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1 John 2

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Learn the Bible with Friends

Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

1 John 2.

Topics.

- If anyone sins, they have an advocate Jesus Christ the righteous.
- Three tests for those who confess Christ.
- The darkness is passing away and the true light is shining.
- The darkness has blinded their eyes.
- Antichrists and antichrist.
- You have been anointed by the Holy One.
- Whoever confesses the Son has the Father.
- You have no need for anyone to teach you.

The previous chapter: in the previous chapter John taught that the apostles had heard, seen and touched the eternal life which was with God from the beginning and that it is by Christ's righteousness that God judges us worthy of eternal salvation. He spoke of his and the apostle's joy being made complete and said, "The blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin and that if we say we have not sinned, we make God a liar, but if we confess our sin God is faithful to forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

NOTE: for information concerning people, places and the meaning of words see Map Locations and People of the Bible, and Bible Dictionary on Website Menu.

1 JOHN 2:1-2

If anyone Sins, they have an Advocate Jesus Christ the Righteous.

- **1 John 2:1-2:** My little children I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.
²He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

My little children: refers to new converts.

So that you may not sin, but if anyone does sin, these words, show that every brother and sister in Christ should endeavour to do whatever they can to avoid sin, but John is not so naïve as to think that anyone of us can avoid sinning altogether, thus the reason he says, "If anyone does sin they have an advocate Jesus Christ the righteous." An advocate in this context carries the idea of Jesus acting as an intercessor before God on our behalf. Jesus seated at the right hand of his heavenly Father claims us as his, this is why John says, "Jesus Christ the righteous" (v1), because it is Christ's righteousness we are saved to eternal life by and not our own. Through our faith in Christ the Lord clothes us in his robes of righteousness. It is because we are clothed in Christ's royal robes without blemish that God counts us worthy.

Propitiation: in this context means Jesus death made amends for our sin and abolished the Laws power to condemn us to eternal death. It means that Christ the Passover Lamb without blemish laid down his life so that we could live eternally. Jesus is the propitiation in that the Second Death (eternal death) (i.e., total extinction) has no power over whoever has faith in Christ's death and resurrection. For further information on the second death see the title:

- The Second or Great White Throne Judgment.
- In Resurrection (ON WEBSITE MENU).

NOTICE: John points out Christ died for the entire world and not just for those who accept him this, highlights two important truths:

- Eternal salvation is available to all mankind.
- Christ laid down his life for all mankind therefore we should treat all mankind with the same compassion, decency and respect that Jesus did.

1 JOHN 2:3-6

Three Tests for those who Confess Christ.

- **1 John 2:3-6:** And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we *keep his commandments*. ⁴Whoever says "I know him" but does not *keep his commandments* is a liar, and the truth is not in him, ⁵but whoever *keeps his word*, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may be sure that we are in him: ⁶whoever says he abides in him ought to *walk in the same way in which he walked*.

John says if those who confess Christ are doing the following three things, they can be confident they know the Lord:

1. Keep his Commandments: this means not living to fulfil the desires of the flesh, (self, ego, pride, lusts and greed etc.) it means living a lifestyle that honours God and brings a good testimony to the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and the Christian faith.
2. Keep his word: this does not mean that we have to know every doctrine of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, but refers primarily to fully trusting by FAITH in the Lord Jesus Christ and God's GRACE for our righteousness that leads to eternal life and not our own self-effort in attaining to it or in keeping ceremonial rites, religious customs and traditions and not only avoiding any teaching that leads away from GRACE and the Lord Jesus Christ and any doctrines that lead to ungodly behaviour, but also holding fast to the teachings of Christ and the apostles.
3. Walking in the same way in which Jesus Christ walked, when Jesus was asked, "Which commandment is the most important of all?" He answered, "The most important is, "God is one and you shall love Him with all your heart, soul, mind and strength" The second is this, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself" there is no other commandment greater than these two" (Mark 12:28-31) James refers to Jesus commandment, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself" as the Royal Law (James 2:8).

It means do not deliberately do harm to other humans. No sane person deliberately does things to inflict pain on themselves, loving others as you love yourself is not about feeling some warm and fuzzy emotion towards others, it is about not hurting others as you would not hurt yourself. The thing God hates the most is when we do harm to another person, physically, financially, sexually, verbally, mentally, emotionally or spiritually and the thing God loves the most is when we do-good to others. It is interesting to notice that the major crime that God points out in Noah's time and one of the main reasons for the flood was because of all the violence in the land. Micah says, "What the LORD requires of mankind is to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with their God." (Micah 6:5-10) Isaiah tells us, "The LORD loves justice and hates robbery and wrong doing" (Isaiah 61:8) and Jeremiah says, "Those who know God practise steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth, because it is in these things that God delights" (Jer. 9:24). The great prophets

Micah, Isaiah and Jeremiah clearly show us that the people the LORD loves are not only those who acknowledge God, but who also uphold justice, do not lie, deceive or make promises they do not intend to keep, but speak the truth, do what is right, show respect and give help to others when able and make choices that lead to peace. These are the things the LORD delights in and that bring His favour. The constant theme throughout Jesus famous Sermon on the Mount is doing what is right before God by seeking the way of peace in all situations. Jesus calls Christians to treat people fairly and with respect, dignity, decency grace compassion, kindness, mercy and to be quick to forgive.

