

START [JOHN 2:3-14]

— THE VERIFICATION OF LIFE —
IS "LOVE"

A STANDARD IS GIVEN — TO "VERIFY" —
— THE REALITY AND VALIDITY — OF OUR —
— FAITH —

THE BIBLE CONSTITUTES A "BUREAU" OF
"STANDARD OF AUTHORITY" —

① IT IS NOT A "MATTER" OF HUMAN OPINION —
THAT IS : ONE OPINION AGAINST ANOTHER —
IT IS
"WHAT SAITH THE LORD" — (DEUT 6)

② WE NEED NOT BE IN DOUBT — AS TO WHAT
— STANDARD — SHALL JUSTIFY A PERSON'S
— FAITH — "THE BIBLE IS SUFFICIENT"

OUR CREEDS MAY DIFFER — OUR CHURCHES
MAY VARY — OUR RULES MAY BE —
CONTRADICTORY — — BUT — [THE BIBLE]
THE WORD OF GOD — IS "THE AUTHORITY" — AND
— CANNOT BE GAINSAID — [CONTRADICTED]

THUS
— THERE ARE "TWO CHOICES" OF AUTHORITY —

① MAN'S MEASURING STANDARD — OR
② GOD'S MEASURING STANDARD —

THUS :

- TRUE LIFE -

I] HOW MAN MEASURES - TRUE LIFE -
THE TESTS MEN USE:

(A) FEELINGS ---
--- "FAITH" --- PROVED --- BY FEELING ---
IF FEELING ---
IS HOW WE MEASURE --- OR --- IS THE MEASURE
OF OUR FAITH ---
THEN
WHEN DISCOURAGEMENT COMES --- WE ---
--- WOULD BE LOST --- THUS --- FEELINGS --- IS
--- CERTAINLY NOT THE TEST !!!

"ANYONE"
WHO DEPENDS --- ON THEIR FEELINGS ---
--- FOR ASSURANCE (TEST) FOR TRUE ---
LIFE IN CHRIST --- WILL MOST ---
"CERTAINLY" --- BE UP & DOWN --- IN
--- THEIR EXPERIENCE ---
AND WILL SINK:

- ① INTO DESPAIR - [UTTER LOSS OF HOPE]
- ② INTO DEPRESSION - [FEELING OF DEJECTION]
- ③ INTO DESPONDENCY - WHICH IS ---
TO BECOME - [DISCOURAGED & HOPELESS]

--- "FEELING" ARE "FICKEL" ---
"CONSTANTLY"
CHANGING --- WITH OUR MOODS ---
[NOT A TEST FOR TRUE LIFE]

MAN NOT ONLY USES FEELINGS -- BUT

① LAW KEEPING -- [FAITH + LAW = SALVATION]

① IN THE OLD TESTAMENT -- THE LAW IS --
[A STANDARD OF REQUIRED LIVING]

BREAK ONE -- IS TO BREAK ALL --

② IN THE NEW TESTAMENT -- "REINTERATED"
-- AS A MORAL PRINCIPLE -- A GUIDE --
TO WHICH
THE NEW LIFE IN CHRIST -- PRODUCES --

③ OBEYING ORDINANCES:

"NO MAN MADE"
"CEREMONY" OR "OBSERVANCES" -- ARE
THE "FINAL TEST" FOR "FAITH"

[ALL OF THEM HAVE SOME PERVERSION
TO -- SELFISH RELIGIOUS MOTIVES --]

[TRUE FAITH EXPRESSES ITSELF IN --
OBSERVANCE OF "SCRIPTURAL" ORDINANCES]

-- FALSE FAITH --

OBSERVES THEM -- BY MAKING THEM AN --
END -- RATHER THAN A -- MEANS TO AN
END -- THAT IS --
TO

-- TOUCH THE LORD -- AND WORSHIP HIM --

II) HOW GOD MEASURES TRUE LIFE - [3-11]

