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Daily Bible Notes/Highlights Genesis through Revelation 2014

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1 John

C1-3

C Vss 1-10. John launches into his letter as an eye witness. I saw Him! I touched Him! He calls Jesus Life! What John says is as a first hand witness. By the time writes his letters, no doubt there are correspondences be written by many representatives and many of them were false. So, John provides His credentials. "I lived with Him."

John's writing to in affirmation to what others have said. His hope is that the believer's will have a complete picture. God is light. John uses several metaphors throughout his writings. Darkness and light is one contrasting comparison. He cise believers in God's light.

No question that John's writing is an assault on the philosophical mind, particularly the Gnostics who had permeated the church with their superior knowledge doctrine.

They held that the body and spirit could not commingle. Therefore, what was done in the body had no consequence upon the spirit. If there was sin, it was not sin with spiritual consequence. Therefore the gnostic claim a sin les life. John says, if you say, you have no sin you are lying.

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John further established if we confessed our sin, Jesus is so faithful and just He forgives and cleansed us. This was so disturbing to the Gnostic movement as they attempted to win believers to the concept that they are without sin, and could also live carefree.

John takes it to one more level. If we attempt to say we have no sin, we are calling God a liar, and there's no possibility that He can be within us. Perhaps John is referring to the prophet who says, our righteousness is but filthy men's rags (.). The heart is wicked and desperately corrupt If God says we are filthy. We are filthy.

C2 Vss 1-29. John agrees to this disagree, he does not encourage believers to sin, but wants them know they have an advocate.

Again an assault on the Gnostics. John is so practical. How do we know we love Jesus. We obey His commands. Gnostics. They did not even believe in Jesus as human and divine. They dishonored Jesus living any kind if way and not recognizing His divinity as the Son of God (1-6)

John rips into their teaching to hate those who did not believe their doctrine. So, they claimed to be enlightened, but John turns them upside down. Hating brothers and sisters, it is not possible to be in the light. They are blind. God's children, their sins are forgiven. He's writing because of these. They have a series of virtues. He wants believers to know the benefit of a true faith.

It's beautiful. Their sins are forgiven. They are mature and young in the faith. They have won their battle with the evil one. He continues that they do not love the world. Here we get the details of what loving the world means. Physical pleasure cravings, pride in possessions and achievements... These fade! (7-14).

John pivots to Antichrist or the false teacher and preacher theme. They lested the Church and start their own movements. John reveals the reality. They never were with us. This is the reality about the antichrist and false prophets. They were never with us..

No person says, 'I'm a false teacher or prophet.' So John and all the New Testament writers provide details on how to identify false teachers/preachers. What about Jesus saying let the wheat and tare grow together? Wheat and tare are so intertwined the cannot be separated. False teachers are not analogous tare. They are tantamount to weeds easily detectable and removable.

The believers know the truth. The principal truth of the faith they know, Jesus is the Christ. Gnostics did not believe that Jesus could be the Christ. This is a clear point to distinguish. Denying the Father and the Son, another identifier.

John encouraged to stay the course. He introduces another factor the agnostics don't acknowledge, the Holy Ghost . The Holy Ghost gives an internal affirmation that believers know the truth.

C3 Vss 1-24. John destroys the Gnostics mind. He says, the physical believers are the

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children of the spiritual God. This would not be possible at all in the Gnostics doctrine. Then to those Gnostics who say this is impossible and how could it be? John admits, 'we only know when He appears we'll be like Him !'

Then John juxtaposes those freely sinning to those who keep themselves pure. What does he mean be pure. 1. Believing Jesus is the Christ 2. Confessing sin. 3. Loving one another.

John makes it clear when people keep on sinning they bring to the devil. The Son came to destroy the works of the devil. Those who are born again don't practice sinning. They can't practice sin because the Spirit of God is within (1-9).

Loving each other is imperative. Then John makes a profound revelation. If you hate your brothers and sisters, these are musters in heart. He provides the ultimate illustration of true love. It's Jesus sacrificing for us in the cross. Love does not take life, it gives life. Then John calls on love in action. He also reveals something extraordinary. Even when our own hearts convict us, God is greater than our own self-inflicted guilt. It goes without saying. We must believe Jesus is the Son of a God (10-24).

C4-6

C4 Vss 1-21 Again as with the other writers John has a continuing theme on false prophets. Don't believe everyone claiming to represent The Lord. These believers are not to embrace persons as representing The Lord simply because they say they do. Or simply because they say some things I agree or accept. John contextually provides a way of knowing. When the person does not acknowledge Jesus.

By this way, this indicator is specifically related to Gnostics. John is not saying that this is the only indicator. He had shown several. It is in this context that John indicates the truth affirming Spirit within the believer is greater than the lying spirit of the world.

John explains another indicator. They do not listen to us. By us he is talking about the Apostolic leadership. Now, he gives a broader perspective than simply Gnosticism and denying Jesus. They do not hold to the personal discipline of the apostles or The Lord himself (1-6).

John pours on the love theme. It is the essential characteristic showing that we belong to The Lord. God loved us first when we were zombies, walking-dead. The Apostle says God sent his son.

We often miss this. Saying that He sent his Son has incredible significance in the ancient world where boys represented the legacy of a family. No man would sacrifice a wayward son for convicts, thugs, hoodlums, rapists, prostitutes, pedophiles, adulterers, liars, cheats and sinners of all kind,

John creates an incredible picture of God's love for us. As a result he calls on us to love each other. Be careful. This is not some let anybody do anything love, or else he would not be attacking the Gnostics.

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C5 Vss 1-21 John shares what seems to be so elementary to the faith. Those who believe that Jesus is the Christ has become a child of a God. Loving God is to keep his commandments. It's not a burden to do so. Believers defeat the world.

John speaks of three witnesses concerning Jesus Christ. Water, blood and the Spirit are the witnesses. There's no question that Jesus was human. John witnessed his life and blood upon the cross. When he was sacrificed water and blood came forth (.). But He was also baptized and when he came forth, God pronounced Jesus as His Son (.). John placed the Gnostics at odds with God calling God a liar. It's an awful position, but one every believer needs to know (1-11)

Then John wants every believer to know, they live eternally. And we are assured that He hears our prayers when we ask for things that are in agreement with His will. It's so important to pray with confidence.

He calls on believers to pray when they see a person sinning a sin that is not corporal. Unrepentant corporal sins lead to death. And any corporal sin that is practice is not a matter of praying. There needs to be individual and church action against those persons. There is no place for persons who commit the most egregious sins. Those are not slips or mistakes. These are premeditated , plotted, planned and repeated acts. John makes it clear. God's children do not practice corporal sin (12-17)

Notice the evil one cannot touch them. The evil one control the world, but not believers. We love in fellowship with the Father because we love in fellowship with the son.

When believers know The Lord and get wayward, they experience fellowship slippage. Believers can appear that all is well, but it is so important to confront and face sin. Daily confession of sin and obedience keeps the believer on daily fellowship.

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