

# 1 John

*"We Have Fellowship With One Another, And The Blood of Jesus His Son Cleanses Us From All Sin" (1:7)*

# 2 John

*"...Walking In The Truth, Just As We Were Commanded By The Father." (4)*

# 3 John

*"Do Not Imitate Evil But Imitate Good" (11)*

Self-Study Guide

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**Directions:**

This is a booklet to aid you in your personal study of this book. Read through the text, discovering and writing down God's precious truths. Write down the main point of each section of text in the space provided. The text is provided for you to mark the things you find interesting and important. Use the margins and the backside of the page to write notes and questions. When you believe you have seen all there is in the text, read and answer the study questions. *The questions are not an exhaustive list of things to look for in the text.* If you only seek to answer the questions, then you will have missed out on many of the great gems of the text. Ask yourself questions as you read the text. Any answers you cannot come up with will be good questions to answer in class.

**Introduction:**

1. Read through 1 John in one sitting to see the book as a whole unit. Note places where there are natural divisions in the book, i.e. changes in subject, emphasis, or thought.
2. Write down key words and phrases as well as key verses that summarize the main message of the book.

3. Survey: Write down the main theme(s) of the following sections:

Chapter 1:

Chapter 2:

Chapter 3:

Chapter 4:

Chapter 5:

**Important Background Information:****The Teaching of Gnosticism**

1. It becomes readily evident that this letter is dealing with the false teaching of Gnosticism. Gnosticism was a set of beliefs derived from and influenced by several sources or thought and religion, one of which being Christianity. The Gnostics believed that true salvation was only possible to those who possessed a secret knowledge obtained by spiritual mediators from God through elaborate rituals, cosmological speculations, and arduous study. They were able to interpret the messages of the mediators and gain the knowledge that would lead them to salvation.
2. Although the term "Gnosticism" does not occur in this book, its teaching is clearly being refuted. The word "Gnostic" comes from the Greek word "*gnosis*" which means "to know." John uses the word "know" or its equivalent about 32 times in order to impress the importance of true knowledge as opposed to the supposed knowledge the Gnostics supposedly received through mediators.
3. From the following references, what can you learn about the Gnostics?  
-- 1 John 2:19, 26; 4:1



## NKJV

1:1 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, concerning the Word of life--

2 the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us--

3 that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship *is* with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

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

## NIV

1:1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched--this we proclaim concerning the Word of life.

2 The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us.

3 We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.

4 We write this to make our joy complete.

Main point:

1. Who are the “we,” “our,” and “us” in this text? How do you know?
2. Why does John make a point of emphasizing the way he experienced “the Word?”
3. Compare these first four verses to the first four verses of John’s gospel. What are some similarities?
4. Jot down the reasons that you see why the Son of God is called the “Word” by John in this letter and in the gospel of John.
5. Consider verses 3-4, what are the **two** purposes that John gives for writing this letter?

NKJV

1:5 This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to 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 practice the truth.

7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses 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.

2:1 My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

2 And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

NIV

1:5 This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.

6 If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth.

7 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, purifies us from all sin.

8 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

10 If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.

2:1 My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense--Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

2 He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

Main point:

6. Consider carefully the words of John. What does it mean to “walk in darkness?”
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. What does it mean to “walk in the light?”
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. Carefully read the context of verse 7. Who is being spoken of when John says, “we have fellowship with one another?”
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. How serious is the denial of sin in one’s own life? (vs. 10)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
10. What are the conditions of cleansing pointed out in verses 8-10? How do these verses relate to “walking in the light?”

11. What is the purpose of John's writing? (2:1)

12. Explain the following words:

--Advocate

--Propitiation

#### NKJV

2:3 Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.

4 He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

5 But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him.

6 He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.

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

8 Again, a new commandment I write to you, which thing is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away, and the true light is already shining.

