



In the last two (2) lessons, John repeats in the Scriptures...“I write to you”... “I have written to you.”...What is the difference?

1 John 1:4, “**We write this** to make our joy complete. 1 John 2:1a, “**My dear children, I write this to you** so that you will not sin...” 1 John 2:7,8 “**Dear friends, I am not writing you** a new command but an old one, which you have had since the beginning...⁸ **Yet I am writing you** a new command; ...” 2:12, **I am writing to you**, dear children...¹³ **I am writing to you**, fathers... **I am writing to you**, young men...¹⁴ **I write to you**, dear children....**I write to you**, fathers...**I write to you**, young men...²¹ **I do not write** to you because...²⁶ **I am writing** these things to you...”

When John says to us, “I am writing,” he is thinking of what he is (at the moment) writing and of what he still has to say.

- When John says, “I have written,” he is thinking of what has already been written and his readers have already read.

What is John saying... “My whole letter—the part already written, the part being written and the part still to come—is all designed to remind Christians of who and whose they are and of what has been done for them.

Who they are...still children trying to get to the place where they know their purpose...and know what the outcome will be in the end.

Whose they are?...God’s children...bought with a price...and watched over by the family...a brother and a father who cares for them with a passion.

What has been done for them?...blood atonement, sins covered, an advocate (lawyer) that acts as defense against the accuser...in front of the Almighty Judge.

For John, it was of supreme importance that Christians should remember the status and the benefits they have in Jesus Christ.

LITTLE CHILDREN, FATHERS AND YOUNG MEN....

- ✓ **One thought....Three age groups in Church.**

Little children....sweet innocence of childhood and forgiveness.

Fathers....mature wisdom which comes from Christian experiences...and everyday life experiences.

Young men...strength which enable us to win the battles against the evil ones.

- ✓ **Little children...means all Christians...and they are divided into two groups:**

1. The fathers...the old...mature in the faith (but realizing that we must be seeking more.)
2. The young men...the young, immature...still growing in what it is all about...but are willing to trust those that have been there to lead them.

God's gifts to all people in Jesus Christ...

- **The gift of forgiveness...**
Power in the name of Jesus. What is in a name...it represents strength and power if it is a good name.
- **The gift of increasing in the knowledge of God.**
Getting to "know" God...and having fellowship with Him. No strings attached; just realizing that it is not our intellect God wants from us...it is our respect, our feeling of security in Him.
- **The gift of victorious strength.**
Strength to overcome the evil one.

1 John 2:15-28, "Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. ¹⁶ For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. ¹⁷ The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever. 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 whoever denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a person is the antichrist—denying the Father and the Son. ²³ No one who denies the Son has the Father; whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also. ²⁴ As for you, 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—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."

God's world...and man's world.

We must understand what John meant by the world, the "kosmos." Christians did not hate the world as such. It was God's creation; and God made all things well. Jesus had loved the beauty of the world; not even Solomon in all his glory was clothed like one of the scarlet flowers which bloomed for a day and died. Jesus repeatedly took his

illustrations from the world. In that sense, Christians did not hate the world.

The earth was not the devil's; the earth and all its fullness was the Lord's.

But.... "Kosmos" acquired a moral sense. It began to mean the world apart from God.

God's world...has the love of the Father...and those that seek him and his ways. God's world is the world that encompasses all that was made and that which was from the beginning.

Man's world does not have the love of the Father...because man's world seeks something made with hands...made with intellect...something that reaches maximum pleasure in the world's accomplishments.

God's world and the Evil one's world collide every day. How we handle stress...how we manage life...how we handle temptation...gives us a clue as to whose side we are on!

False teachers are going to be amongst us....they have pleasant things to say. Their hearts are full of lies and empty promises.

God's promises are true. God never lies. If you remain in Him...He will remain in you.

Do we choose to lose...and be confused...or do we choose to let God be our hiding place...our decision maker?

Two (2) Things John Has to Say About Those Who Love the World and Who Compromise with It:

1. There Are Three (3) Sins Which Are Typical of the World:

➤ **Flesh's Desire...**

Meaning far more than sins of the flesh (sexual sin). In the New Testament, "the flesh" is that part of our nature which, when it is without the grace of Jesus Christ, offers a point of entry for sin.

It includes not only the sins of the flesh....

But also, all worldly ambitions and selfish aims. Remember—The flesh's desire is heedless of the commandments of God, the judgment of God, the standards of God, and the very existence of God.

➤ **Eye's Desire...**

"The tendency to be captivated by outward show."

It is the spirit which can see nothing without wishing to acquire it and which, having acquired it, flaunts it....the spirit which believes that happiness is to be found in the things that money can buy...and the eye can see.

➤ *Life's Empty pride...*

The tendency to lay claim to possessions and to achievements which did not belong to him in order to exalt himself.

John sees the above as men and women of the world who judge everything by their own appetite and who boast of their treasures and pleasures...and even some that they do not have.

2. 2nd Warning...Those That Attach Themselves to the World's Aims and the World's Ways Are Giving Their Lives to Things Which Literally Have No Future.

Remember...the people of this world are doomed to disappointment; the people of God are assured of lasting joy.

THE TRUTH OF THE ABOVE SCRIPTURES FOR TODAY IS FOUND IN THIS SUMMARY:

LIVE CONTINUALLY IN CHRIST...

IF WE HAVE LIVED CONSCIOUSLY IN THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST, IF DAY BY DAY WE HAVE TALKED AND WALKED WITH GOD, THAT WILL BE A SUMMONS TO COME HOME AND TO ENTER INTO THE NEARER PRESENCE OF ONE WHO IS NOT A STRANGER BUT A FRIEND.

DECLARATIONS OF FAITH AND LOYALTY WILL ALWAYS BE PROVED OR DISPROVED BY PRACTICE.

The Question is.... Do We Practice What We Preach?

1 John 3:1-2, “See what great 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 Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.”

John reminds us of what a privilege it is to be called “the children of God.”

Names are important: Parents give names to children...and then to let them know how important that name is. To uphold that name and not to put that name to shame.

How much more....should we not put the name of Christ to shame. We should hold fast to the fact that we represent Christ...and what He stands for...what he died for. John wanted us to remember that “this life is only the beginning.”

Now is the time to live for Him....because we shall be like Him at His appearance.