These shine a brilliant spotlight upon the truth that Christ-likeness is about doing all we can do to protect people from harm and being dominated by the thought, "What action can I take or do that will help and encourage this person." It is all about doing right to others, which is the reason the message he spoke on the mountain is referred to as, "The Famous Sermon" because the principals if followed not only by Christians but all humanity are the only way to peace (Matt. 5). For further information on Jesus Famous Sermon see:

- Matthew 5 in Commentary New Testament (ON WEBSITE MENU).

God love perfected: John says:

- When a brother or sister in Christ keeps the Lords commandments, his word and walks in the same manner that he did they are perfecting the love of God and can be confident they are in Christ (v5).

Johns focus is on love this is because the Spirit of God is love and the Spirit of the Ten Commandments regarding mankind is also love since each commandment protects the innocent from hurt and harm this is why all the commands regarding humanity can be summed up in the words "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." If we are ever in doubt as to what is God's will for a difficult situation, we should ask ourselves what is the loving thing to do? "What will be the best decision or action that I can take that will work to the well-being of everybody involved?" It perhaps should be mentioned that love as glorious as it is does not abolish justice this is because true justice is also an act of love since it not only demands the criminal make restitution where possible, but also protects the innocent from further harm.

1 JOHN 2:7-8

A New Commandment.

- **1 John 2:7-8:** Beloved, I am writing you no new commandment, but an old commandment that you had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word that you have heard. ⁸At the same time, it is a new commandment that I am writing to you, which is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining.

John is saying that the command to "Love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength" and to "Love your neighbour as yourself" are not new commandments. In the Old Testament God through Moses said, "You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbour as yourself: I am the LORD. (Lev. 19:18). The reason John is saying that the Old Testament commandment, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself" is now new is because that in Christ we know the love of God in our hearts and therefore our decisions, actions and behaviour should flow out from this love in contrast to obeying as a cold legal demand the letter of the law.

The darkness is passing away and the true light is shining: the prophets of the Old Testament spoke of Christ's birth, his ministry, his compassion, his suffering, his death, his glory and his Kingdom, but they

never fully understood much of what they prophesied regarding their Messiah the Christ, whereas as today we see clearly what they were speaking of. This is what John means when he says:

- The darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining.

Meaning the obscurity of what was spoken prior to Christ's death and resurrection has passed away, because we now have a clear understanding of all that the prophets spoke concerning the true light the Lord Jesus Christ shining not only in the world through our testimony, but also in our hearts.

1 JOHN 2:9-11

Abiding in the Light and Abiding in Darkness.

- **1 John 2:9-11:** Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. ¹⁰Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling. ¹¹But 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.

Hates: means to dislike, detest, loathe, despise, it carries the idea of loving less.

Darkness: in this context carries the idea of obscurity.

John says, "if anyone who confesses to believe in Christ have dwelling within their heart a loathing toward other brothers and sisters in Christ or consider another family member of the Lord to be less, they are deceiving themselves." This was the heart attitude of the religious leaders of Jesus era they considered themselves as the important ones the elite of God and looked down upon their followers and the common lay people as the lessor. Jesus Christ is the perfect example of pure love he had all the wisdom and power to be King of all, yet he humbled himself to serve those who the religious leaders full of pride and ego considered to be less and certainly not worthy of their time. John is basically saying anyone confessing to believe in Christ, but does not have love in their hearts towards others who belong to Christ are deceiving themselves when they say they believe in Christ. To those who know the love of God in Christ and experience this love in their own hearts it sounds truly foreign that someone could confess to believe in the Lord and yet not enjoy the fellowship of others who belong to him, but this is quite common even today. Worldwide many confessing to believe in God and in Christ go to church only at Easter and Christmas, others attend regular Mass and multitudes go to church every Sunday, but shy away from true fellowship with Christ's true brothers and sisters. This is because they want a form of religion, as long as it does not intrude into their weekly life, for these people religion is like having an eternal insurance policy which they believe will get them into heaven upon their death.

The darkness has blinded their eyes: the words, "The darkness has blinded their eyes" (v11) in this context refers to the hate in the persons heart, but it can mean many things since the word darkness when used in reference to spiritual matters embraces all things that prevent a person from truly surrendering their mind, heart and life fully to the Lord. It would embrace such things as self, pride and ego, the craving for riches and wealth and the longing for the luxuries of this world or the desire to live contrary to the ways of God.

1 JOHN 2:12-14

Little Children, Young Men and Fathers.