9 He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is in darkness until now.

10 He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him.

11 But he who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

#### NIV

2:3 We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands.

4 The man who says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

5 But if anyone obeys his word, God's love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in him:

6 Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.

7 Dear friends, I am not writing you a new command but an old one, which you have had since the beginning. This old command is the message you have heard.

8 Yet I am writing you a new command; its truth is seen in him and you, because the darkness is passing and the true light is already shining.

9 Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates his brother is still in the darkness.

10 Whoever loves his brother lives in the light, and there is nothing in him to make him stumble.

11 But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness; he does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded him.

Main point:

1. How can we know that we are in a relationship with God and "know God?"
2. What does it mean in verse 5, "truly the love of God is perfected in him?"
3. How do we know that "we are in Him?"

4. To what extent must one “keep His word” in order to know they are saved? What are we to make of John’s rather general statement?
5. What is meant by the “old commandment” and the “new commandment?” Consider John 13:34-35 and 15:12.
6. Explain “the darkness is passing away, and the true light is already shining.” (verse 8)
7. What is one way to know if we walk in darkness?

NKJV

2:12 I write to you, little children, Because your sins are forgiven you for His name’s sake.

13 I write to you, fathers, Because you have known Him *who is* from the beginning. I write to you, young men, Because you have overcome the wicked one. I write to you, little children, Because you have known the Father.

14 I have written to you, fathers, Because you have known Him *who is* from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, Because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, And you have overcome the wicked one.

15 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.

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

17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

NIV

2:12 I write to you, dear children, because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name.

13 I write to you, fathers, because you have known him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, dear children, because you have known the Father.

14 I write to you, fathers, because you have known him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

15 Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

16 For everything in the world--the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does-- comes not from the Father but from the world.

17 The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.

Main point:

8. Who are represented by the different categories of people John writes to in verses 12-14? What is said to each?
9. What does it mean to “love the world?” (verse 15)
10. Explain the various lusts mentioned in verse 16:

## NKJV

2:18 Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour.

19 They 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 they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us.

20 But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things.

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

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

23 Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who acknowledges the Son has the Father also.

24 Therefore let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father.

25 And this is the promise that He has promised us--eternal life.

26 These things I have written to you concerning those who *try to* deceive you.

27 But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.

28 And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.

29 If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him.

## NIV

2:18 Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know it is the last hour.

19 They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us; but their going showed that none of them belonged to us.

20 But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth.

21 I do not write to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it and because no lie comes from the truth.

22 Who is the liar? It is the man who denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a man is the antichrist--he denies the Father and the Son.

23 No-one who denies the Son has the Father; whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also.

24 See that what you have heard from the beginning remains in you. If it does, you also will remain in the Son and in the Father.

25 And this is what he promised us--even eternal life.

26 I am writing these things to you about those who are trying to lead you astray.

27 As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit--just as it has taught you, remain in him.

28 And now, dear children, continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming.

29 If you know that he is righteous, you know that everyone who does what is right has been born of him.

Main point:

11. Identify the possible meanings of John's statement, "it is the last hour." (verse 18)

12. From this text, how were the readers to identify the antichrists? How is this different from the common concept of “the Antichrist” in the religious world?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
13. What is the “anointing” (verses 20, 27)? How does this anointing relate to knowing the truth?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
14. How does verse 22 specifically condemn Gnostic teaching? Consider that your answer describes who are antichrists.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
15. What were the readers suppose to “let abide in them” (verse 24)? What does this mean?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
16. How can believers be confident of receiving eternal life when Christ returns? How should believers live in light of this confidence?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
17. What was the purpose for John writing this section of text?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
18. How do we know that we are born of God?

## NKJV

3:1 Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

4 Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.

5 And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin.

6 Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him.

7 Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous.

8 He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

9 Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.

10 In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor *is* he who does not love his brother.

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

12 not as Cain *who* was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous.

## NIV

3:1 How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

2 Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

3 Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure.