THE KEY: VS 3

[KNOWING GOD] - AND - [KNOWING ABOUT GOD]
- ARE -

~ VASTLY DIFFERENT THINGS ~

MANY PEOPLE TALK "LOVE" AND "LONG"
ABOUT

THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF GOD - YET -

IT IS MERE "INTELLECT" -

IT IS ABOUT GOD - NOT OF GOD -

"HERE"

WE HAVE THE "TRUE TEST" OF THE
- CHRISTIAN FAITH -

THIS IS "TRUELY" - A THREE STEP PROCESS -
- WITH WHICH WE MAY "TEST" -
EVERY EXPERIENCE... EVERY PERSON -

STEP ONE - KEEPING [VS 3-5]

THE PROOF OF A PERSON'S FAITH IS NOT
[HIS LANGUAGE - BUT - HIS LIFE]

IT IS NOT

"HE THAT SAITH" - "I KNOW HIM" - WHO
- PROVES HIS FAITH - BUT -

LIVING A GODLY LIFE -

IT IS HE WHO GIVES;
"A PRACTICAL DEMONSTRATION" OF
THEIR "FAITH" -- HOW "KEEP MY" --
-- COMMANDMENTS --

① IT IS A MISTAKE TO THINK OF THESE
"COMMANDMENTS"
AS A SET OF "LEGAL REGULATIONS" --
FOR OBTAINING "LIFE" IN CHRIST --

② THE HABIT OF KEEPING HIS COMMANDMENTS
-- IS THE EVIDENCE OF LIFE --

THAT IS:

IT REVEALS MY MISTAKES + FAILURES
IT ESTABLISHES MY RELATIONSHIP TO "GRACE"

③ THE PROOF OF KNOWING GOD -- IS NOT --
THAT WE OMIT EVIL -- BUT RATHER THAT
WE PRACTICE -- WHAT IS "GOOD" + "GOODLY" --
-- IT IS A "POSITIVE" + NOT A "NEGATIVE" --

[ROM 12:21]

DO NOT BE OVERCOME BY EVIL -- BUT --
OVERCOME EVIL WITH GOOD --

STEP TWO -- WALKING [VS 4-7]

THE DIRECTION OF OUR WALK IS --

① AN INDICATION =
= OF THE GENUINENESS OF OUR FAITH -
[WALK AS JESUS WALKED]

[MATH 16:24] "IF ANY MAN COME AFTER
ME.. LET HIM DENY HIMSELF.. TAKE UP
HIS CROSS.. "FOLLOW ME" -

"OLD COMMANDMENT" - "YE HAVE HEARD FROM
THE BEGINNING ~ "THE STANDARD" IS
- FROM THE BEGINNING -

THEY ARE NOT.. OPINIONS OR DISCOVERIES ?
- WE ARE NOT -

DISCOVERING CHRISTIANITY.. WE ARE -
~ DISCIPLING IT - AS "HE" (CHRIST) WALKED -
WHICH

② INDICATES - - THE GUARANTEE.. OF OUR
FAITH -

THE RHYTHM.. OF OUR WALK.. IS IN
STEP WITH CHRIST -

THE COMPANIONSHIP.. OF OUR WALK.. IS IN
HIS COMPANY... HIS PRESENCE

THE DIRECTION.. OF OUR WALK.. IS IN
HIS LIFE, HIS EXAMPLE -

STEP THREE... "LOVING" [vs 8-11]

— "A NEW COMMANDMENT I WRITE UNTO YOU"
"NOT" NEW:

FROM THE STANDPOINT OF TIME --- BECAUSE
~ LOVE ~ IS AS OLD AS GOD ~

— IT'S NEWNESS IS IN RELATION -- TO FAITH --
NOT RECEIVED -- LEGALISTICLY -- BUT
~ THROUGH REGENERATION --

THEREFORE:

① TRUE IN CHRIST - TRUE IN US - ⑧

- JESUS ADVANCED LOVE - AS THE TEST
FOR LIFE -

... LOVE ONE ANOTHER: AS I HAVE LOVED
YOU... LOVE ONE ANOTHER -

② THE OBJECT OF AFFECTION -

LOVE OF GOD - ⑨

LOVE OF BROTHER - [9-10]

