

NOTES

UNIT 18 - "YAHWEH'S FINAL WORD": The Writings of John - pt 1

I. "SON OF ZEBEDEE—SON OF THUNDER"

A. "...and John his brother" (Matt 4:21)

1. Of the 20x John's name is mentioned in the Gospels, only twice does it appear _____ James (Lk 8:51; 9:28).
2. His name is *never* mentioned in the Gospel of _____ (*neither are Simon the Zealot, both James, and Matthew*).
3. Along with his brother James, was nicknamed, "sons of thunder" by _____ (Mk 3:17).

And he sent messengers ahead of him, who went and entered a village of the Samaritans, to make preparations for him. But the people did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. And when his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord, do you want us to tell fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" But he turned and rebuked them. Luke 9:52-55

4. He is almost certainly the "_____ disciple" and "*the disciple Jesus loved*" in the Gospel of John (Jn 1:35-40; 13:23; 21:7).
 - a. Was _____ to Jesus at the last supper (Jn 13:23).
 - b. Seems to have "known" the _____ and had access into his villa (Jn 18:15; verb is imperfect tense).
 - c. The only apostle stated to have been at the _____ (Jn 19:26).
 - d. The one to whom Jesus entrusted his _____ mother (Jn 19:27).
 - e. First _____ to the empty tomb (Jn 20:4).
 - f. Claimed _____ for the "Gospel of John" (Jn 21:24).
5. After the resurrection, he along with Peter are the recognized leaders in the Jerusalemite _____ (Acts 1:13; 3:1-11; 8:14-16).
6. By the time his own brother James is _____, John has priority over James (Acts 12:1-2).
7. Paul considered him one of the "_____ " of the Jerusalemite church:

"...and when James and Cephas and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given to me, they gave the right hand of fellowship to Barnabas and me, that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised." Galatians 2:9

8. Many ancient sources list him as the bishop of _____ until his exile and death:

"For in Asia also great lights have fallen asleep, which shall rise again on the last day, at the coming of the Lord, when he shall come with glory from heaven and shall seek out all the saints. Among these are Philip, one of the twelve apostles, who sleeps in Hierapolis, and his two aged virgin daughters, and another daughter who lived in the Holy Spirit and now rests at Ephesus; and moreover John, who was both a witness and a teacher, who reclined upon the bosom of the Lord, and being a priest wore the sacerdotal plate. He also sleeps at Ephesus." Polycrates, bishop of Ephesus c. 189-198; cited in Eusebius' Ecclesiastical History, 3.31.3

9. He was the last authoritative _____ for Jesus as the first century closed.
 - a. John ascribes his eyewitness and apostolic _____ to his writings:

“This is the disciple who is bearing witness about these things, and who has written these things, and we know that his testimony is true.” John 21:24

“That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us—that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.” 1 John 1:1-3
 - b. His Gospel’s “uniqueness” is a product of when it was _____ more than by whom.
 - c. His five books are indeed God’s “_____” to mankind: Gospel of John, 1, 2, 3 John, and The Revelation.

II. “THE EPISTLE OF TOUGH LOVE” – 1st John

A. The Unique Vocabulary of a “Unique” Apostle

1. John’s _____ in this letter is very *similar* to his Gospel and *dissimilar* from everyone else:

Word/Phrase	1 John	John	Matthew	Mark	Luke
“love”	46	44	9	6	14
know”	41	143	49	33	55
“true/truth”	27	47	1	3	4
“world”	23	78	9	3	3
“life”	13	36	7	4	5
“light/darkness”	12	31	9	0	6
“walk” (lifestyle)	10	8	0	1	1
“believe”	9	93	10	15	10
“eternal life”	6	16	3	2	3
“testimony”	6	10	0	3	1

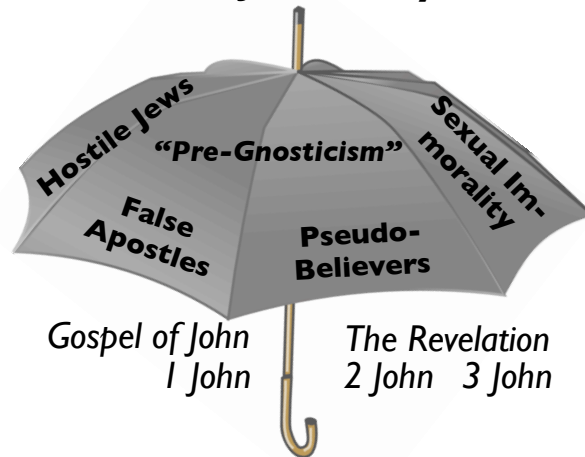
B. Special Times Call For Special People: The “Days of St. John the Divine”

