

Through the Bible

II JOHN

Zac Poonen



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John

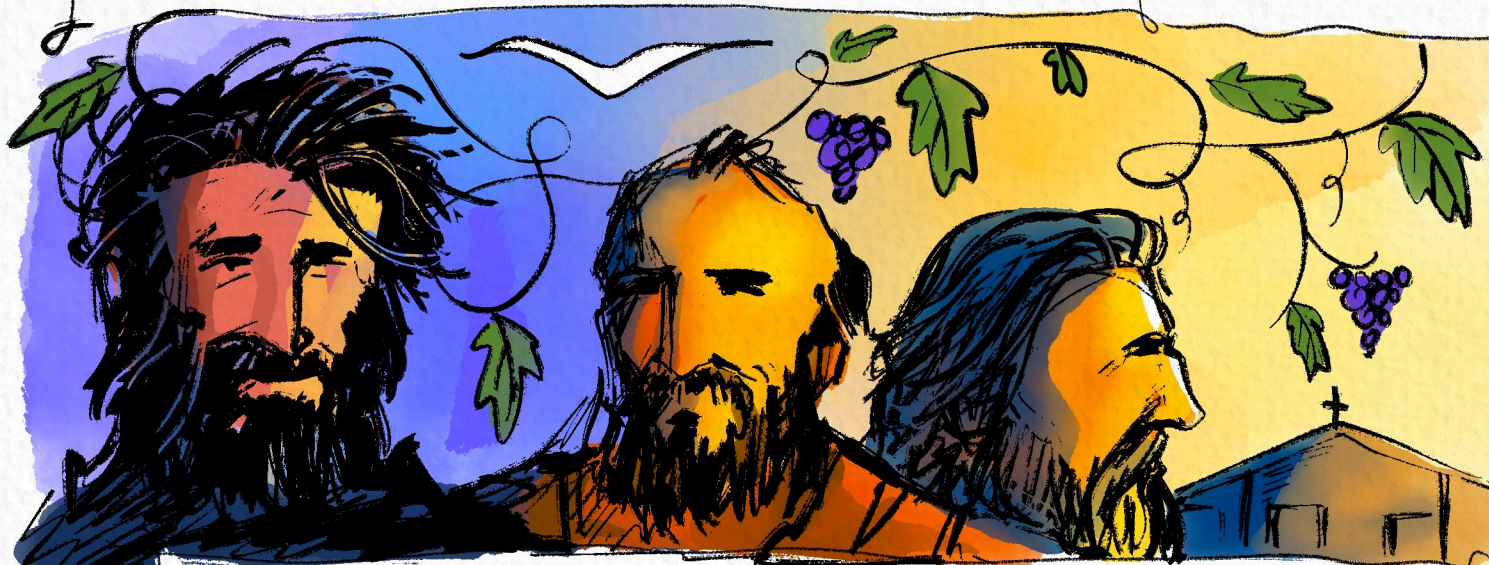


THERE ARE TWO THINGS HE SPEAKS ABOUT IN THIS LETTER: OBEYING GOD'S COMMANDMENTS AND A WARNING AGAINST FALSE TEACHERS.