- **1 John 2:12-14:** I am writing to you, little children because your sins are forgiven for his name's sake. ¹³I am writing to you, fathers because you know him who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, children because you know the Father. ¹⁴I write to you, fathers because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

The little children: the title, little children refer to the Gentiles who have converted to the Christian faith (in Contrast to the Jews who have known God from the beginning). The Gentile converts would of course have come from lifestyles that were very much contrary to the ways of God and full of idol worship and the belief in pagan gods. This is why John comforts them by saying that their sins are forgiven for his name's sake, meaning they are forgiven through their faith in Christ for God's glory. The statement, "They know the Father" means they are favoured by Christ's heavenly Father because of their faith in His Son in contrast to the many gods they worshipped.

The young men: the title, young men refer to the Jews who converted to Christianity, this is why John says they are strong, the word of God abides in them and they have overcome the evil one. The evil one could refer to Rome or the Jewish religious leaders who denied Christ since both these groups had tremendous authority and power and both Rome and the Jewish leaders aggressively set about to destroy the Christian faith (the evil one may also refer to the antichrist and antichrist's John talks about in (v17-26)).

The fathers: the title the Fathers in this context refers to the Jews since it is the Jewish nation that has known God from the beginning. The following verses shine a spotlight on the truth that Israel has always been God's special and unique people. God said:

- Israel was his son who he called out of Egypt and he loved them when they were a child (Hosea 11:1).
- He gave birth to Israel and carried them from the womb even to their old age (Isaiah 46:3-4).
- Israel is his allotted heritage (Deut. 32:9) and the apple of his eye (Deut. 32:10).
- Israel is a people holy to him (Deut. 7:6) and his treasured possession (Deut. 14:2).

The LORD has not spoken this way with any other nation, but God has not only spoken of Israel differently, but always dealt with them differently to any other nation:

- To Israel God gave the Ten Commandments and showed his great power.
- To Israel God declared his word, statutes and his rules.
- To Israel God gave the prophets, the priesthood, the worship and the promises.
- To Israel belonged the covenant, the adoption, the patriarchs and the glory.
- To Israel the oracles of God and His Holy temple were entrusted.
- The people of Israel are the offspring of Abraham the father of faith.
- From Israel's race came the Christ the Saviour of the World.

It is easy to see why John would refer to the Jews as being the fathers, since the LORD has not given any other nation such great privileges.

- **1 John 2:15-17:** 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. ¹⁶For 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. ¹⁷And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

John is not saying that we should not enjoy what is good in the world and appreciate the talents and gifts that enable us to succeed in in the world, since we all have to provide the necessities of life for ourselves and our families i.e., a home, cars, schooling and all the things a family needs to live amongst the world and we are all entitled to happiness, comfort and joy while we wait for our Lord's return. The idea behind the words:

- Do not love the world (v15).

Is that we should not crave after its riches, wealth and luxuries, nor should we be self-indulgent in storing up far more than we need. Loving the world carries the idea of setting our affections upon the pleasures and luxuries of this world rather than on God. The outward manifestation of loving this world is indulgent luxurious living, those who love the things of this world live to gratify self, ego, pride and greed. John's focus in these verses is on the following three things:

1. The desires of the flesh: the flesh refers to self and ego it carries the ideal of living solely to gratify the sinful desires that self and ego crave after.
2. The desires of the eyes: not only carries the idea of living a life of immorality, adultery and having many bed partners, but also refers to anything we see and crave after specially to excess it can be food, alcohol, buying unnecessary products simply because we desire them etc.
3. Pride in possessions: owning possessions is not a sin, pride in possessions carries the idea of boasting in what one owns and feeling superior to others simply because they are richer, wealthier and own more, this attitude is extremely prideful and arrogant and becomes the cause of that person's sin. It is getting one's self-worth from what they own rather than from the fruits of the Spirit that dwell within (i.e., love, compassion, kindness, mercy and grace etc.).

This is what it means to love the world, it is having the heart and mind set on whatever in the world it is that self, ego, pride, lust and greed crave after. It is not about taking the family out to an amusement park for a fun family day, or taking a sweetheart to a nice restaurant for a romantic dinner etc. God has given us much in the world to enjoy, but if we put these things before God we are then, loving the world. If things of the world are seated on the throne of our hearts and mind and not God and the things of Christ then there is no-doubt our love relationship is not with God, but with this world.

To set the affections of our hearts and mind on God and the things of his Kingdom is wisdom because God's Kingdom is eternal happiness and everlasting glory. In contrast it is foolishness to set the affections of our heart and mind on the things of this world since not only are they passing away, but so are we. Added to this, is the reality that there is nothing in this world that will give any joy when we are in the grave.

- **1 John 2:18-19:** Children it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrist's have come. Therefore we know that it is the last hour.
¹⁹They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us.