4 Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness.

5 But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin.

6 No-one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No-one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him.

7 Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. He who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

8 He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.

9 No-one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in him; he cannot go on sinning, because he has been born of God.

10 This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not a child of God; nor is anyone who does not love his brother.

11 This is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another.

12 Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother's were righteous.

Main point:

1. What is our current condition before God as believers?

2. What great hope does every believer have?
3. Make a list of the condition of "he who sins:"
4. Make a list of the condition of those who "abide in God" or are "born of God:"
5. Explain verses 8-9. How are those who sin "of the devil?" How is it that those born of God "cannot sin?" What does it mean that "His seed remains in him?"
6. What is the stated purpose of the Son of God? What does this mean?
7. How do we know who is a child of God and who is a child of the devil (vs. 10)?
8. What is to be learned from the example of Cain (vs. 11-12)?

#### NKJV

3:13 Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world hates you.

14 We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love *his* brother abides in death.

15 Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

16 By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down *our* lives for the brethren.

17 But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?

#### NIV

3:13 Do not be surprised, my brothers, if the world hates you.

14 We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers. Anyone who does not love remains in death.

15 Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life in him.

16 This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.

17 If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?

Main point:

9. Why should we not be surprised if the world hates us?

10. How are we to show true love?

11. How do we hate our brother? What are the consequences of hating our brother? Who is our brother?

#### NKJV

3:18 My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.

19 And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him.

20 For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things.

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

22 And whatever we ask we receive from 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 Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

#### NIV

3:18 Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.

19 This then is how we know that we belong to the truth, and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence

20 whenever our hearts condemn us. For God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.

21 Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God

22 and receive from him anything we ask, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him.

23 And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us.

24 Those who obey his commands live in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

Main point:

12. How do we show love, according to this section of text?

13. How are we to have confidence toward God, even if our heart condemns us?

14. What conditions are placed upon answered prayer?

15. How do we know He abides in us "by the Spirit whom He has given us?"

## NKJV

4:1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

2 By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God,

3 and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the *spirit* of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.

4 You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

5 They are of the world. Therefore they speak *as* of the world, and the world hears them.

6 We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

## NIV

4:1 Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

2 This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God,

3 but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.

4 You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

5 They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them.

6 We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood.

Main point:

1. List the tests that John teaches to use to determine if one is from God or a false prophet:
  
2. What else do we learn about the Antichrist from this section of scripture?
  
3. How can we know the difference between the “spirit of truth” and the “spirit of error?”
  
4. How do these teachings relate to the fighting of the Gnosticism error?

## NKJV

4:7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

8 He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

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

10 In this 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 also ought to love one another.

12 No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.

13 By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.

14 And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son *as* Savior of the world.

15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

16 And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.

17 Love has been perfected among us in this: 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 casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.

19 We love Him because He first loved us.

20 If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?

21 And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God *must* love his brother also.

## NIV

4:7 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.

8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

9 This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.

10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

11 Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

12 No-one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

13 We know that we live in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.

14 And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.

15 If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God.

16 And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him.

17 In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like him.

18 There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

19 We love because he first loved us.

20 If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen.

21 And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.

Main point:

5. List all the ways that love is defined and described in this text:

6. How has God's love been made visible toward us?
  
7. List all the ways that we know that we abide in Him, from this text:
  
8. How does perfect love cast out fear?
  
9. Write down some applications and conclusions from verses 20-21:

## 1 John

## Chapter 5

### NKJV

5:1 Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who 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 burdensome.

4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world--our faith.

5 Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

### NIV

5:1 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well.

2 This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands.

3 This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome,

4 for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.

5 Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

Main point:

1. List all the ways that we know we are "children of God" or are "born of God:"
  
2. How do we love God?
  
3. Explain verses 4-5:

NKJV

5:6 This is He who came by water and blood--Jesus Christ; not only by water, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth.

