

WHY JOHN WROTE THIS LETTER

1John 1:4 And **we are writing** these things so that our joy may be complete.

1John 2:1 My little children, **I am writing** these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

1John 2:7 Beloved, **I am writing** you no new commandment, but an old commandment that you had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word that you have heard. 8 At the same time, it is a new commandment that **I am writing** to you, which is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining.

1John 2:12 **I am writing** to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven for his name's sake. 13 **I am writing** to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. **I am writing** to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. **I write** to you, children, because you know the Father. 14 **I write** to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. **I write** to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

1John 2:21 **I write** to you, not because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and because no lie is of the truth.

1John 2:26 **I write** these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you.

1John 5:13 **I write** these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life.



May 30 & 31, 2026 | Living in the Light - 3 | 1 John 2:1-6 | Dennis Miller

SOME OF THE "TROUBLING" TEXTS OF 1 JOHN

1John 2:3 And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. 4 Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him,

1John 3:6 No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him.

1John 2:15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

1John 4:21 And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

THREE "TESTS" OF SALVATION THROUGHOUT 1 JOHN

1. The THEOLOGICAL test — Do you BELIEVE that Jesus is the Son of God (18x) and therefore, the LIGHT of the world?

1John 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

2. The MORAL Test — Is it your desire to be holy? Are you making every EFFORT to live above sin?

1John 3:6 No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; . . .

3. SOCIAL Test — Do you truly LOVE others?

1John 4:21 And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURES —

1John 2:1 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. 2 He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. 3 And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. 4 Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, 5 but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: 6 whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

THE HOPE WE HAVE IN CHRIST - VERSE 1

1. Remember that John is writing to BELIEVERS! This is a letter for people who already FOLLOW Christ.

1John 2:1 My little children, . . . (14 times)

2. John uses the phrase "*I am WRITING*" (or "*I write*") 13 times in this letter. He wants you to understand his PURPOSE. (The first time he said this was in 1:4, for our JOY to be complete.)

1John 1:4 And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

3. His second purpose is that we may "*NOT SIN.*" It's an encouragement to live a life of HOLINESS and purity.

1John 2:1 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. . . .

4. But fortunately, he continues and gives us some "BREATHING room." He reminds us that we DO sin after we become followers of Christ. The verb for sin is hamartanō (ἁμαρτάνω) and is an aorist subjunctive third-class conditional. This simply MEANS that it can be translated like this: "If anyone does sin, and it will happen . . ."

1John 2:1 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, . . .

— Why do I still sin after I've become a Christian?

5. So, when we do sin, we have an ADVOCATE (paraklētos, παράκλητος) with the Father (or Judge). An intercessor stands BETWEEN you and the judge, while an advocate stands BESIDE you. And this advocate, Jesus Christ, is righteous meaning He is WITHOUT sin.

THE REASON FOR OUR HOPE - VERSE 2

1John 2:2 He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

1. Since Jesus is the righteous Advocate, He is the ONLY One who can be the "*propitiation*" (SATISFACTION) for our sin.
2. And, since God is JUST, He cannot just overlook sin but must be satisfied that sin has been punished or "PAID for."

1John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

3. When Jesus died on the cross, He paid for ALL the sin of the WHOLE world at ONE time. But, each person must ACCEPT this payment through belief.

John 1:29 . . . "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

THE EVIDENCE OF OUR FAITH - VERSES 3-6

1John 2:3 And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. 4 Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, 5 but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: 6 whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

1. In these four verses, John re-emphasizes that SAME message: As Christians, make every EFFORT to live above sin!
2. He says that this is a testimony to our FAITH (v.3); it is a testimony to our TRUTHFULNESS (v.4); it is proof of God's LOVE within us (v.5); it shows that we want to be LIKE Jesus in our walk (v.6).

THE LESSONS WE LEARN?

1. 1 John 2:1 is the KEY to understanding and enjoying this LETTERS. It gives us HOPE and assurance!
2. It is a great TESTIMONY to Christ and to our faith when we live ABOVE sin as much as possible.