**1 John 3, 9/21/2018**

**Opening**

* When were you back home the last time? How did you feel? Is it good to be at home?
  + Whether you are married or now, how do you want your own home to be look like? Your children? Your love toward them?
  + As Christians, we have another home on earth and in heaven. What is that? How do you view churches now and the kingdom of God in heaven?
* Can we stare at the moon? At the sun? Why or why not?
  + Can we “see” God? Face to face? What does seeing Him “face to face” mean?
    - 1 Corinthians 13:9-12. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.
    - Revelation 22:3-5. No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.
  + Wow. Can you imagine that?
  + How would we look like then?
* Bringing back to reality, what should be our worldview? How should we behave on a daily basis? How should we treat our brothers, sisters and others?
  + Can we be sinless? Why or why not?
* Do you still remember 1 John 1 and 2?

1. God Is Light and Christ Is the Way ([1:1–2:6](https://www.esv.org/1+John+1-2%3A6/))
   1. Prologue ([1:1–4](https://www.esv.org/1+John+1%3A1-4/))
   2. God’s nature and human sin ([1:5–10](https://www.esv.org/1+John+1%3A5-10/))
   3. Jesus Christ in everyday life ([2:1–6](https://www.esv.org/1+John+2%3A1-6/))
2. The Abiding Commandment in a Transient World ([2:7–17](https://www.esv.org/1+John+2%3A7-17/))
   1. The primacy of love ([2:7–11](https://www.esv.org/1+John+2%3A7-11/))
   2. The confidence of God’s people ([2:12–14](https://www.esv.org/1+John+2%3A12-14/))
   3. The lure of this fleeting age ([2:15–17](https://www.esv.org/1+John+2%3A15-17/))
3. Overcoming Antichrist by Confession of the Son ([2:18–3:10](https://www.esv.org/1+John+2%3A18-3%3A10/))
   1. Warning and assurance ([2:18–27](https://www.esv.org/1+John+2%3A18-27/))
   2. Christians as children of God ([2:28–3:3](https://www.esv.org/1+John+2%3A28-3%3A3/))

* Outline (ESV Study Bible)

1. Overcoming Antichrist by Confession of the Son ([2:18–3:10](https://www.esv.org/1+John+2%3A18-3%3A10/))
   1. Warning and assurance ([2:18–27](https://www.esv.org/1+John+2%3A18-27/))
   2. Christians as children of God ([2:28–3:3](https://www.esv.org/1+John+2%3A28-3%3A3/))
   3. Children of God and the forsaking of sin ([3:4–10](https://www.esv.org/1+John+3%3A4-10/))
2. Overcoming Evil by Listening to the Apostle ([3:11–4:6](https://www.esv.org/1+John+3%3A11-4%3A6/))
   1. Overcoming Cain’s malice ([3:11–24](https://www.esv.org/1+John+3%3A11-24/))
   2. Overcoming the Antichrist’s deception ([4:1–6](https://www.esv.org/1+John+4%3A1-6/))
3. The Assurance of God through the Love of God ([4:7–21](https://www.esv.org/1+John+4%3A7-21/))
   1. The perfecting of God’s love ([4:7–12](https://www.esv.org/1+John+4%3A7-12/))
   2. The assurance of God’s Spirit ([4:13–21](https://www.esv.org/1+John+4%3A13-21/))
4. Faith in the Son as the Way to Life ([5:1–12](https://www.esv.org/1+John+5%3A1-12/))
   1. Faith keeps the commandments of God ([5:1–5](https://www.esv.org/1+John+5%3A1-5/))
   2. Faith receives the testimony of God ([5:6–12](https://www.esv.org/1+John+5%3A6-12/))
5. Final Call to Faith and Understanding ([5:13–21](https://www.esv.org/1+John+5%3A13-21/))
   1. The confidence that faith furnishes ([5:13](https://www.esv.org/1+John+5%3A13/))
   2. The prayer that faith enables ([5:14–17](https://www.esv.org/1+John+5%3A14-17/))
   3. The understanding that faith grants ([5:18–21](https://www.esv.org/1+John+5%3A18-21/))