7 For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one.

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

9 If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater; for this is the witness of God which He has testified of His Son.

10 He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; he who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son.

11 And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.

12 He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

13 These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may *continue to* believe in the name of the Son of God.

Main point:

4. What is the point of the water and blood in verses 6-8?

5. Notice that all versions except the KJV and NKJV omit the rest of verse 7 and beginning of verse 8, as seen above in the NIV. Find some Bible commentaries and reference materials to determine why many versions omit these words. Write down your findings below:

6. What is the point John is making concerning the various witnesses and testimonies described in this section of text?

7. What is the stated purpose of John's writings? Have his writings had the desired effect upon you?

NIV

5:6 This is the one who came by water and blood--Jesus Christ. He did not come by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.

7 For there are three that testify:

8 the Spirit, the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement.

9 We accept man's testimony, but God's testimony is greater because it is the testimony of God, which he has given about his Son.

10 Anyone who believes in the Son of God has this testimony in his heart. Anyone who does not believe God has made him out to be a liar, because he has not believed the testimony God has given about his Son.

11 And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

12 He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

13 I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.

NKJV

5:14 Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

15 And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

16 If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin *which does not lead* to death, he will ask, and He will give him life for those who commit sin not *leading* to death. There is sin *leading* to death. I do not say that he should pray about that.

17 All unrighteousness is sin, and there is sin not *leading* to death.

18 We know that whoever is born of God does not sin; but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him.

19 We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies *under the sway* of the wicked one.

20 And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

21 Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.

NIV

5:14 This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.

15 And if we know that he hears us--whatever we ask--we know that we have what we asked of him.

16 If anyone sees his brother commit a sin that does not lead to death, he should pray and God will give him life. I refer to those whose sin does not lead to death. There is a sin that leads to death. I am not saying that he should pray about that.

17 All wrongdoing is sin, and there is sin that does not lead to death.

18 We know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin; the one who was born of God keeps him safe, and the evil one cannot harm him.

19 We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one.

20 We know also 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--even in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.

21 Dear children, keep yourselves from idols.

Main point:

8. Do we have the confidence that John describes in this text?
  
9. Explain the difference between a "sin that leads to death" and a "sin that does not lead to death." Consider Numbers 15:27-31 in your answer.
  
10. Describe the condition of those "born of God" and "of God."
  
11. Write down any final questions or thoughts concerning this letter:

## NKJV

1 THE ELDER, To the elect lady and her children, whom I love in truth, and not only I, but also all those who have known the truth,  
 2 because of the truth which abides in us and will be with us forever:  
 3 Grace, mercy, *and* peace will be with you from God the Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.  
 4 I rejoiced greatly that I have found *some* of your children walking in truth, as we received commandment from the Father.  
 5 And now I plead with you, lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment to you, but that which we have had from the beginning: that we love one another.  
 6 This is love, that we walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, that as you have heard from the beginning, you should walk in it.  
 7 For many deceivers have gone out into the world who do not confess Jesus Christ *as* coming in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.  
 8 Look to yourselves, that we do not lose those things we worked for, but *that* we may receive a full reward.  
 9 Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son.  
 10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him;  
 11 for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds.  
 12 Having many things to write to you, I did not wish *to do so* with paper and ink; but I hope to come to you and speak face to face, that our joy may be full.  
 13 The children of your elect sister greet you. Amen.

## NIV

1 The elder, To the chosen lady and her children, whom I love in the truth--and not I only, but also all who know the truth--  
 2 because of the truth, which lives in us and will be with us forever:  
 3 Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Father's Son, will be with us in truth and love.  
 4 It has given me great joy to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as the Father commanded us.  
 5 And now, dear lady, I am not writing you a new command but one we have had from the beginning. I ask that we love one another.  
 6 And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love.  
 7 Many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist.  
 8 Watch out that you do not lose what you have worked for, but that you may be rewarded fully.  
 9 Anyone who runs ahead and does not continue in the teaching of Christ does not have God; whoever continues in the teaching has both the Father and the Son.  
 10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not take him into your house or welcome him.  
 11 Anyone who welcomes him shares in his wicked work.  
 12 I have much to write to you, but I do not want to use paper and ink. Instead, I hope to visit you and talk with you face to face, so that our joy may be complete.  
 13 The children of your chosen sister send their greetings.