The following are the four most common thoughts of what the last hour refers to:

1. All the apostles were now dead, except John therefore the last hour refers to the end of the apostolic age.
2. Jerusalem and the temple were destroyed in 70 A.D. therefore the last hour refers to the end of the Levitical priesthood and conclusion of the Jewish state.
3. The last time in which all kinds of religious impostors, vices, heresies, and pollutions will have their full reign.
4. The last dispensation of the world i.e., the closing period on in which the affairs of the world are ultimately to be wound up.

It is foolish to debate over which of these Peter had in mind since there is no-doubt the last hour would have applied to whoever was alive during any one of the four scenarios.

Nevertheless, the following words of John at the end of this chapter: -

- Abide in him, so that *when he appears* we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame *at his coming* (v28)

Clearly show that John had in mind every generation until Christ returns, thus the last hour embraces all four scenarios' and continues on through all following generations until that glorious day when Christ appears in glory.

The meaning of antichrist and antichrists: the word antichrists, only occurs in John's letters and he is the only biblical writer who uses the singular word antichrist. No other New Testament writer uses this term so the surest method of discovering what the word antichrist means is not to look in dictionaries or at the reasoning's of religious leaders, but explore the four other verses in which John uses the word antichrist. John wrote:

1. 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).

It is the last hour because antichrists have come and a particular antichrist is coming.

2. Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son (1 John 2:22).

The antichrist is a person who denies the Father and the Son and denies Jesus is the Christ.

3. 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 4:3).

From the beginning it has been said that antichrists would come and everyone who denies Jesus came from God is an antichrist.

4. For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. Such a one is the deceiver and the *antichrist* (2 John 1:7).

Those who deny Jesus was born of a natural birth are deceivers.

NOTICE: John does not use the word antichrist in the sense of one who set themselves up as rival claim to Christ, or who came in the place of Christ, but in the sense of those who were opposed to him by denying essential doctrines in regard to his birth, nature and his return in majestic glory.

You have Heard Antichrist is Coming: Jesus said:

- Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves (Matt. 7:15).
- Many false prophets will arise and lead many astray (Matt. 24:11).
- False Christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect *see, I have told you beforehand* (Matt. 24:24-25).

Clearly these verses can apply to the destruction to Jerusalem in 70 A.D. but the following words of Jesus:

- If they say to you, 'Look, he is in the wilderness,' do not believe it because as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man be (Matt. 24:26-27).

Show that they apply right up to Christ's glorious return.

The spirit of an antichrist: John's states that the spirit and characteristic of an antichrist is denying the truth, that Jesus is the Christ and came by a natural birth and denying the Father. John in the following verse says:

- No one who denies the Son has the Father (1 John 2:23).

Clearly shows that denying Christ automatically means denying the Father, this is because by denying Jesus we are denying God of his only begotten Son, it's the same as saying God I'll believe in you, but not your, most beloved Son. What natural earthly father would accept the love of a friend who refuses to acknowledge his children? It is a most repugnant love indeed and certainly I have never met an earthy father who loves his children accepting the friendship of someone who does not even want to acknowledge his children exist.

The term antichrist can apply to a great apostasy Under one head or to an individual or a succession of individuals

Antichrist is coming and many have come: throughout history it has been claimed that the antichrist was:

- The Emperor Domitian, the Gnostics and the Nicolaitans.
- The Nazareans, the Corinthians or the Romish pontiffs, etc., etc.

But it is foolish to speculate since any person, doctrine, system of religion, polity, etc., which is opposed to Christ, and to the Spirit and spread of Christ's Gospel is an antichrist. Everyone who opposes the Spirit of the Gospel, and every teacher and writer, who endeavours to lower the Gospel standard to the spirit and taste of the world, is a genuine antichrist, no-matter where or among whom they are found. The heresies which sprang up in the days of John were the antichrist of that time. As there has been a succession of oppositions to Christianity in its spirit and spread through every age since its spread throughout the world, so there has been a succession of antichrists. The answer to the question, "Who is the antichrist?" Can be made even simpler; every individual person, group, community, government who deliberately opposes Christ's reign in the world and in others is an enemy of Christ and therefore can be given the title antichrist.

Antichrists went out from us: the words, "They went out from us" (v19) means they went out from our company and communion. At the time of John, it most likely applied to certain believers in the church at Jerusalem and in the land of Judea who went back to Judaism, the laws of Moses and Jewish ceremonial rites, religious customs and traditions to

earn righteousness rather than trusting in God's grace that comes through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. When people confessing to believe in Christ turn from the Good News of the Gospel of grace it shows that they were not inwardly transformed as true brothers and sisters in Christ and that they had not surrendered their lives to the love of Christ or made him the King of their heart and mind. Had they done so they could not turn against the LORD with such hostility and aggression, it shows they were hypocrites and pretenders of their faith since had they been rooted in the heart by Christ's love and God's grace, they would not have turned antichrists.

1 JOHN 2:20-21

You have Been Anointed by the Holy One.

