



Those Who Know God...

"We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error" I John 4:6 KJV

These words were penned by the last living eyewitness apostle of Jesus Christ. All the other apostles had died a martyr's death above 20 years before this time, and John wrote his epistle to reveal for all time the "truth" from the "lie," the "light" from the "darkness," the "children of God" from the "children of the wicked one" and more. It is impossible to understand the message John left for us and believe at the same time that *a child of God is also a sinner*. His message is so direct and absolute that He could say, *"He that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us."* I John 4:6 KJV A very simple examination of what this great apostle of Jesus Christ said should strike fear into the hearts of many in the modern church, if John is correct. Those who believe "We are all sinners who sin every day" are in direct contradiction to the gospel which John preached, and according to the apostle, they "do not know God." How is it possible to reconcile the belief that "we are all sinners" with the Scripture "He that committeth sin is of the devil..." I John 1:8 KJV that "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin" I John 3:9 KJV? There are those, including some modern versions of the Bible, that twist John's words to say we "do not practice sin," but such an interpretation is impossible in an honest assessment of what the original Greek text says. If John had intended to speak of our "practice," he would have used the Greek word *prasso*, which is not found in any of his epistles. Instead, John used the Greek word *poieo* for "commit," which according to the "Strong's Greek Dictionary" speaks of "a single act" (see Strong's #4160, "poieo," and compare with #4238, "prasso.") How is it possible that John, who is commonly known as "the apostle of love," could make such strong and absolute statements which prove a child of God is not a sinner? The answer is, he knew who Christ was and what He came into the world to do.

"And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him" I John 3:5-6 KJV.

To the person who does not believe what John clearly says, the words "sinneth not" I John 3:6, and "cannot sin" I John 3:9, are words of harsh condemnation, but to the believer of John's message, these same words are the secret to the "glorious liberty of the sons of God" Romans 8:21 in this present life. If John had agreed with the modern church,

that a child of God "should not sin," he would have prescribed a lifetime of struggle. Instead, he prescribed a lifetime of "glorious liberty" for a believer of the truth when he said "...he cannot sin, because he is born of God" I John 3:9. It is not that this person has "power over sin," but that they are "free from sin." The apostle Paul confirms this, saying, "But now (Greek: 'just now') being made free from sin..." Romans 6:22 KJV. These apostles understood that no one can do anything which is not in their heart to do.

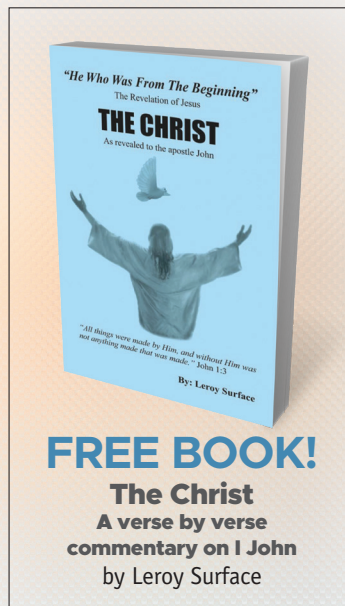
John the Baptist introduced Jesus as "...the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world" John 1:29 KJV. He understood what a young fisherman named John would later understand and preach to the entire world. Where does such understanding come from?

Over 500 years before Jesus was born to Mary, God sent the angel Gabriel to the prophet Daniel to tell of one called "The Messiah the Prince." He gave the exact year of His appearance in ministry, which was the same year the Holy Ghost came upon Jesus at John's baptism service. If Jesus was the Messiah of prophecy, within seven years of His baptism, He must "finish the transgression, make an end of sins, make reconciliation for iniquity, and bring in everlasting righteousness"

Daniel 9:24-25 KJV. He would be "cut off (crucified), but not for Himself" verse 26, and it would happen after three and half years of ministry, in the exact middle of the seven years allotted to Him verse 27 KJV. John said, "Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ (the Messiah) is born of God" I John 5:1 KJV. If we believe "Jesus is the Christ," it is absolutely necessary that we also believe He came into the world "to make an end of sins" Daniel 9:24 through His death on the cross Hebrews 2:14.

"He that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son." I John 5:10"

If we do not believe the record John gave, it is because we do not believe what God said through the prophets of old. Peter said, "...the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow" I Peter 1:11. There is no living person who can rightfully make the claim the apostle made; "He that knoweth God heareth us." Neither could "Augustine," or "Luther," or "Calvin," nor any other scholar of the past or present, who is not in full agreement with the things the apostle John said. Those who reject the truth which the apostle John so clearly wrote do so because they "do not know God." Jesus said, "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" John 8:32.



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