

'LOVE FROM ABOVE'
(Fullness of Joy through Biblical Fellowship in Christ)
Studies in 1 John

'Need to Know Basis'

Omniscience (knows everything) is one of the theological words reserved for God alone. Only God knows everything about everything. Other than the Lord Jesus Christ, no one ever born knows very much about anything of eternal value. Moses wrote: *"The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law"* (Deuteronomy 29:29).

Quoting *Isaiah 64:4*, Apostle Paul wrote: *"...Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor has entered into the heart of man the things God has prepared for those who love Him"* (1 Corinthians 2:9) and added, *"But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit, for the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God"* (1 Corinthians 2:10). We can never be omniscient, but we can be so intimately connected to Him Who is, that we can perceive and know awesome things of God because we have, as Paul wrote, *"the mind of Christ"* (1 Corinthians 2:16).

Five New Testament books at the end of the Bible, were written by Christ's apostle who probably knew Him best, Apostle John, *'the disciple whom Jesus' loved'* (John 13:23, 19:26, 20:2, 21:7,20). John didn't know all, but because of his closeness to the omniscient Savior he knew all he needed to know for an abundant life on earth and also eternal life in heaven (John 20:30-31, 21:24-25).

The Bible begins with 5 books of the Law written by Moses, collectively called the Pentateuch. The Bible ends with 5 books of grace written by Apostle John (John's Gospel, 1st, 2nd, 3rd John and the Revelation).

- Like **Genesis, John's gospel** records the story of Christ's coming and the new creation we become by believing in Him.
- **1st John is like Exodus**, the story of leaving the old life behind by following the Lord to the Promised Land.
- In **2nd John, as a believer-priest, like OT Levitical priests**, John defends the truth of God and the doctrine of Christ, the Lamb of God.
- **3 John, similar to Numbers** in the Pentateuch, finds John keeping Christ's people from wandering off into a spiritual wilderness, by a trouble-maker in the camp.
- And **Revelation, John's last writing, reads like Deuteronomy** – how to overcome evil and prepare to enter the Promised Land of the kingdom and the new heavens and earth.

The Lord Jesus Christ is the Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End (*Revelation 1:7-8, 22:12-13*). John's writings connect the whole of Scripture and all of history in the Person of Jesus Christ. Thanks to God for the writings of John! They don't tell everything there is to know about eternal things, but they tell us everything we need to know this side of heaven for happiness, holiness, and hopefulness in Him *'til He comes*.

Thanks to God for the lifetime of transformation of the Apostle John's life from being *'a son of thunder'* to being *'the apostle of love'*! John gives Christians great hope for ourselves and others in Christ. And thanks to God for His unconditional promise of eternal life to all who believe: *"...I have written to you who believe in the Name of the Son of God, that you may KNOW that you have eternal life..."* (1 John 5:11-13). **PtL**

'All You Need to Know'

(Book Summation)

1 John Series

Summer series synopsis: The main reason God inspired John to write this general epistle letter to Christians and their churches near the end of the first century was to combat the false teaching of heretics trying to infiltrate Christianity. The general term for those false teachers was 'Gnostics' (a name based on the Greek word 'g-no-sis' which means to know). These pseudo-intellectuals mixed secular Greek philosophy and religious theories into biblical Christianity. This eclectic religious concoction led to an arrogant attitude of elitism that (*according to gnostics*), only their group of spiritual *insiders* could comprehend, thus the label *gnostics*. One of their primary heresies was that Jesus wasn't 'God come in the flesh', an essential belief of biblical Christianity (1 Timothy 3:16). Apostle John's letter reaffirmed that Jesus was/is God Himself, the second member of the Triune Godhead, God the Son incarnate, Immanuel (*God with us / Matthew 1:23*). John asserted that to doubt Jesus' deity was to rob Christians of their fullness of joy (1 John 1:4) and exposes the false teachers as spiritual imposters sent by the devil not by God.

Through 5 Chapters of Spirit-filled teaching, John exposed the dangers of listening to false teachers:

- **Chapter One = unconfessed sin** (**remedy** = *don't live in denial of sin, confess it to God and through Christ, our Advocate*);
- **Chapter Two = loving and lusting for things of this world** (**remedy** = *repent and return to an 'abiding' connected, relationship with God through Christ, our Lord*);
- **Chapter Three = living habitually in sin** (**remedy** = *get back to righteous living, loving God and your fellow disciples in Christ*);
- **Chapter Four = listening to clever, persuasive false teachers with unbiblical spiritual theories** (**remedy** = *test the spirits and discontinue listening to them, so 'agape' love for God and brethren won't be demolished*);
- **Chapter Five = think God's commands are 'burdensome' and too hard to keep** (**remedy** = *through faith get back to overcoming this world with the Word, victory over sin and Christ-like living*).

Now in John's conclusion, the Holy Spirit guides him to use a play on the word 'knowledge' (*gnosis*) seven times about things the 'Gnostics' don't 'know' but all true Christians do 'know for sure' (2 Peter 1:5-11).

'In the KNOW'

(5 Biblical Certainties of Christians With 'Fullness of Joy')

#1 We KNOW We Have Eternal Life

*"...and this is (God's) testimony: that **God has given us eternal life and this life is in His Son; he who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.** 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."* 5:10-13

#2 We KNOW God Answers Our Prayers

*"Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ***ask anything according to His will, He hears us.** And if we **KNOW that He hears us, whatever we ask, we KNOW that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.**"* (*Exception: no praying for the dead / vs. 16-17) 5:14-15

#3 We KNOW that Our BC Life is Finished

*"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.**"* 5:18

#4 We KNOW We Belong to God, Not This World

*"We **KNOW that we are of God and the whole world is under the sway of the wicked one.**"* 5:19

#5 We KNOW God has Enlightened Us to KNOW the Truth

*"...we **KNOW that the Son of God has come and has given us 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. Little children, keep yourselves from idols (any and all images and icons are religious 'lies' / Exodus 20:4-6; Psalm 115:4-7; Isaiah 44:9-20; 1 Corinthians 10:19-21; 1 Thessalonians 1:9, Revelation 21:8 & 22:14-15). Amen.**"* 5:20-21