

CHAPTER 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.

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

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.

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

7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellow-

ship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

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

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

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

CHAPTER 2

MY little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

2 And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for *the sins of* the whole world.

3. And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.

4 He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

5 But whoso keepeth his word,

in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.

6 He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.

7. Brethren, I write no new commandment unto you, but an old commandment which ye had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which ye have heard from the beginning.

8 Again, a new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in him and in you: because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth.

9 He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now.

10 He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him.

11 But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes.

12. I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake.

13 I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known him *that is* from the beginning. I write unto

you, young men, because ye have overcome the wicked one. I write unto you, little children, because ye have known the Father.

14 I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him *that is* from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one.

15 Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

16 For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

18. Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.

19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would *no doubt* have continued with us: but *they went out*, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.

20. But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things.

21 I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth.

22 Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.

23 Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: *[but] he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also.*

24 Let that therefore abide in you, which ye have heard from the beginning. If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall continue in the Son, and in the Father.

25 And this is the promise that he hath promised us, *even* eternal life.

26 These *things* have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you.

27 But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.

28. And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.

29 If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him.

CHAPTER 3

BEHOLD, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

3 And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

4. Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

5 And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin.

6 Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him.

7 Little children, let no man

deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.

8 He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.

9 Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

10 In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.

11. For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.

12 Not as Cain, *who* was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous.

13 Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you.

14. We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not *his* brother abideth in death.

15 Whosoever hateth his brother

is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.

16 Hereby perceive we the love of *God*, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down *our* lives for the brethren.

17 But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of *compassion* from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?

18 My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

19 And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him.

20. For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things.

21 Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, *then* have we confidence toward God.

22 And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.

23. And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment.

24 And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.

CHAPTER 4

BELOVED, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

2 Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:

3 And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that *spirit* of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.

4. Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

5 They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them.

6 We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.

7. Beloved, let us love one another-

er: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.

8 He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

9 In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.

10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins.

11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.

12 No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.

13 Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.

14. And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son *to be* the Saviour of the world.

15 Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.

16 And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.

17. Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.

18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

19 We love him, because he first loved us.

20 If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?

21 And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.

CHAPTER 5

WHOSOEVER believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.

2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments.

3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, *even* our faith.

5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

6. This is he that came by water and blood, *even* Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth.

7 For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.

8 And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.

9 If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son.

10. He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.

11 And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

12 He that hath the Son hath life; *and* he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name

of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

14. And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:

15 And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

16 If any man see his brother sin a sin *which is* not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it.

17 All unrighteousness is sin:

and there is a sin not unto death.

18. We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not.

19 *And* we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness.

20 And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, *even* in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

21 Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.

DEVOTIONAL COMMENTS

MERRY CHRISTMAS

On this day when we celebrate the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, I trust you will take the time to honor Him, who was born of the virgin Mary, for the express purpose of giving Himself to die on the cross for your sins and mine. Too often even Christians have made Christmas Day a busy day—giving and receiving gifts—but not taking the time to thank the One who gave His life, the greatest gift of all, that we might have eternal life. Sometime during this day slip aside and fall on your knees and thank the Lord for the marvelous gift of His Son. If you are not born-again, accept the gift of Jesus Christ into your life. Trust Him as your own personal Saviour and allow Him to become Lord of your life. We here at Fundamental Baptist Church trust this will be the greatest Christmas ever for you and yours.

Since space does not permit detailed comments about each chapter we read, it is our purpose to point out things that will be meaningful to our readers each day, while fully realizing that many wonderful truths

cannot be commented on.

The Holy Spirit used the Apostle John to give us the Gospel of John, three Epistles, and the Book of the Revelation. These three works actually complement each other and give us a full picture of the Christian life. In the Gospel of John, the emphasis is on salvation; in the Epistles, the emphasis is on sanctification; and in the Revelation, the emphasis is on glorification. The Gospel of John speaks of past history; the Epistles of John speak of the present experience; and Revelation speaks of future hope. The Gospel of John emphasizes that Christ died for us; the Epistles, that Christ lives in us; and Revelation, that Christ comes for us. In the Gospel of John the Word was made flesh; in the Epistles the Word was made real to us; and in the Revelation the Word conquers.

John gives us five purposes for the writing of his first Epistle: (1) That we might have fellowship (chapter 1:3). (2) That we might have joy (chapter 1:4). (3) That we might not sin (chapter 2:1,2). (4) That we might overcome error (chapter 2:26). (5)

That we might have assurance (chapter 5:13).

Chapters 1 and 2 emphasize fellowship, and chapters 3—5 emphasize sonship. In each of these sections John gives three basic tests: obedience (walking in the light); love (walking in love); and truth (walking in truth). In other words, a person can know he is in fellowship with God through Christ if he has no known sin in his life, if he has a love for Christ and the brethren, and if he believes the truth and not some lie. Furthermore, he can know he is a son of God in the same way: If he is obeying His Word: if he has love for Christ and the brethren; and if he believes and lives the truth. Far too many professing Christians never test their lives to see if they are really saved. John asks us to apply these tests that we might enjoy the Christian life to the fullest.

When sin enters a Christian's life he must immediately confess it and claim God's forgiveness. He must spend time in the Word, learning the truth and letting the truth grip his heart, will, and mind. Or, to look at it negatively, the Christian who deliberately disobeys the Word, neglects the Word, and who cannot get along with God's people, is out of fellowship with God and in darkness. It is not enough to talk about the Christian life, we must practice it daily. God loved us so much that He gave His only Son to die on the cross for us, and we are to love Him and our Christian brothers. We must also keep in mind that Christian love does not mean we must agree with everything our brother thinks or does, because we might not like some of his personal characteristics. But, because he is a brother in Christ, we must love him for Jesus' sake and because God has told us to do so. Obedience, love, and truth are the three key thoughts in I John. They are essential for fellowship, and are very definite evidences of sonship. I wonder today, are these three Christian characteristics evident in your life?