- **1 John 2:20-21:** But you have been anointed by the Holy One (an unction from the Holy One in KJV) and you all have knowledge.²¹I write to you not because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and because no lie is of the truth.

The anointing here mentioned is an allusion to the holy anointing oil (and ointment) prescribed by God himself:

- Take the finest spices: of liquid myrrh 500 shekels, and of sweet-smelling cinnamon half as much, that is, 250, and 250 of aromatic cane, and 500 of cassia, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, and a hin of olive oil. And you shall make of these a sacred anointing oil blended as by the perfumer; it shall be *a holy anointing oil* (Exodus 30:23-25).

This was an emblem of the gifts and graces of the Divine Spirit. This is the reason Oil was used to anoint people into the ministry it was a symbol that they were accepted by the Holy Spirit for God's service. The proper meaning of the words unction or anointing (*chrisma*) is something rubbed in. The following verses show when anointing is used figuratively the allusion is to the anointing of kings and priests, or their inauguration and coronation (a ceremony at which someone officially becomes king or queen).

- Samuel took a flask of oil and poured it on Saul's head and kissed him and said, "Has not the LORD *anointed you to be prince* over his people Israel? And you shall reign over the people of the LORD and you will save them from the hand of their surrounding enemies. And this shall be the sign to you that the LORD has *anointed you to be prince* over his heritage (1 Sam 10:1).
- Samuel took the horn of oil and *anointed him* in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David from that day forward (1 Sam. 16:13).
- You (Aaron) shall *anoint* your brother and his sons and ordain them and consecrate them, that they may serve me *as priests* (Exodus 28:41).
- You shall *anoint the sons of Aaron* as you (Moses) anointed their father, that they may serve me *as priests*. And their anointing shall admit them to a perpetual priesthood throughout their generations (Exod. 40:15).

The words, "You have been anointed by the Holy One" (v20) means that they had been so anointed by the Holy One that they understood the true nature of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

You have been anointed by the Holy One: there has been much discussion as to who John had in mind when he used the title the Holy One the three most common thoughts of who the Holy One refers to are:

1. God because God is the source of all things and Paul stated, "It is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us" (2 Cor. 1:21)
2. The Holy Spirit since it is the Holy Spirit who performs the work of God and influences, enlightens, sanctifies and comforts the people of God in their trials and who gives them a clear view of the nature of Christ and the Gospel.

3. Jesus, because John in the final verses of this chapter talks about letting the anointing, we have received from Jesus abiding in us and says that his anointing teaches us all things.

It would be foolish to debate which of the three John was referring to by the title the Holy One since God, the Holy Spirit and the Lord Jesus Christ are all holy and everyone who is in the Lord Jesus Christ has God and the Holy Spirit since no-one can have one of the three and not the others therefore it matters little which John had in mind since all three can be applied.

The anointing of Aaron and Jesus: Aaron's anointing gives us a beautiful picture of God anointing Christ as the head of the church and that anointing descending down through his body. David wrote:

- Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments (Psalm 133:1-2).

The anointing oil was poured on Aaron's head and descended to his beard and to the skirts of his garments as Jesus was anointed without measure and from him it descends to all the members of his spiritual body. The anointing oil was used symbolically to represent and illustrate that a person was accepted and qualified by God for the duties and service of the office or ministry they were called to. The following verses show that Christians, in the New Testament, are anointed to be kings and priests who form a royal priesthood.

- You have made us a *kingdom, priests* to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen (Rev. 1:6).
- You have made them a *kingdom and priests* to our God, and they shall reign on the earth" (Rev. 5:10).
- You yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a *holy priesthood*, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ (1 Peter 2:5)
- You are a chosen race, a *royal priesthood*, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellences of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light (1 Peter 2:9).

Christians are represented as being anointed, meaning they have been accepted by God for service in his Kingdom as kings and priest and granted righteousness that leads to eternal life because of their faith in Christ and God's grace. Since not one of us is free of sin, this truth shines a brilliant spotlight upon the following: it is Christ's righteousness and not our own, that God's favour is toward us, and that our future inheritance in the eternal Kingdom of Christ as kings and priests is not because of our own self-effort and works, but because of his. It is for these reasons that Christians are spoken of as being anointed.

