

1 John.

A translation.

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It appeared to us (1:1-5).

¹ It was from the beginning. We have heard about it. We have seen it with our eyes. We looked right at it. Our hands touched it—it is the living word.

² The life has appeared. We have seen it. We testify about it. We proclaim eternal life to you. It was with the father. It appeared to us.

³ What we have seen, and heard, now we report it to you, too. So, you can have fellowship with us. We have fellowship with the father and with his son, Jesus the messiah.

⁴ We are writing these things to you to complete our joy.

⁵ This is the message that we have heard from him. We report it to you: God is light. There is not any darkness in him.

Confess your sins (1:6-10).

⁶ If we claim that we have fellowship with him, but we walk in darkness, then we are lying. We are not acting in truth.

⁷ However, if we live in the light, like he is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other. The blood of his son Jesus cleans us from every sin.

⁸ If we claim that we have no sin, then we deceive ourselves. We do not have the truth.

⁹ However, if we confess our sins, then he is faithful and just. He will forgive our sins. He will clean us from all injustice.

¹⁰ If we claim that we have not sinned, then we make him out to be a liar. His word is not with us.

Avoid sin (2:1-6).

² My children, I am writing these things to you so that you avoid sin.

But if someone does sin, then he has an advocate with the father: Jesus the messiah is the righteous one. ² He is the offering for our sins. This is not just for us, but also for the entire world.

³ We know about this: We have come to know him, if we keep his commands.

⁴ If someone claims, "I know him," but he does not keep his commands, then he is a liar. He does not have the truth.

⁵ However, if he keeps his word, then the love of God is truly complete in him.

This is how we know that we belong to him: ⁶ If someone claims that he remains in him, then just like he lives, he should live.

Love your brother (2:7-11).

⁷ Beloved, I am not issuing a new command to you. It is an old command. You had it from the beginning. The old command is the word which you heard.

⁸ However, I am issuing a new command to you. It is true by him and for you. The darkness is gone. The true light is already present.

⁹ If anyone claims to be in the light, but hates his brother, then he is still in the dark.

¹⁰ If anyone loves his brother, then he remains in the light. He has committed no offense.

¹¹ But if anyone hates his brother, then he is in the darkness. He lives in the darkness. He does not know where he is going. The darkness has blinded his vision.

You defeated the evil one (2:12-14).

¹² I am writing to you, children:

Your sins are forgiven through his name.

I am writing to you, fathers:

You have know the one who exists from the beginning.

¹³ I am writing to you, young men:

You have defeated the evil one.

I wrote to you, children:

You have known the father.

¹⁴ I wrote to you, fathers:

You have known the one who exists from the beginning.

I wrote to you, young men:

You are strong.

The word of God sticks with you. You defeated the evil one.

Do not love the world (2:15-17).

¹⁵ Do not love the world nor the things in the world.

If someone does love the world, then he does not have the love of the father.

¹⁶ Anything from the world—physical lust, visual lust, life’s boastfulness—does not come from the father. It comes from the world.

¹⁷ Both the world and its lust are passing away. However, anyone who does God’s will lasts forever.

The opponent of the messiah is coming (2:18-19).

¹⁸ Children, the final time is here.

It is just like you heard: The opponent of the messiah is coming. In fact, many opponents of the messiah have already arrived.

This is how we can know that the final time is here: ¹⁹ They left us. They were never part of us. (If they were part of us, then they would have stayed with us.) But it happened to expose them: None of them were ever part of us.

He denies the father and the son (2:20-24).

²⁰ You were anointed by the holy one.

You all know. ²¹ I did not write to you that you did not know the truth. You do know it. No lie comes from the truth.

²² Who is the liar? Is it not the one who denies that Jesus is the messiah?

He is the opponent of the messiah: He denies the father and the son.

²³ Anyone who denies the son does not have the father, either. Anyone who confesses the son, also has the father.

²⁴ You heard it from the beginning. It must stick with you: If what you heard from the beginning must stick with you, then you must stick with the son and with the father.

