINE PURPOSE —

"WE LOOKED UPON HIM"

A SPIRITUAL APPERCEPTION.. OF WHO HE IS..

— A TRUE KNOWLEDGE —

IV] LIFE'S JOY - ④

"THAT YOUR JOY MAY BE FULL"

① THE SCOPE OF JOY - "BE FULL" - [OVERWHELMING]
- IN CONNECTION -

WITH CHRIST - HIS CHARACTER - NOT
NECESSARILY WITH CIRCUMSTANCES - BUT WITH
THE SOURCE AND SUPPORT -

- JOY IS BORN - IN YOU - [NOT BOUGHT OR ATTITUDE] -
THE RESULT OF - RELATIONSHIP - IT IS -
ATTAINABLE - FOR EVERY CIRCUMSTANCE
OF LIFE - THE CAUSE OF HAPPINESS & PEACE -
THUS

② THE SOURCE OF JOY - (THESE THINGS) ④ -
[ALL OF THIS ~~AND~~ EPISTLE]

- THE RESULT OF A - LIFE CHANGING EXPERIENCE -
NOT

THE RESULT OF CIRCUMSTANCES - NOR CAN -
CIRCUMSTANCES - ROB US OF JOY -

IT IS A LIFE-CHANNELED -

EXPERIENCE:

- NOT A MERE "MENTAL" - FRAME OF MIND -
BUT - A LIFE CHANGE - BECAUSE OF - THE
"NEW STATE"

OF THE SOUL - A NEW STATE OF HEART -
WHICH

CHANGES MY - YOUR - COMPLETE STATE OF
- LIFE -

[ALL THINGS ARE NEW]

③ THE SINGLENES OF JOY -- [^{IS} YOUR JOY]

- IT'S PERSONAL -- TO ALL WHO RECEIVE --
- IT'S PEACEFUL -- NO SADDNESS IN THIS JOY --
- SO
- PROTECT IT -- PASS IT ON --

LIFE IN THE SON [1:5-10]

FIRST -- IT IS AN --

ILLUMINATED LIFE -- [GOD IS LIGHT]

- NATURAL LIFE IS LIVED IN DARKNESS --
- GOD IS LIGHT FOR THIS DARKNESS! -- HE
- FOCUSSES LIGHT ON OUR DARKNESS --
- WHICH DEALS WITH OUR SIN -- !!

— THE MESSAGE OF THE BIBLE --
IS NOT PRIMARILY -- A LITERARY ONE --
OR -- A RELIGIOUS ONE -- OR -- HISTORICAL --
"BUT"

"A SPIRITUAL ONE"

THE CREATURE PROBLEM -- WHICH IS -- THE
PENALTY OF SIN --
HAS BEEN DEALT WITH -- ON CHRIST'S CROSS
"BUT"

THE POWER OF SIN, IS STILL OPERATIVE IN
"THE LIFE OF A CHRISTIAN" -- AS WELL AS --
A NON-CHRISTIAN --

— GOD HAS DEALT WITH OUR DARKNESS --
THIS IS JOHN'S MESSAGE --

THE MESSAGE

JOHN.. FACES THIS.. PROBLEM OF THE --
--POWER OF SIN--

IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST.. WHO GIVES
LIFE -- AND IS THE LIGHT.. FOR ALL DARKNESS..
EVEN.. THE CHILD OF GOD.. WHO IS OUT
OF FELLOWSHIP.. WITH GOD --

(VSS) THIS THEN IS THE MESSAGE --
WE HEARD OF CHRIST.. "GOD IS LIGHT" +
-- "HE HAS NO DARKNESS" --

NOTE

[II COR 4:6]

FOR GOD, WHO COMMANDED THE
LIGHT TO SHINE OUT OF DARKNESS --
"HATH"

SHINED IN OUR HEARTS -- TO GIVE LIGHT
OF THE KNOWLEDGE.. OF THE GLORY OF GOD --
IN THE FACE OF JESUS CHRIST"

JOHN [1:4-5] [A PICTURE OF MORAL DARKNESS]
WHICH IS -- THE WORLD -- WHICH IS IN --
-- SPIRITUAL DARKNESS --
THE 3 PHASES OF THIS DARKNESS --:

① NATURAL DARKNESS: [ROM 1:21]

"BECAUSE THAT.. WHEN THEY KNEW GOD --
THEY GLORIFIED HIM NOT AS GOD -- NEITHER
WERE THANKFUL -- BUT BECAME VAIN -- IN
THEIR IMAGINATIONS -- AND -- THEIR --
FOOLISH HEART -- WAS DARKENED --

② PROPHECIC DARKNESS -- [2 TIM 4:3]

"FOR THE TIME WILL COME -- WHEN THEY
WILL NOT ENDURE -- SOUND DOCTRINE --
-- BUT -- AFTER THEIR OWN LUSTS -- THEY
HEAR TO THEMSELVES -- TEACHERS -- HAVING
ITCHING EARS"

③ MENTAL DARKNESS: [EPH 4:18]

"HAVING THEIR UNDERSTANDING DARKENED
-- BEING ALIENATED FROM THE -- LIFE OF
GOD -- THROUGH THE IGNORANCE THAT IS IN
THEM -- BECAUSE OF -- THE BLINDNESS OF
THEIR HEART"

④ SUPERNATURAL DARKNESS -- [EPH 6:12]

FOR WE WRESTLE NOT -- AGAINST FLESH
AND BLOOD -- BUT -- AGAINST PRINCIPALITIES
-- AGAINST POWERS -- AGAINST --
"RULERS OF DARKNESS"
OF THIS WORLD -- [EPH 6:12]

⑤ ETERNAL DARKNESS -- [JUDE 13]

RAGING WAVES OF THE SEA -- FOAMING
OUT THEIR OWN SHAME -- WANDERING STARS
-- TO WHOM IS RESERVED --

"THE BLACKNESS OF DARKNESS" FOREVER
-- BUT --

THE DARKNESS OF [JOHN 1:5] IS THE --
-- SPIRITUAL DARKNESS -- WHEN A BELIEVER
IS -- OUT OF FELLOWSHIP -- WITH GOD --

THE PERSON IN VIEW -- HERE -- IS A ~~DEVELOPER~~
"BELIEVER"

WHO IS SAYING HE HAS FELLOWSHIP WITH
GOD -- YET IS -- WALKING IS --
"SPIRITUAL DARKNESS"

SPIRITUAL DARKNESS MAY BE DEFINED:

- ① IT IS A WALK OUTSIDE OF THE WORD OF GOD --
- ② A WALK OUTSIDE THE WAY OF GOD -- THAT IS
-- NOT FOLLOW HIS LEADERSHIP --
- ③ A WALK OUTSIDE OF THE WILL OF GOD --
-- HIS PLAN FOR YOU --

→ WE NEED AN "ALIGNED" FELLOWSHIP →

THE ALIGNED FELLOWSHIP (VS 6-10)

3 TIMES -- WE SEE THE PHRASE -- "IF WE SAY"

- ① IF WE SAY -- WE HAVE FELLOWSHIP -- [6-7]
"THE REALITY OF FELLOWSHIP" --
-- IS NOT IN WORDS -- BUT IN OUR WALK --
[VS-6]

- ② -- "IF WE SAY OUR FELLOWSHIP IS WITH JESUS" --
AND

→ OUR "WALK" [WAY OF LIFE] IS IN DARKNESS --
WE ARE ~~BE~~ LIVING A LIE -- AND ARE IN
→ FELLOWSHIP --

STOP WITH THE TRUTH -- BECAUSE --
THE SAYING -- AND WALK -- DO NOT ALIGN