You all Have Knowledge: the words, "You have all knowledge" (v20) can apply to the following two things:

1. Since John at the end of this chapter states, "That he is writing these things about those who are trying to deceive those in Christ and tells them that they have received an anointing so that they do not need anyone to teach them (v26-27). The words, all knowledge refer to the discernment between the spirit of a true minister or teacher of the Lord and that spirit of an antichrist or false teacher in the Lord's service. With this understanding in mind John is saying that the anointing teaches you all things regarding the spirit of men. This idea harmonise beautiful with John's entire letter since the whole focus of John is to guard Christians against seducers and deceivers, who were even then disturbing and striving to corrupt the church, because of this John later cautions those in Christ with the words, "Beloved, do not believe every

spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world" (1 John 4:1). But someone might ask, "How were they to try them?" Principally by that anointing meaning that spiritual illumination, light and discernment they had received through their new birth into Christ and by the teachings they had been taught from the beginning in contrast to the distorted and twisted teaching of the antichrist's and false teachers. This anointing that gives all knowledge does not refer to a perfect knowledge of all things, but to the two chief things John has in focus in this letter which firstly applies to all spiritual discernment necessary to guard against antichrists and deceivers that John talks about in this letter. Judas (not Iscariot) at one time asked Jesus:

- Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world? (John 14:22).

And Jesus answered him:

- If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him (John 14:23).

Doing all we can to live a life that honours God and brings a good testimony to the name of Jesus and having the love of Christ and the love of his heavenly Father dwelling in our hearts is not only the key, but is also the anointing that rests upon all who belong to the Lord and that gives them the spiritual discernment to recognise those who belong to the Lord and those who are imposters.

2. The words, "You all have knowledge" (v20) mean all the essential knowledge that is needed to know Christ, the Gospel and the path to eternal life. It does not mean that they possess all knowledge pertaining to this world, but that, under the influences of the Holy Spirit and the word of God they are fully acquainted with Christ, the Gospel and salvation, the Kingdom of God and the glory that is to come in such clearness that John regarded them as being safe from the danger of apostasy and the teachings of the antichrists. The same can be said of all faithful Christians who are so taught in the Gospel of Christ and lead by the Holy Spirit that they not only perceive the wonders and glories contained in the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, but also have his love dwelling in their hearts and are fully aware that it is only by God's grace that they are saved. With this rich treasure of spiritual knowledge, they are protected from falling into fatal error and apostasy. In regard to the general meaning of the words, "You all have knowledge" (v20) it should be observed that it does not mean that Christians:

- Are literally instructed by the Holy Spirit in all things or that they literally understand all subjects.
- Are given new faculties of mind or any increased intellectual endowments, because of their faith.
- Are superior in mental endowments to others.
- Are now endowed with mental traits which they did not have before their conversion.
- Are gifted with new truth being revealed to their mind by the Holy Spirit. All the truth that is brought before the mind of the Christian is to be found in the Word of God. This is because all 'revelation' was completed when the Bible was finished.
- Are gifted with a supernatural faculty that enables them to perceive things that could not be perceived before their conversion or which other people have not also the natural faculty for perceiving.

The words, "You all have knowledge" (v20) refer only to the knowledge of God, his Kingdom, eternal life and all things concerning the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul, Peter and John had essentially the same mental characteristics after their conversion which they had before; and the same

is true of all Christians. The difficulty with people is not a defect of natural faculties it is in the blindness of the mind and of the heart, due to the desire to be free to live to gratify the things self, ego, pride, lust and greed crave after.

You all have knowledge: implies that the minds of Christians are so enlightened that they have:

- A new insight into human nature as it is seen before the eyes of God.
- A new perception of the Gospel, eternal life and of Christ. They see the beauty, the wonder and the glory of all these in a light in that they did not have before.
- A new insight into what being in Christ's love and God's grace means. They understand it is not about having their wishes and wants fulfilled, but about a man who so deeply loved them he laid down his life to his enemies and suffered a brutal bloody and cruel death so they might be saved.
- An understanding of God's love and grace better than they once did; what was once dark appears now plain; what once had no beauty to their minds now appears beautiful; what was once repelling is now attractive.
- The invisible, but very real influence of the Holy Spirit not only magnifies and enlarges their knowledge of God's love and grace, but also their worldview and its impending future is brought clearly into focus.

The following provide the evidence that these things are so: the apostle Paul stated:

- The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one (1 Cor. 2:14-15).

Jesus said:

- When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you (John 16:13-14).

When a person reads God's word with a right heart attitude the Holy Spirit works within the heart and mind to reveal the glorious and eternal wonders and treasures contained in the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 JOHN 2:22

The Description and Character of an Antichrist.

- **1 John 2:22:** Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son.

Antichrist: (antichristos) the word antichrist comes from Greek (anti) and Greek (Christos) it means an opponent or antagonist of Christ or a false Christ. In the Bible, the word antichrist is used only in the letters of John, but the concept of an opponent of Christ appears in the Old Testament. Its earliest form is probably that of the warrior King Gog in the Book of Ezekiel. The term antichrist was variously applied by the early Christians to any opponent or enemy of Christ, whether a person or power, or to a false claimant of the characteristics and attributes of Christ. The false Christs were predicted by Jesus to precede the coming of the Son of man (Matt. 24). Opposition to Christ's teaching on the part of the anti-

Christ was also prophesied (1 John 2:18). The development of this conception of active hostility is apparent in the letters of Paul, who bore the brunt of Jewish opposition (1 Thess. 2:15). The man of sin, as Paul saw him would regard the temple at Jerusalem as the seat of God's worship (2 Thess. 2:3-4). In the Book of Revelation, antichrist is identified with paganism. Different interpreters have at various times identified the antichrist with the Roman emperors Nero, Diocletian, Julian, and Caligula; with the Samaritan sorcerer Simon Magus (Acts 8:9-24); and with Muhammad, the founder of Islam. At the time of the Reformation, Protestants quite generally held the Pope to be the antichrist and Roman Catholics regarded Martin Luther similarly. In the controversy between the Roman Church and the Greek Church, the name was applied, by those who opposed them, to Popes and Byzantine emperors.