1. Because of the compressed time period of his writings, John himself is our best source of the spiritual “_____” surrounding his letters:
 - a. _____: (Ephesus) *“I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false. I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name’s sake, and you have not grown weary. But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first.” Revelation 2:2-4*
 - b. _____: (Pergamum) *“But I have a few things against you: you have some there who hold the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, so that they might eat food sacrificed to idols and practice sexual immorality. So also you have some who hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans.” Revelation 2:14, 15*

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- c. _____: (Thyatira) *“But I have this against you, that you tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess and is teaching and seducing my servants to practice sexual immorality and to eat food sacrificed to idols....But to the rest of you in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have not learned what some call the deep things of Satan, to you I say, I do not lay on you any other burden.” Revelation 2:20, 24*
- d. _____: (Sardis) *“And to the angel of the church in Sardis write: ‘The words of him who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. “I know your works. You have the reputation of being alive, but you are dead. Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your works complete in the sight of my God.” Revelation 3:1, 2*
- e. _____: (Laodecia) *“For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked....Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.” Revelation 3:17, 20*
- f. _____: (Philadelphia) *“Behold, I will make those of the synagogue of Satan who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie—behold, I will make them come and bow down before your feet and they will learn that I have loved you.” Revelation 3:9*
- g. “_____ -Gnosticism”: (Ephesus) *“By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already.” 1 John 4:2, 3*

The Spiritual “Weather” of John’s Day



- C. Gnosticism: The Long “Half-Life” of an Old Heresy
 - 1. “Knowing” as opposed to “_____” was becoming the dominant measure of true spirituality. (Gk, *gnōsis*)
 - a. Only those who had been initiated into the secret knowledge were truly “in the _____.”

- b. _____: A total separation between the “spiritual” and the physical; the closer you got to one the further you were from the other.
- c. The _____ was evil at worst, unimportant at best, including Jesus’!
- d. There was a growing confusion over how to “_____” a genuine believer from a phony.

D. God’s Solution: “*The Idiot’s Guide to Phony Christians*” (1 John)

1. John lays out the characteristics of a phony Christian and a genuine one.

a. Phony Christians are those who:

- (1) Put all their focus on what they _____, rather than what they confess:

“Whoever says “I know him...” 1 John 2:4

“...whoever says he abides in him...” 1 John 2:6

“Whoever says he is in the light...” 1 John 2:9

“If anyone says, “I love God...” 1 John 4:20

- (2) Use _____ as an excuse for disobedience:

“No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God’s seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God.”
1 John 3:9

“Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him,”
1 John 2:4

- (3) Believe fellowship with God and fellowship with believers are _____:

“If anyone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen.”
1 John 4:20

- (4) Remove _____ from the center of The Story:

“No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also.”
1 John 2:23

“And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.”
1 John 5:20

b. Genuine Christians are those who:

- (1) Put their focus on how they live because of what they _____:

“...whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.”
1 John 2:6

“By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.”
1 John 3:16

“But if anyone has the world’s goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God’s love abide in him?”
1 John 3:17

“Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.”
1 John 3:18

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(2) See obedience as evidence of salvation (mine and others), *and* the path to _____ with God (“commandments” appears 18x in this brief letter!):

“And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments.” **1 John 2:3**

“For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.” **1 John 5:3**

(3) Believe that true fellowship is a _____, not an activity; it is something I’m either “in” or “out” of, *not* something I do or don’t do.

“...that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ...If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.” **1 John 1:3, 6, 7**

“Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling. But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.” **1 John 2:10, 11**

(4) Believe that knowing Christ and being known by Him is more important than *what* you “_____” (“know” appears 42x; there are 59 refs to Jesus Christ and 85 references to God):

*“See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not **know** us is that it did not **know** him.”* **1 John 3:1**

*“And we **know** that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may **know** him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.”* **1 John 5:20**

E. 1st Century John Speaks to the 21st Century Church

1. _____ can easily become an euphemism for disobedience when I extract it from The Story.

“In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.” **1 John 4:9-11**

2. I am to *hate* the “counter-Story” (Gk, *kosmos*), but *love* those _____ in it:

“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions—is not from the Father but is from the world.” **1 John 2:15, 16**

3. History is _____ because life has a narrative (i.e. a Story):

“Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore we know that it is the last hour.” **1 John 2:18**

4. _____ is not based on shared interests, shared theology or a shared geography, but a shared condition:

If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.” 1 John 1:6, 7

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