



~ Thought For The Day ~

~gathering from the 4 winds~

“come just as you are”

Refresh, Restore, Rebuild = Healing



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Prayer

God Father; in Jesus' name I ask it, Lord bless each one and keep them this weekend. Led and guide them, fill them with God's will for them and plans. Grant them favor, in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Worship Music

[Surely, Goodness, Mercy Shall Follow Me-Israel Houghton](#)

[The Power Of One-Israel Houghton](#)

[Every Prayer-Israel Houghton](#)

[Oh How He Loves Us -New Breed](#)

Scripture

1 John Introduction(2005)

[Comfort Care Cards..free to print](#)

[Comfort Care Scripture Cards.. Free to print](#)

You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

1 John 4:5

Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

1 John 4:11

Radio Stations...

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[KLOVE](#)

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Jesus Is the Son of God***If We Belong to Him, We Will Love One Another***

This letter, like the letter to the Hebrews, mentions neither its author nor the people to whom it was addressed, even though it is very personal, as the frequent use of *I* and *you* shows. It has always been recognized as a circular letter of the apostle John to the churches around Ephesus, in which he emphasizes the main essentials of the Gospel and warns against heresies that are beginning to creep in and that, unchecked, would produce a corrupt and paganized form of Christianity. This letter is one of the latest writings in the New Testament. It was most likely written after John's Gospel, some time between a.d. 85 and a.d. 95.

John

To a very ancient tradition, John made Jerusalem his headquarters. There he cared for Jesus' mother, Mary, until her death, and after the destruction of Jerusalem, he moved to Ephesus (see map Paul's Third Missionary Journey), which by the end of the apostolic generation had become the geographic and numerical center of the Christian church. Here John lived to a very old age, and here he wrote his Gospel and his three letters. John is also the author of the book of Revelation (he received the vision recorded in Revelation while on Patmos). Among his pupils were Polycarp, Papias, and Ignatius, who became bishops of Smyrna, Hierapolis, and Antioch, respectively. We still have writings from all three; they are among the earliest of the so-called church fathers (see "The Church Fathers" under From the Edict of Milan to Charlemagne).

The Background of the Letter

John wrote this letter, Christianity had been in existence some 60 or 70 years, and in many parts of the Roman Empire it had become an important religion and a powerful influence. Naturally, all sorts of efforts were made to combine the Gospel with prevailing philosophies and systems of thought. Such effort was the blending of Christianity and the philosophy known as Gnosticism. The form of Gnosticism that was disrupting the churches in John's day taught that human nature consists of two separate, irreconcilable entities: body and spirit. Sin resides in the body (or "flesh") only. The human spirit occupied itself with the things of God, while at the same time the body could do as it pleased. One could transcend from the mundane to a spiritual realm by acquiring knowledge, or "gnosis." Thus a lofty mental, mystical piety was entirely consistent with a voluptuous, sensual lifestyle! Gnostics also denied the Incarnation: God had in Christ *not* actually become flesh—Christ was a phantom, a man in appearance only. This theory was called Docetism. Another gnostic theory was Cerinthianism, which suggested that the divine Christ joined the man Jesus at baptism and left him before he died. A man named Cerinthus was the leader of this cult in Ephesus. He claimed for himself inner mystic experiences and an exalted knowledge of God, but his life centered around the gratification of sensual appetites. Throughout this letter John appears to have had these heretics in mind: he insists that Jesus was the actual, material, authentic manifestation of God in the flesh who died on the cross for our sins and was resurrected, and that genuine knowledge of God must result in moral transformation.

(Halley's Bible Handbook; Henry Halley; 2000; Zondervan; Bibl History & Commentaries; page 883-884)



John was the last living apostle, the only one who wasn't martyred for Christ. The heresy of Gnosticism was gaining a foothold in the Church when John wrote this letter. The Gnostics didn't believe that God created the "evil" material world, but that distant emanation of God did. They believed that Jesus was a phantom when He lived on the Earth and didn't have a body of flesh. Gnosticism was further developed by Arias, who started the Arian heresy. Arias denied the deity of Christ and claimed that He was only a created being. The Arian heresy is the basis of the Watchtower Society's belief system (Jehovah's Witnesses). John sought to correct the heresy by emphasizing the deity of Jesus Christ in his writings. (New Testament Study Guide; The Word For Today; 2005; Chuck Smith; Commentaries)



The letters we call 1, 2, and 3 John were written by the same apostle John who wrote the Gospel of John and the book of Revelation. This man was a disciple of Jesus Christ; he knew Him personally and was one of three disciples with whom Jesus spent a great deal of time. Two of 1 John's themes are love and light. In chapter 1, we read that God is light and that there is no darkness in Him. This is important because it enables believers to have true fellowship with God and with other believers. Just think about that: Living in the light means that we can have deep genuine friendships, honest communication, and good times with each other. When we live in God's light, nothing is hidden; we do not have to try to cover up anything. We can be real before God and before others. We also read of God's love several times in 1 John. We see that God loved us long before we ever loved Him and that He loves us as His own sons and daughters (see 1 John 3:1). We read about His love and sacrifice in sending His Son, Jesus, to die for us, and about the total, absolute cleansing power of Jesus' blood. I pray that 1 John will remind you of how much God loves you and that reading this epistle strengthens your love for others and encourages you to express that love every chance you get.

What happens when we turn on a light in a messy, dirty room? We see bugs scurrying away from the light, and we see clutter and dirt! First John 1:5 says God is Light. When He gets involved in our lives, He shows us things we may prefer not to look at; things we have hidden—even from ourselves. We are frequently deceived, especially about ourselves. We do not want to deal with our faults, nor do we delight in having them exposed. We may feel condemned about them, but at least we feel they are hidden. Anything hidden has power over us because we fear it may be found out. The best and most freeing thing we can do is face up to what God wants to expose and get beyond the fear of it (see 1 John 3:20; 1 Corinthians 4:5). Let the light of God shine on your hidden motives and dark places. He knows about them anyway and wants to bring you to a place of freedom.

(Amplified Bible; The Everyday Life; 2005; Joyce Meyers, Scripture, commentaries, pages 2095)
(Word Search 9, Bible Software; (KJV) 2005; Bibles, dictionary, concordance, sermons, scripture)

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04-11-2011

HOW CAN YOU NOT BELIEVE IN JESUS?!? HE IS STANDING ... RIGHT ... HERE!

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06-20-2011

JUUUST ... A CLOSER WALK WITH THEEEE

Psa 119:105

Thy word [is] a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.



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