**Children of God and the forsaking of sin (3:1-10)**

* 1 John 2:28–3:3 Christians as Children of God. Having reaffirmed his readers’ commitment to the true Son of God, not the Antichrist (vv. 18–27), John urges them to strive for the ethical integrity and sense of urgency appropriate to their spiritual identity. ESV Study Bible.
* 1 John 3:1 the world does not know us. There is built-in friction between those who know and serve Christ and those who do not. ESV Study Bible.
* 1 John 3:2 What we will be means having glorified bodies that will never be sick or grow old or die, and being completely without sin. No one like that has yet appeared on earth (except Christ himself after his resurrection). We shall be like him. In eternity, Christians will be morally without sin, intellectually without falsehood or error, physically without weakness or imperfections, and filled continually with the Holy Spirit. But “like” does not mean “identical to,” and believers will never be (e.g.,) omniscient or omnipotent as Christ is, since he is both man and God. ESV Study Bible.
  + See him – not in His innermost Godhead, but as manifested in Christ. None but the pure can see the infinitely Pure One. In all these passages the Greek is the same verb opsomai; not denoting the action of seeing, but the state of him to whose eye or mind the object is presented; hence the Greek verb is always in the middle or reflexive voice, to perceive and inwardly appreciate. Our spiritual bodies will appreciate and recognize spiritual beings hereafter, as our natural bodies now do natural objects. Jamieson-Fausset-Brown Bible Commentary. https://biblehub.com/1\_john/3-2.htm
* 1 John 3:4–10 Children of God and the Forsaking of Sin. To confess the Son and to have the Father (2:23) profoundly alters daily living. ESV Study Bible.
* 1 John 3:5 Jesus appeared in order to take away sins, not only so that sin might be forgiven (1:9) but also so that it might cease to exercise its tyrannical bondage. In him there is no sin. A reminder that “God is light” (1:5), and his Son embodies his sinlessness. ESV Study Bible.
* 1 John 3:6–7 No one who abides … keeps on sinning. True followers of Christ do not recklessly and habitually violate what their anointing (2:20, 27) has planted within them. Those who do habitually sin have neither seen him nor known him. They are not genuine Christians. ESV Study Bible.
  + 不犯罪：有三種主要的解釋 https://bkbible.fhl.net/NUI/#/bible/1Jo/3/6

1. 不慣性的犯罪。

2. 在「住在他裡面」條件下不犯罪。

3. 從末世的角度上來看，理論上信徒可以不犯罪。

* + 由於「犯罪」的希臘文是現在式直說語氣，表示持續並習以為常的行動。而 2:1 處的「犯罪」是第二過去式，表示獨特一次的行動。所以此處應該以第一種解釋為宜。
  + From the above, translations of ESV and NIV seem reasonable.
* Discussion
  + Are we sure that we are children of God? Can we see the fruit of the Holy Spirit?
  + How do you read verse 2 now? Why is “because” there?
  + Are we “keep on” sinning in certain aspects?

**Love One Another (3:11-24)**

* 1 John 3:11–24 Overcoming Cain’s Malice. In John 8:44 Jesus points to the devil as the arch liar and murderer. Here John uses Cain (Gen. 4:1–16) to introduce discussion of what Christians must both avoid and pursue. ESV Study Bible.
  + John 8:44. You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.
* 1 John 3:14 We know … because we love. An assurance of salvation is the inner drive that leads one to care for fellow believers. ESV Study Bible.
* 1 John 3:20 whenever our heart condemns us. Whenever one has an inward conviction of sin. It is vital in such times to have a living faith; the proposition that God is greater than our heart grants us assurance that he has forgiven us through the atoning work of Christ. ESV Study Bible.
* 1 John 3:21 A clear conscience before God leads to boldness and confidence before God in prayer. ESV Study Bible.
* 1 John 3:22 whatever we ask we receive. Because we keep his commandments implies a direct connection between obeying God and receiving answers to prayer. Do what pleases him implies it is possible to do things each day that actually “please” God. ESV Study Bible.
* Discussion
  + Are we in certain aspects “Modern Cain”? Examples?
  + Please share your experience on supporting brothers and sisters.

**Wrapping up**

* Are you looking forward to the second coming of Jesus?
* What are your favorite verses in this chapter?

Peter Luh and Chunlong Liu, 9/17/2018

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