— BROTHER = BROTHERN —

MEANS HERE:

THE MEMBERS OF GOD'S FAMILY --
THROUGH -- THE NEW BIRTH -- --

-- BORN AGAIN -- OF THE --

(HOLY SPIRIT)

③ LOVE IS A PREVENTIVE - ⑩
"IT IS POSSIBLE TO FAIL IN LOVING -
JUST AS WE CAN FAIL IN LIVING AND
RELIVING -

LOVE IS A PROOF IN VS 9 -

BUT A PREVENTIVE IN VS 10
"ABIDE IN LIGHT"

TO ABIDE IN LIGHT - WILL PRODUCE:
NO OCCASION OF STUMBLING - "IN HIM"
(CHRIST & US)

WHAT IS THE CAUSE FOR - ERROR OR SIN -
- STUMBLING - WHICH MEANS - A SCANDAL -

[LOVE PREVENTS SCANDALS]
"DIVISIONS" "QUARRELS" "CONTENTIONS"

"LOVE"

BRINGS - UNITY AND ONENESS -

④ WHEN LOVE IS NOT EXPERIENCED - ⑪
YOU GROPE - HELPLESS - IN DARKNESS -
HATE - RULES YOUR HEART - BLINDS YOUR
SITE - CANNOT SEE - BECAUSE OF THE
DARKNESS -

BUT - THE LIGHT OF LOVE -
- DISPELLE DARKNESS -

CH 2: 12-17 THE CHURCH LIFE -- (FAMILY)
DIVIDED IN 2 PARTS:

① RECOGNIZED -- (12-14) ② REALIZED -- (15-17)

RECOGNIZING -- THE FAMILY LIFE -- AS
A DEVELOPING LIFE:

"I WRITE UNTO YOU -- LITTLE CHILDREN" (12)

I WRITE UNTO YOU -- "FATHERS" (13)

I WRITE UNTO YOU -- YOUNG MEN - (13)

-- LITTLE CHILDREN -- (12 + 13)

① "YOUR SINS ARE FORGIVEN -- WHY.. FOR
JESUS' NAME SAKE" [IT CANNOT BE SOILED]

② "BECAUSE YOU HAVE KNOWN THE FATHER"

-- YOUNG MEN --

① "BECAUSE YOU HAVE OVERCOME THE --
WICKED ONE"

② "BECAUSE YOU ARE STRONG -- AND THE
WORD OF GOD -- ABIDETH IN YOU"

-- FATHERS -- (13 + 14)

① "BECAUSE YOU HAVE KNOWN HIM -- FROM
THE BEGINNING" [THEY HAVE KEPT THE FAITH]
[VS 13 -- REPEATED VS 14]

THUS

-- A DEVELOPING FAMILY LIFE --

[IN THE CHURCH FELLOWSHIP]

→ 3 STAGES OF SPIRITUAL LIFE —
[DIFFERENT STAGES & AGES] — 1. [IMMATURE TO MATURITY]

1] SPIRITUAL INFANCY — [12 & 13]

— "LITTLE CHILDREN" —

— "ON MILK" — BUT ON TO MEAT —

— "THEY HAVE PUT THEIR FAITH IN CHRIST —
AND ARE — "BORN AGAIN" — OF THE HOLY
SPIRIT —

— BORN ONES !! —

THIS IS — [A WORD IN GREEK LANGUAGE] —
MEANING: "TO BRING INTO EXISTENCE"

— 1 PETER 1:23 —

"BEING BORN — NOW NOT OF CORRUPTIBLE
SEED — BUT OF — INCORRUPTIBLE SEED —
BY THE WORD OF GOD — WHICH LIVETH AND
ABIDETH FOREVER" —

— — — WE ALL HAVE ONE THING IN COMMON —
OUR SINS ARE FORGIVEN — FOR HIS —
— NAME SAKE — (12)

