

27 March 2022

## Why Did God Move John to Write This Letter

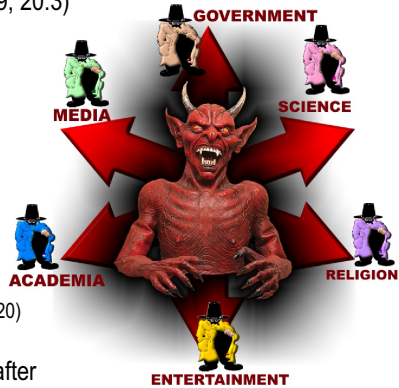
- John writes as a EYE-WITNESS - not only of a person, Jesus Christ, but the life that is promised in and through Christ.
- (1 John 1:3) What John had experienced moved him to share with others.
- (1 John 1:3) This life is experienced in the fellowship (relationship) with God and other Christians, the Body of Christ. (John 17:2-3)
  - ★ Eternal life has two qualities:
    - ① **Quantity:** It is ETERNAL and can never end. (Philippians 1:6; John 10:27-28)
    - ② **Quality:** It is a God given life (new creation) that has its own nature. This new life begins the moment one believes. (John 5:24)
- John sets before his readers a series of conditional questions for them to test themselves to see if they truly have been born-again. He uses the word "if" **21** times and the verb "to know" **26** times. Example: 1 John 2:3-6
- (1 John 1:4) John writes that his readers' joy may be FULL (*pleroo*). (John 15:11; 16:24; Luke 2:10; Eph 3:19; Romans 14:17; Philip 4:4; 1 Thess 5:16)
- (1 John 5:13) John writes this letter so that his reader can know of certain that they have eternal life. 1 John is a tool for us to examine ourselves if we really do have eternal life. (2 Corinthians 13:5; 2 Peter 1:10)

## Either Or (1 John 2:15)

- EITHER one loves GOD and hates the world or loves the world and does not love God. The world and God are complete opposites. One always disappoints and never satisfies while the other, God, abundantly satisfies. (Psalm 36:7-9; 65:4; **Matthew 5:6**; John 4:14; 7:37)
- One cannot say, "I love God and I love the things and ways of the world." One cannot serve to masters. You will be loyal to one and not the other. (Matthew 6:24)
- To love the world is enmity with God. A friend of the world is an enemy of God. (James 4:4; Romans 8:7; 1 John 2:15-16)
- Either one lives to please God or to please themselves and men. (Gal 1:10)
- If you live as a Christian the world WILL hate you. (John 15:19; 17:14)

## The World Is Dangerously Deceptive (1 John 2:15-17)

- “because the days are evil.” (Ephesians 5:15-17)
- The World “lies under the sway of the wicked one” – Satan. (1 John 5:19; Ephesians 2:1-3; Revelation 12:9; 20:3)
- The Six Axes of Evil used by Satan.
- The WORLD and GOD are OPPOSITES as LIGHT and DARKNESS.
  - EITHER we are walking in the LIGHT as He is in the light OR we are walking in the DARKNESS (the World). (1 John 1:5-7; 2:9, 11; John 3:19-20)
  - EITHER we are a DISCIPLE of CHRIST, following hard after Him, or we are an ENEMY of GOD in love with the world and its ways! (James 4:4) We are worshipers or idolaters! (Col 3:5; 1 John 5:21)
- The World **hates** GOD and it hates **true** disciples of Christ (John 15:18), but loves its own (John 15:19).
- Satan has always been busy in “Christian” work (churches, Bible translation, evangelistic campaigns, Sunday School programs, Bible studies, mission organization, etc.) (2 Corinthians 11:13-15; Matthew 7:21-23; 13:20-22)
- Satan’s work of deception was and is in **FULL** speed since the middle of last century – just as God promised – see 2 Timothy 3:13.
- Satan’s tools are:
  - A **Counterfeit Gospel**. (Galatians 1:6-9) – **THERE** is only **one** Gospel – **ALL** others are false. “Christianity” accepts many different ones.
  - **Compromise**. We are a generation of choices NOT absolutes; preferences NOT truths; comfort NOT growth; experience NOT knowledge; sight NOT faith; me NOT God.
    - ✗ We are the final judges of righteousness. I am the final authority for what I believe and practice NOT the Word of God.
    - ✗ The “Church” has been and is following the lead of culture. The “Church” does not deny itself, does not die to self, and is following the world rather than Christ.
  - **Tolerance/Relativism**. Satan manipulates “the church” into a false interpretation of John 17:20-21. Unity with the Father and the Son can only be achieved in being unified in TRUTH. Satan’s counterfeit gospels attempt to unite people through COMPROMISE – TOLERANCE.
  - **Materialism**. The things of the world rather the things of God. (Colo 3:1-2; Matt 6:19, 24; Luke 16:8-9 (with Colossians 3:5); Philip 3:19)



- **Busyness.** (Exodus; Luke 10:42) Living by worldly demands rather than God commanded priorities. A disciple, by definition, has a burning DESIRE to be like his Master, is DETERMINED to be like His Master, is DISCIPLINED in the pursuit of his goal, and is DILIGENT in his pursuit.
- **Complacency:** Definition: “a feeling of calm self-satisfaction with one’s own abilities or situation that prevents you from trying harder”; “self-satisfaction especially when accompanied by unawareness of actual dangers or deficiencies.”(Zephaniah 1:12) (Hebrews 6:11-12)
- **“Privatization”** of religion. Religion is all about ME, my experience, my life, my redemption, my walk, my Lord, my Saviour, etc. (Rom 12:4-5)
- **Laziness.** Hebrews 6:11-12; Proverbs 26:16
- **Self-Righteousness.** “I don’t need the Church”; “I don’t need to grow”; “I am better than others”; “I don’t need to pray”; etc.