John makes it far simpler for us to know who an antichrist is since he gives us a very clear definition saying that anyone who:

- Denies that Jesus is the Christ (meaning the Saviour of mankind).
- Denies Jesus came in the flesh (meaning he was born of a woman).
- Denies the Father and the Son (meaning they deny Christ is the Son of God).

The term antichrist cannot be applied to every Christian brother or sister that falls away from the faith since some fall through disappointments, hurts or the lack of proper knowledge, dogmatic parents or legalistic churches, but these people do not turn aggressively hostile against Christ in fact many of them return to the faith since God knows the heart and Christ does not give up on them. Often many of those who have fallen away for reasons such as these eventually return to the Christian faith, but this time not under compulsion, but with a willing heart since in their wilderness (like the prodigal son) they have found (often through testimonies of true Christians) that the Christian faith is not about rigidly keeping religious customs and traditions or adhering to dogmatic and legalistic doctrines, but about walking in Christ's love and God's grace. When they discover Christ's love and God's grace they return not to man's idea of religion, but to Christ himself and this is a glorious state to be in. Sadly, for many to discover that they can walk with Christ alone God has to allow them to fall away from their religious organizations, institutions with their established customs and traditions (especially if they have been born into them) to discover the glory of trusting in Christ alone.

NOTE: walking with Christ alone is not about never having fellowship with other brothers and sisters in Christ, but about trusting only in Christ alone for our salvation and our relationship with God and the Lord Jesus Christ in contrast to:

- Trusting in our church, a religious organisation or institution.
- Trusting in a minister (no matter how good) or trusting in our works.
- Trusting in our faithful attendance or in doing Mass or Communion every week.
- Trusting in our being the head minister of church or even the preacher.

It is about walking before Christ and living to please him and not our families, our friends or work mates. It is about being more concerned about what Jesus thinks of us than being concerned what our family and friends might think. It is about having Christ seated as the King on the throne of our heart and mind in contrast to having others seated on it.

1 JOHN 2:23

Whoever confesses the Son has the Father.

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

No earthly father who loves his children is going to accept as a dear and beloved friend someone who wants nothing to do with his children; likewise, no son who loves his father is going to accept as his friend someone who refuses his father's existence. In the same manner anyone who loves the children of that father or speaks-good of the son's father will be accepted by both the father and the son. The relationship between Christ and his heavenly Father functions in the same manner God refers to Jesus as his most beloved Son and there is no-question about Christ's deep love for his heavenly father so to think we can have one while we are denying the other is clearly foolishness and goes against all common sense.

1 JOHN 2:24-25

Eternal Life is the Promise Christ made to Us.

- **1 John 2:24-25:** Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you new converts heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father. ²⁵And this is the promise that he made to us— eternal life.

Though John has new converts in focus his message applies to all of us, the words, "Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you" (v24) refers to the words of Jesus Christ and the teachings of the apostles. It is that message of the Gospel that was preached at the beginning of the New Covenant in contrast to the distorted and twisted teaching of the antichrists and the false teachers. John is basically saying that there are no new doctrines, messages, prophecies revelations, teachings or messages than those that we have been given in the beginning of the Christian faith. Therefore abide in the apostles teaching and don't go seeking after new prophetic messages or revelations no matter who is speaking them i.e., even if they are a coming from a man who has a global religious empire if he is giving out new prophetic revelations and prophecies do not follow after him since they are not coming from the Spirit of God or the Spirit of the Lord Jesus Christ.

NOTICE: John says "Whoever abides in the Son and in the Father" (v24) has eternal life. This shows that eternal life is not about abiding in intellectual knowledge, but in the love of God and the love of the lord Jesus Christ. The words of Christ and the messages of the apostles are to bring us into this love relationship with God though faith in Christ. Then from this love we are to live our lives toward God, toward Christ, toward our brothers and sisters in Christ and toward those who do not know the love of God.

1 JOHN 2:26-27

You have No Need for Anyone to Teach You.

- **1 John 2:26-27:** I write these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you. ²⁷But the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about everything—and is true and is no lie, just as it has taught you—abide in him.

John is writing this letter to warn Christians of false teachers who by twisting and distorting the Scriptures deceive those who sit under their influence.