Stick with him (2:25-29).

²⁵ This is the promise that he promised us: Eternal life. ²⁶ I wrote these things to you about those who are deceiving you.

²⁷ You received an anointing from him. It remains with you. So, you do not need anyone to instruct you. His anointing instructs you about every-

thing. It is the truth. It contains no lie. Just like it instructed you—stick with him.²⁸ So then, children, stick with him.

When he appears, we will have confidence. We will not be embarrassed by him when he appears.

²⁹ You should know that he is just. Know this: Anyone who conducts himself with righteousness descends from him.

We are now the children of God (3:1-3).

³ Know what type of love the father gave us: God calls us his children. And so we are. This is why the world cannot know us: They do not know him.

² Beloved, we are now the children of God. It is not yet obvious what we will be. We know that when he appears we will be like him. Then we will see him just like he is.³ Everyone who has this hope makes himself pure through him. He is also pure.

Sin is lawless (3:4-6).

⁴ Everyone who sins is also lawless. Sin is lawless.

⁵ You know that he appeared to forgive sin. There is no sin in him.

⁶ Anyone who sticks with him does not sin. Everyone who sins has not seen him. He does not know him.

Anyone who does righteousness is righteous (3:7-11).

⁷ Children, do not let anyone deceive you: Anyone who does righteousness is righteous, just like he is righteous.⁸ Anyone who commits sin is from the devil because the devil sins from the beginning.

This is why the son of God appeared: He freed us from the actions of the devil.

⁹ Anyone born from God does not commit sin because his seed remains in him. So, he is not able to sin because he is born from God.

¹⁰ The difference is obvious between the children of God and the children of the devil: Everyone who does not act righteous is not from God. He does not love his brother.

¹¹ This is the message which you heard from the beginning: Love each other.

Anyone who does righteousness is righteous (3:7-11).

Do not be like Cain (3:12).

¹² Do not be like Cain. He came from the evil one. He murdered his brother.

Why did he kill him? His conduct was evil. However, his brother's conduct was righteous.

Love the brothers (3:13-17).

¹³ Do not be surprised, brothers, when the world hates you. ¹⁴ We know that we have passed from death to life.

So, love the brothers. Anyone who does not love remains in death.

¹⁵ Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer. You know that no murderer has eternal life remaining with him.

¹⁶ This is how we have understood love: He laid down his life for us. So, we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.

¹⁷ Suppose someone has a successful life. He observes that his brother has great need. However, he shuts his sympathy from him. Then how is it that he has the love of God?

Our heart does not condemn us (3:18-21).

¹⁸ Children, do not love just in theory or in speech, but by action and truth.

¹⁹ This is how we will know that we are sincere and our hearts are sincere before him: ²⁰ If our heart condemns us, then God is greater than our heart. He knows everything.

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

He sticks with us (3:22-24).

²² If we ask for anything, then he will give it to us. We keep his commands. We conduct ourselves in a pleasing manner with him.

²³ These are his commands: Believe in the name of his son, Jesus the messiah, and love each other, just like he commands us.

²⁴ Anyone who keeps his commands sticks with him. And he sticks with him.

This is how we know that he sticks with us: Because he gave us the spirit.

Many false prophets have gone out (4:1-6).

⁴ Beloved, do not believe every spirit. Instead, test the spirits. Is it from God? Many false prophets have gone out into the world.

² This is how you can know the spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses Jesus the messiah came physically is from God. ³ Every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God.

This is the spirit of the opponent of the messiah. You already heard about it. It is coming. And now it is already in the world.

⁴ You belong to God, children. You have conquered them. The one with you is greater than the one with the world.

⁵ They belong to the world. This is why they speak from a worldly perspective. The world listens to them.

⁶ We belong to God. Anyone who knows God listens to us. He does not belong to God if he does not listen to us. This is how we distinguish the spirit of truth from the spirit of deceit.

God already sent his special son (4:7-11).