### Three Devices of the World System (1 John 5:16)

- **lust of flesh** – taking normal desires and making them sinful.
    - hunger is ok; but gluttony is sinful.
    - thirst is ok; but drunkenness is sinful. (Ephesians 5:18; 1 Peter 4:3; Galatians 5:21; 1 Corinthians 5:11; 6:9-10)
    - sleep is ok; but laziness is sinful. (Matthew 25:26)
    - sex is ok; but only within the limits that God has commanded, anything outside these limits is sinful. (Hebrews 13:4; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; Galatians 5:19-21; Ephesians 5:5; Revelation 22:15)
    - **DEEDS of the FLESH:** Galatians 5:19-21; Romans 1:24-32; 1 Cor 6:9-10)
      - Those who practice these will **NOT** inherit the kingdom of God!
    - **“the flesh is weak!”** (Matthew 26:41)
    - ★ Consider: Romans 7:18; John 6:63; Philippians 3:3; **Romans 13:14**
  - **lust of the eyes** –
    - This device works against our sight **and** our minds.
    - The eye is the *gateway* to the mind and body. (Matt 6:23; Luke 11:34)
    - “Turn away your eyes from looking at vanity” (Psalm 119:37)
    - “Guard YOUR heart . . .” (Proverbs 4:23)
    - See Achan’s sin in Joshua 7:21.
    - **REMEMBER LOT’S WIFE!** (Gen 19:17, 26; Luke 17:31-32)
    - Remember the cost David paid for lusting after Bathsheba! (2 Samuel 11:1-5; 12:1-10; Psalm 32; Psalm 51:1-7)
  - **the pride of life**
    - Pride is the “mother” of all sins. Pride holds many in bondage to their sins. (Psalm 10:2-4)
    - God *hates* pride: Proverbs 6:16-17; 8:13; 16:5
    - First pride then *shame*. Proverbs 11:2
    - First pride then *destruction*. Proverbs 16:18
- ★ ALL three were involved in Eve’s sin! See Genesis 3:6

## The **DANGEROUS DRIFT** into Worldliness

- Christ warned us that **many** will hear the gospel, receive it joyfully, and walk away after a time. (Matthew 13:20-22)
- Demas, a companion with Paul on mission trips, walked away because of love of the world. (Colossians 4:14; Philemon 24; **2 Timothy 4:10**)
- We are warned that there will be a GREAT falling way, lawlessness will abound, and the love of many will grow cold! (2 Thess 2:3; Matthew 24:12)
- The WORLD does not tell you to forsake your faith for it, but gradually, seductively, deceitfully, lures you away from your faith into its claws!
  - ① First comes **friendship** with the world. James 4:4 cf. Psalm 1:1-3.
    - The world and Christians are natural enemies! (1 John 3:13)
  - ② **Spotted by the world.** (James 1:27)
    - When you get close to dirt it leaves its mark on you!
  - ③ **Conformity to the world.** (Romans 12:2)
    - When there is no longer a difference between a "christian" and an unbeliever.
  - ④ **Condemned with the world.** (1 Corinthians 11:32)
    - God will discipline His children! (Hebrews 12:6-11)
    - He might even take their life away! (1 Corinthians 11:29-30)
- **THE DANGER: 2 Peter 2:18-20**

## PRESSING FORWARD: DO the WILL of GOD (1 John 5:17)

- ① Live by the **absolutes** of God's Word. DO NOT follow the world and the teachings of men! (Matt 15:1-9) - **FOLLOW CHRIST and teach others to obey ALL that HE commanded!** (Luke 4:4; 9:23; Matthew 5:19; 28:20)
  - ★ **ALL** children of God abide in His Word (John 8:31) and practice righteousness. (1 John 3:9-10)
  - ★ **ALL** children of God **do** the will of the Father. (Matt 7:21; 12:50; John 10:27-28; 1 Peter 4:2; 1 John 3:3, 21-24; Eph 5:14-17; Heb 10:36)
  - ★ Do I find my joy and satisfaction in my obedient fellowship with God? (John 14:15, 21-24; 15:10; 1 John 1:6-7)
- ② **BAD COMPANY CORRUPTS!** (1 Corinthians 15:33)
- ③ Take heed that no one deceives you. (Matthew 24:4, 5, 11, 24; Col 2:4, 8)
- ④ A little leaven (compromise) leavens (compromises) the whole bunch. (1 Cor 5:6; Matthew 13:33; Galatians 5:9)
- ⑤ **TEST** everything by the WORD of GOD (not by men). (Isaiah 8:20; Acts 17:11; 1 Thessalonians 5:21)
- ⑥ **GUARD** your eyes the door to your heart! (Job 31:1; Proverbs 4:23-27; Psalm 101:3; 119:37; Job 31:1; Matthew 5:27-29; 6:23; Luke 11:34)
- ⑦ Make **NO** provision for the flesh! (Rom 13:14; 8:12-13; Gal 5:16-17; 1 Peter 2:11)
- ⑧ **PRAY PRAY PRAY PRAY!** (Colossians 4:2; Luke 18:1; **Ephesians 3:14-21**)