NOTICE: the anointing that John says will keep them abides in them and because it is abiding in them, they do not need someone to teach them. The anointing abiding in them refers to the Spirit of God and the Spirit of

Christ dwelling in the heart by love. It is having the love of God dwelling in the heart that keeps a person from being led away from Christ by the seductive teachings of antichrists.

You need no-one to teach you: the word, "You have no need that anyone should teach you" (v27) does not mean that no-one needs a Christian teacher. The people John is writing to have had the Gospel proclaimed to them and received it into their hearts, the words, "You have no need that anyone should teach you" mean they have no need of anyone to teach them the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. It does not mean they have no need that anyone teaches them many of the other wonders, treasures and pearls contained in the Bible. There is much written in the Bible that will enhance and strengthen a brother or sisters' faith and spiritual life which is not needed to be known to be saved to eternal life. The knowledge that John has in focus is that knowledge concerning Christ's death and resurrection, the Good News of the Gospel and the knowledge of the Lord's return to resurrect those who have died in faith and gather those who are alive to himself and eternal life and everlasting glory in simple terms it is that knowledge that pertains to salvation and eternal life which those John is writing to have been taught. John is saying to the new converts he is writing to and by extension to all of us that they do not need to listen to the antichrists among them because the Gospel they have already heard is all they need to know to be in Christ and saved to eternal life. They do not need to add anymore to what they have heard everything the apostles and Jesus Christ spoke is all they need.

Jesus Christ anointing teaches you: the words:

- His (Jesus) anointing teaches you about everything (v27).

Means that everyone can rely on his word and his messages because of his anointing and confirmation that that he received from God his heavenly Father, It does not mean that you do not need to read and study the Bible, and instead wait for some mystical or spiritual power to teach you, but that you can have confidence that the Gospel Jesus preached is true and that no lie is found in it because of Christ's anointing (the confirmation) that the Father sent him. The second half of John's letter is addressed to the new converts and by extension to those who are vulnerable to deception because John is concerned that they will be led astray by the antichrists among them. Whereas John is not so much worried about the antichrists affecting or influencing the young men or the fathers because he knows they are strong, discerning, fully understand the Good News of the Gospel and by these have overcome the antichrists the deceivers and seducers of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 JOHN 2:28

When Christ Appears.

- **1 John 2:28:** And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming.

The words, When Christ appears refer to his return as, King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev. 19:11-16) to rule and reign from God's Holy City Jerusalem (on Mount Zion God's Holy Mountain) to establish God's Kingdom on earth during his millennial reign. In the first resurrection (Rev. 20:4-5) the dead in Christ and the faithful, who are alive, will be gathered together to rule and reign as kings and priests with the Lord over those nations who are left outside the Holy City of God. Christ the King united with his people will not only bring peace to the Middle East, but establish God's Kingdom of steadfast love, faithfulness, righteousness, joy and peace throughout the world and the glory of God will cover the earth. Jesus will do justice to the poor and oppressed, he will be a faithful

and compassionate King forever. He will not allow anyone to strike terror in the earth or use lies and deception to enlarge their own wealth and power. The land will abundantly produce and even the deserts will flourish. The animals will not feed on each other and even the lamb will be able to lie down with the wolf and everyone will eat of their own hands because all that they plant will produce. All nations the LORD has made will come and worship before the Lord Jesus Christ. They will glorify God's Name, proclaiming the LORD is great and does wondrous things and that He alone is God. The book of Revelation states:

- Jesus Christ, the faithful witness who loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood has made us kings and priests unto God and his Father is coming in glory and every eye shall see him, and they also who pierced him and all kindreds of the earth (Revelation 1:5-7).

And in Revelation chapter five we are told that:

- Christ was slain, and by his blood he redeemed a people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation and made them a kingdom and priests to God and they shall reign on the earth (Revelation 5:9-10).

At the end of this glorious Kingdom age God descends to earth on a Great White Throne the sea, death and hades (the grave) give up the dead. They stand before God and are judged according to what is written in certain heavenly books according to what they have done. Death and those counted unworthy are cast into the Lake of Fire a symbol of eternal destruction (i.e., total extinction) (also called the, Second Death) (Rev 20:11-15). Christ hands the Kingdom over to his heavenly Father and God is ALL in ALL and ETERNITY begins in all its fullness and majestic royal glory. For further information see titles:

- Kingdom of God (ON WEBSITE MENU).
- The Second or Great White Throne Judgment.

In, Resurrection (ON WEBSITE MENU).

1 JOHN 2:29

Whoever Practices Righteousness Has Been Born of Christ.

- **1 John 2:29:** If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him.

John is telling new converts that they can identify those who are true brothers and sisters of Christ by their lifestyle. Whoever is living to bring honour to God and a good testimony to the Lord Jesus Christ and the Christian faith is a true disciple in contrast to antichrists and false teachers who live to serve themselves and fulfil their own selfish ambition by establishing their own religious empire.

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.