Main point:

1. How is the second letter of John different from the beginning of the first letter? How does John identify himself differently?

2. Who is the “elect lady and her children?” Is the “lady” mentioned literal or figurative? Consider the context of the rest of the letter to help you in your answer.
  
3. Where have we seen the theme of verses 5-6 stated by John in another letter?
  
4. How is the Antichrist described in this text?
  
5. What does it mean to abide in the doctrine of Christ (vs. 9)? (There are two views about this verse. (1) The doctrine of Christ is the doctrine *about* Christ, that is, His deity and the fact that He came to the earth, lived in the flesh, died on the cross and raised the third day. (2) The doctrine of Christ is the teachings of Christ as presented in the gospels and by the apostles. What difference do the two views make in the interpretation of the text? Which view do you believe to be correct? Use scripture to defend your view.)
  
6. What does it mean, “do not receive him into your house nor greet him?” Who is this command applied to?
  
7. Who do you think “the children of your elect sister” are?
  
8. Write down any final comments or questions about this letter:

## NKJV

1 THE ELDER, To the beloved Gaius, whom I love in truth:

2 Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.

3 For I rejoiced greatly when brethren came and testified of the truth *that is* in you, just as you walk in the truth.

4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.

5 Beloved, you do faithfully whatever you do for the brethren and for strangers,

6 who have borne witness of your love before the church. *If* you send them forward on their journey in a manner worthy of God, you will do well,

7 because they went forth for His name's sake, taking nothing from the Gentiles.

8 We therefore ought to receive such, that we may become fellow workers for the truth.

9 I wrote to the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to have the preeminence among them, does not receive us.

10 Therefore, if I come, I will call to mind his deeds which he does, prating against us with malicious words. And not content with that, he himself does not receive the brethren, and forbids those who wish to, putting *them* out of the church.

11 Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. He who does good is of God, but he who does evil has not seen God.

12 Demetrius has a *good* testimony from all, and from the truth itself. And we also bear witness, and you know that our testimony is true.

13 I had many things to write, but I do not wish to write to you with pen and ink;

14 but I hope to see you shortly, and we shall speak face to face. Peace to you. Our friends greet you. Greet the friends by name.

## NIV

1 The elder, To my dear friend Gaius, whom I love in the truth.

2 Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well.

3 It gave me great joy to have some brothers come and tell about your faithfulness to the truth and how you continue to walk in the truth.

4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.

5 Dear friend, you are faithful in what you are doing for the brothers, even though they are strangers to you.

6 They have told the church about your love. You will do well to send them on their way in a manner worthy of God.

7 It was for the sake of the Name that they went out, receiving no help from the pagans.

8 We ought therefore to show hospitality to such men so that we may work together for the truth.

9 I wrote to the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to be first, will have nothing to do with us.

10 So if I come, I will call attention to what he is doing, gossiping maliciously about us. Not satisfied with that, he refuses to welcome the brothers. He also stops those who want to do so and puts them out of the church.

11 Dear friend, do not imitate what is evil but what is good. Anyone who does what is good is from God. Anyone who does what is evil has not seen God.

12 Demetrius is well spoken of by everyone--and even by the truth itself. We also speak well of him, and you know that our testimony is true.

13 I have much to write to you, but I do not want to do so with pen and ink.

14 I hope to see you soon, and we will talk face to face. Peace to you. The friends here send their greetings. Greet the friends there by name.

Main point:

1. How is John's letter similar and different to the beginning of John's second letter?