— JAMES 1:18 —

SAYS: OF HIS OWN WILL — HE BEGAT US —
WITH — THE "WORD OF GOD" —

— 2 PETER 3:9 —

— "NOT WILLING THAT ANY SHOULD PERISH — BUT
THAT ALL SHOULD COME TO REPENTANCE"

AS

LITTLE CHILDREN — "INFANTS" — IN THE LORD —
— — —

IN THE SPIRITUAL REALM - THERE ARE -
TWO KINDS OF BABYS: "NORMAL" & "ABNORMAL" -
THEY HAVE;

SAME CHARACTERISTICS:

THEY NEED LOVE & SECURITY - BUT
THEY ARE TOTALLY [SELF-CENTERED] -

ALL FOR SELF - "CRY" & "EAT" -

THE CHURCH SHOULD BE INVOLVED IN:
- SPIRITUAL - OBSTETRICS & PEDIATRICS -

LET US LOOK AT - 5 ESSENTIALS FOR -
SPIRITUAL GROWTH:

FOR: (A) NORMALITY -

① THEY MUST BE FEED -

~ WE MUST FEED THEM WITH THE WORD OF
GOD -

- THIS IS ESSENTIAL - FOR DEVELOPMENT -

[1 PETER 2:2]

"AS NEW BORN BABIES ... DESIRE - THE
"SINCERE" MILK OF THE WORD - THAT YOU MAY
"GROW" THERE BY"

THIS
A NEED FOR "DEVELOPING" - "HABITUAL" -

DAILY; SET A TIME EACH DAY! (AT LEAST
5 MIN)

DILIGENTLY: BE COMMITTED

DECERNINGLY: WITH PRAYER & HOLY SPIRIT -

② THEY MUST HAVE AIR - [PRAYER]

THAT IS:

— "TALKING TO GOD" —

AS PARENT = [OUR FATHER] —

AS PARTNER = [SHARING OUR LIFE]

③ THEY MUST HAVE EXERCISE -

— START THEM — WORKING FOR GOD —

"WITH THEIR GIFTS" — "THEY HAVE GIFTS" —
[FROM CHRIST]

[FOR USE IN THE KINGDOM] + [WORSHIP]

④ THEY MUST HAVE A PROPER ATMOSPHERE —

THAT IS — WARMTH, LOVE, CARE —

— FELLOWSHIP — [IN THE LOCAL CHURCH] —

"SPIRITUAL FELLOWSHIP"

BY BEING "INTIMATE" WITH:

[FATHER, SON, HOLY SPIRIT]

⑤ ABNORMAL —

BABYS A CUTE FOR A WHILE — BUT —

THEY ARE NOT CUTE — IF —

[THEY STAY BABIES]

A 40 YEAR OLD WITH A BABY —

"MENTALITY"

THUMB IN THEIR MOUTH — MUST BE

— PASSIFIED —

II] SPIRITUAL ADOLESCENCE -

I WRITE UNTO YOU - "YOUNG MEN" -
BECAUSE - YOU HAVE - "OVERCOME" -
— THE WICKED ONE —

2 - "CHARACTERISTICS OF YOUTH" -

(A) STRENGTH - (14)

YOU ARE YOUNG - + - "THE WORD OF GOD" -
"ABIDETH" - IN YOU -
THAT IS - A VITAL NECESSITY - FOR LIFE -
— A MUST FOR MY LIVELY HOPE —

WITH JESUS : DWAYING STRONG IN THE -
— "HOLY SPIRIT" —

(EPH 6:10) "BE STRONG" :

① "IN THE LORD" -

② "IN THE POWER OF HIS MIGHT" -

THAT IS : BE STRONG :

— YOUR PHYSICAL HEALTH - AND
YOUR SPIRITUAL HEALTH —

(3 JOHN 2) - "BELOVED" - I WISH ABOUT ALL
THINGS THAT -

YOU MAY PROSPER - AND -
BE IN HEALTH - JUST AS YOUR "SOUL" -
— PROSPERS —

② SUCCESS - ③ "YOU HAVE OVERCOME"
[THE WICKED ONE !!]