⁷ Beloved, love each other. Love comes from God. Everyone who loves descends from God. He knows God. ⁸ Anyone who does not love does not know God. God is love.

⁹ This is how the love of God becomes clear through us: God already sent his special son into the world. We can live because of him.

¹⁰ This is what love is. It is not that we loved God, but that he loved us. He sent his son as a sacrifice for our sins.

¹¹ Beloved, since God loved us like this, then we ought to love each other.

We have seen him (4:12-14).

¹² No one has ever seen God.

If we love each other, then God sticks with us. His love becomes complete in us. ¹³ This is how we know that we stick with him and he sticks with us: He gave us his spirit.

¹⁴ So, we have seen him. We testify: The father sent his son as the savior of the world.

Stick with love (4:15-17).

¹⁵ If anyone confesses that Jesus is the son of God, then God sticks with him. He sticks with God.

¹⁶ We have known and we have believed in the love which God has for us. God is love. Anyone who sticks with love sticks with God. God sticks with him.

¹⁷ This is how love becomes complete with us so that we can have confidence on judgment day: Just like him, we are also in the world.

There is no fear with love (4:18-21).

¹⁸ There is no fear with love. Complete love pushes out fear. Fear produces punishment. Anyone siezed by fear has not become complete with love.

¹⁹ We must love because he loved us first.

²⁰ Suppose someone claims, "I love God." However, he hates his brother. Then he is a liar.

Suppose he does not love his brother. He has seen him. He has not seen God. Then he cannot love him.

²¹ He gave us this command: If anyone loves God, then he must also love his brother.

Keep his commands (5:1-5).

⁵ Everyone who believes that Jesus is the messiah, descends from God. Everyone who loves must love his descendant. He descends from him.

² This is how we know that we love the children of God: We love God. We keep his commands.

³ This is love for God: Keep his commands. His commands are not difficult.

⁴ Every descendant from God defeats the world. This is the victory that defeats the world: It is our faith. ⁵ Who defeats the world? Is it not the believer that Jesus is the son of God?

He comes by water and blood (5:6-8).

⁶ He is the one who comes by water and blood: Jesus the messiah. He comes not just by water. He comes by water and blood.

The spirit is the witness because the spirit is the truth.⁷ There are three that testify:⁸ The spirit, the water, and the blood. These three are in agreement.

God has testified about his son (5:9-10).

⁹ Suppose we accept the testimony of men. The testimony of God is even better. This is the testimony of God: He has testified about his son.

¹⁰ Anyone who believes in the son of God has the testimony in him. Anyone who does not believe God has made him into a liar. He does not believe in his testimony. God has testified about his son.

God gave us eternal life (5:11-13).

¹¹ This is his testimony: God gave us eternal life. This life is in his son.

¹² Anyone who accepts the son has this life. Anyone who does not have the son of God does not have this life.

¹³ I wrote these things to you so that you can know that you have eternal life. You believe in the name of the son of God.

He hears us (5:14-15).

¹⁴ This is the confidence that we have with him: If we ask anything according to his will, then he hears us.

¹⁵ If we know that he hears us, then whatever we ask, we know that we will receive the request that we asked from him.

If someone sees his brother committing a sin (5:16-18).

¹⁶ If someone sees his brother committing a sin that is not deadly, then he should pray. He will give him life for the sins that are not deadly. There is sin that is deadly. I am not suggesting that you should pray about that.

¹⁷ All unrighteousness is sin. However, there is sin that is not deadly.

¹⁸ We know that everyone born from God does not commit it. The one born from God stays with him. The evil one cannot touch him.

We belong to the truth (5:19-20).

¹⁹ We know that we come from God. The entire world has settled on the evil one.

²⁰ We also know that the son of God has arrived. He gave us a certain mindset so that we can know the truth. We belong to the truth, which is his son, Jesus the messiah. He is the true God and eternal life.

Protect yourselves from idols (5:21).

²¹ Children, protect yourselves from idols.