PROVERB FOR TODAY

"The thoughts of the wicked are an abomination to the Lord; but the words of the pure are pleasant words" (Proverbs 15:26).

HYMN FOR THE DAY

THOU DIDST LEAVE THY THRONE

Emily E. S. Elliott, 1836-1897

This spiritually enriching text differs from the usual Christmas songs since it focuses not only on Jesus' birth but also on His life on earth, His suffering and death, and the ultimate triumph of His second advent.

This hymn was written by Emily Elliott to teach children the truths of the advent and nativity seasons. Emily's life was filled with benevolent activities in rescue missions and in the work of the Sunday school movement of that time. Although she wrote this text for the children of her father's church, St. Mark's Anglican Church in Brighton, England, the easily understood wording, the poetic imagery, and the spiritual truths found in these excellent lines soon made the hymn a widespread favorite everywhere.

The clear message of each verse is accentuated by the use of contrasting sentences, each beginning with the word "but." Then in the fifth stanza, the contrast is reversed with the rejoicing at Christ's return and the prospects of being at His side throughout eternity. The refrain after each verse effectively personalizes the truth presented. This fine hymn has proved to be an inspiration not only to children but to adults as well, during the Christmas season and also throughout the entire year.

*Thou didst leave Thy throne
and Thy kingly crown
when Thou camest to earth for me;
but in Bethlehem's home
was there found no room
for Thy holy nativity.*

*Heaven's arches rang
when the angels sang,
proclaiming Thy royal degree;
but of lowly birth
didst Thou come to earth,
and in great humility.*

*The foxes found rest,
and the birds their nest
in the shade of the forest tree;
but Thy couch was the sod,
O Thou Son of God,
in the deserts of Galilee.*

*Thou camest, O Lord,
with the living word
that should set Thy people free;
but with mocking scorn
and with crown of thorn
they bore Thee to Calvary.*

*When the heav'ns shall ring
and the angels sing
at Thy coming to victory,*

let Thy voice call me home,
saying, "Yet there is room—
there is room at My side for thee."

My heart shall rejoice, Lord Jesus,
when thou comest and callest for me!

Refrain (w.1-4): O come to my heart, Lord Jesus—
there is room in my heart for Thee!

TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING

Spend this month reviewing the previous 13 lessons.
For today, review Memory Verse Assignment 27
(found on page 10).

BIRTHDAY TODAY

MAGGIE MUNDY

ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY

READ THE CHRISTMAS STORY TODAY.

Read the Christmas story with your family. Then
read it alone and thank God for Jesus. Spend some
time in meditation today.

1766

CHRISTMAS EVANS WAS BORN.

Christmas Evans, a famous old preacher, was born
on Christmas day. Christmas Evans was a circuit-rid-
ing preacher. He lost the sight in one eye by being
beaten by the old crowd with whom he used to run.
This happened shortly after his conversion.

As Christmas Evans died, some young preachers
came by his bedside and asked what advice he would
leave with them. He raised up and with his last words
said, "Young men, preach the blood in the basin."

CLARA BARTON WAS BORN CHRISTMAS DAY.

1642

SIR ISAAC NEWTON MADE KNOWN THE PRINCIPLE OF UNIVERSAL GRAVITATION ON THIS DAY.

ON THIS DATE IN AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY

1760

Jupiter Hammon, New York slave who was probably
the first black poet, published *An Evening Thought:
Salvation by Christ, with Penitential Cries*.

1837

Seminole Indian force defeated by American troops at
Battle of Okeechobee. Black chief John Horse shared
command with Alligator Sam Jones and Wild Cat.
The Cheyney State Training School was established in
Pennsylvania.

Charles Lenox Remond began his career as an anti-
slavery agent. Remond was one of the first blacks
employed as a lecturer by the antislavery movement.
Mirror of Liberty, Pioneer black magazine, published
in New York City by abolitionist David Ruggles.

1865

Reports from all over the South said freedmen had
abandoned plantations in expectation of a general
distribution of land. General Rufus Saxton, Freed-
men's Bureau commander in South Carolina, said
"the impression is universal among the freedmen that
they are to have the abandoned and confiscated
lands, in homesteads of forty acres, in January next."

Atlanta University, Shaw University and Virginia
Union University founded.

1875

Charles Caldwell, militant black militia officer, assas-
sinated in Clinton, Mississippi.

Alabama A&M College, Knoxville College and Lane
College established.

1951

Harry T. Moore, Florida NAACP official, killed, and
his wife seriously injured by bomb blast which
wrecked their home in Mims, Florida.

Spingarn Medal presented to Mabel K. Staupers for
her leadership in the field of nursing.

1956

Home of Rev. F.L. Shuttlesworth, Birmingham protest
leader, destroyed by dynamite bomb.

1965

Congress of Racial Equality announced that its
national director, James Farmer, would resign on
March 1.

Seaway National Bank of Chicago established.

1971

Operation PUSH (People United to Save Humanity)
organized by the Rev. Jesse Jackson.

MEMORY VERSE ASSIGNMENT 27 (for review):

Please spend time reviewing these memory verses. If you have been completing the assignments in the TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING, then you already have spent a week memorizing the Scriptures below. Now it's time to review!

EVIDENCE OF DIVINE INSPIRATION: THE SCRIPTURES CLAIM

() II Timothy 3:16

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

() II Timothy 3:17

That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

() I Peter 1:10

Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you:

() I Peter 1:11

Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.

() II Peter 1:21

For the Prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.