"SUCCESS OVER THE DEVIL" --- YES ---
"THE HOLY SPIRIT EMPOWERS" --- AND IS
"EMPOWERING" --- [IN US] [1 JOHN 4:4]
--- GREATER ---
IS HE (HOLY SPIRIT) THAT IS IN YOU ---
THAN HE (DEVIL) THAT IS IN THE WORLD"

"IN THE NAME OF JESUS"
"EVERY KNEE SHALL BOW" --- OUR ---
--- SPIRITUAL STRENGTH + SUCCESS IS ---
IN THE "WICKED ONE" BEING ~~CONQUERED~~
--- "CONQUERED" ---
TO STOP HIS ATTACK FROM ~~BEING SUCCESSFUL~~
--- BEING SUCCESSFUL ---

--- WHATEVER ---
IS HOLDING THE BELIEVER AND THE
CHURCH BACK --- IS FROM "THE WICKED ONE"
WE
--- MUST STAND IN OUR VICTORY OVER HIM ---

[REV 12:11] "THEY OVERCAME HIM BY THE
"BLOOD" OF THE LAMB --- AND "THE WORD"
OF THEIR "TESTIMONY" --- AND --- THEY LOVED
NOT THEIR LIVES --- UNTO THE DEATH ---

THE WICKED ONE WHO IS SATAN;
[ROMANS 16:20]

"THE GOD OF PEACE SHALL --
BRUISE SATAN -- UNDER YOUR FEET" --
"NOW"

① THE BLOOD:

THE BLOOD WAS SATAN'S "UNDOING" --
THE BLOOD [SETS US APART FROM THE
WORLD OF SIN] --
THE BLOOD [OUR ONLY HOPE]

— OUR MERIT WITH GOD -- OUR VICTORY --
OVER SIN AND DEATH -- OUR MERIT --
WITH GOD --

② THE WORD OF TESTIMONY [I AM A SON]
I AM SEALED IN THE [HOLY SPIRIT]
"I SPEAK"

A "RHEMA WORD" -- SPOKE OUT LOUD --
— SATAN YOU LEAVE —

"BECAUSE YE ARE STRONG" -- "JESUS ABIDES IN
YOU" -- YE HAVE OVERCOME "THE WICKED ONE" -- (146)

③ THEY LOVED NOT THEIR LIVES UNTO DEATH
THAT IS:

HOLDING THINGS IN THIS LIFE "LIGHTLY" --
— THEY CAN STAY OR GO --
[EVEN DEATH]

III] SPIRITUAL MATURITY - (14)

"I WRITE UNTO YOU "FATHERS" YOU HAVE
KNOW HIM "FROM THE BEGINNING" -
[ALL YOUR SAVED LIFE]

THE ONE YOU HAVE LIVED YOUR LIFE "FOR" -
-- WITH HIM & TRUE TO HIM -- "NEVER" -
-- DENYING HIM --

ALL YOUR LIFE -- HE HAS -- "LEAD YOU" --
"FORGIVE YOU" -- "USED YOU" --

ALL THE WHILE
YOU HAVE NOT TAKEN HIM FOR "GRANTED"
[FROM BEGINNING TO THE END - FAITHFUL]

- ILLUSTRATED -

HOW FATHERS LIVE -- [COR 4:16] --

-- "BE YE FOLLOWERS OF ME" --

HOW DID PAUL LIVE -- AS A FATHER --
-- IN THE FAITH -- FAITHFUL --

① IN GOD -- BORN & LEAD BY THE SPIRIT

② FOR GOD -- AS HIS "FATHER" [GUIDE]

③ AS AN EXAMPLE FOR OTHERS --

A LIFE AS

-- WITNESS FOR GOD -- AND A

-- PATTERN TO FOLLOW --