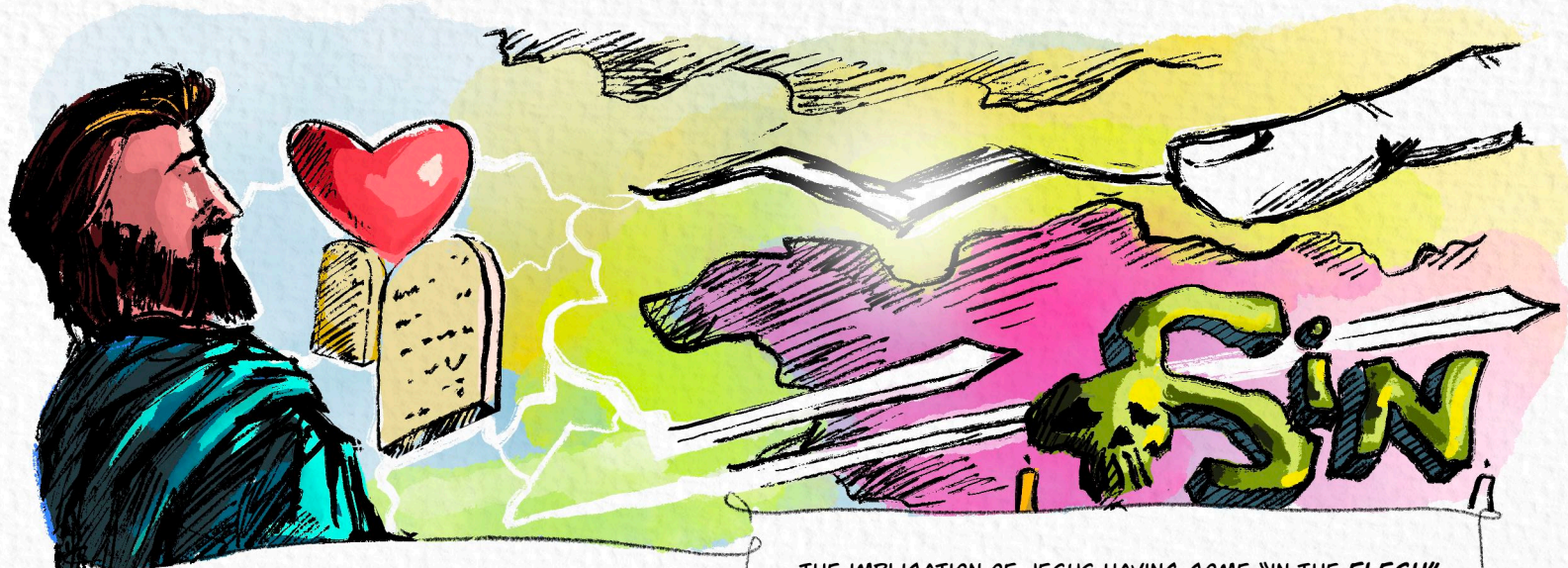


IN 1:4, JOHN SAYS, "I WAS VERY **GLAD** TO FIND SOME OF YOUR CHILDREN WALKING IN **TRUTH** JUST AS WE HAVE RECEIVED COMMANDMENT FROM THE FATHER."

IN 1:5, JOHN REVERTS ONCE AGAIN TO HIS MOST FAVOURITE EXHORTATION: "**LOVE ONE ANOTHER.**"

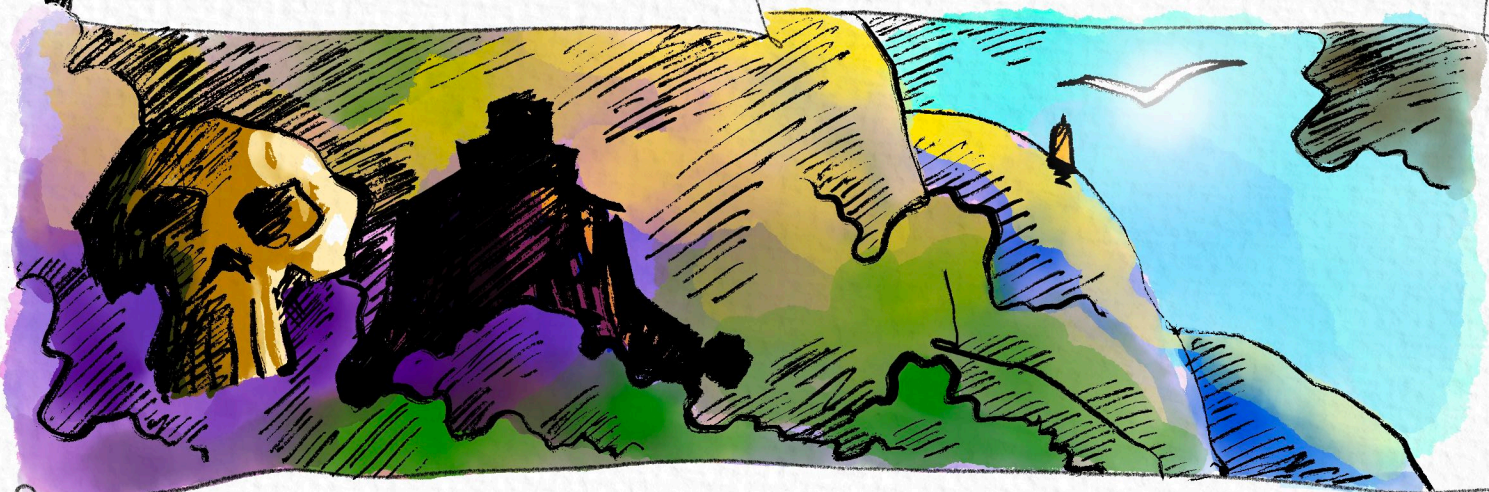


PETER WENT OUT AND DID **EVANGELISM**. PAUL WENT OUT AND BUILT UP THE **CHURCHES**. JOHN AT THE END OF THE FIRST CENTURY, IS **CORRECTING** THE **PROBLEMS** IN THE **CHURCHES**, EMPHASISING THE **ESSENTIALS**.

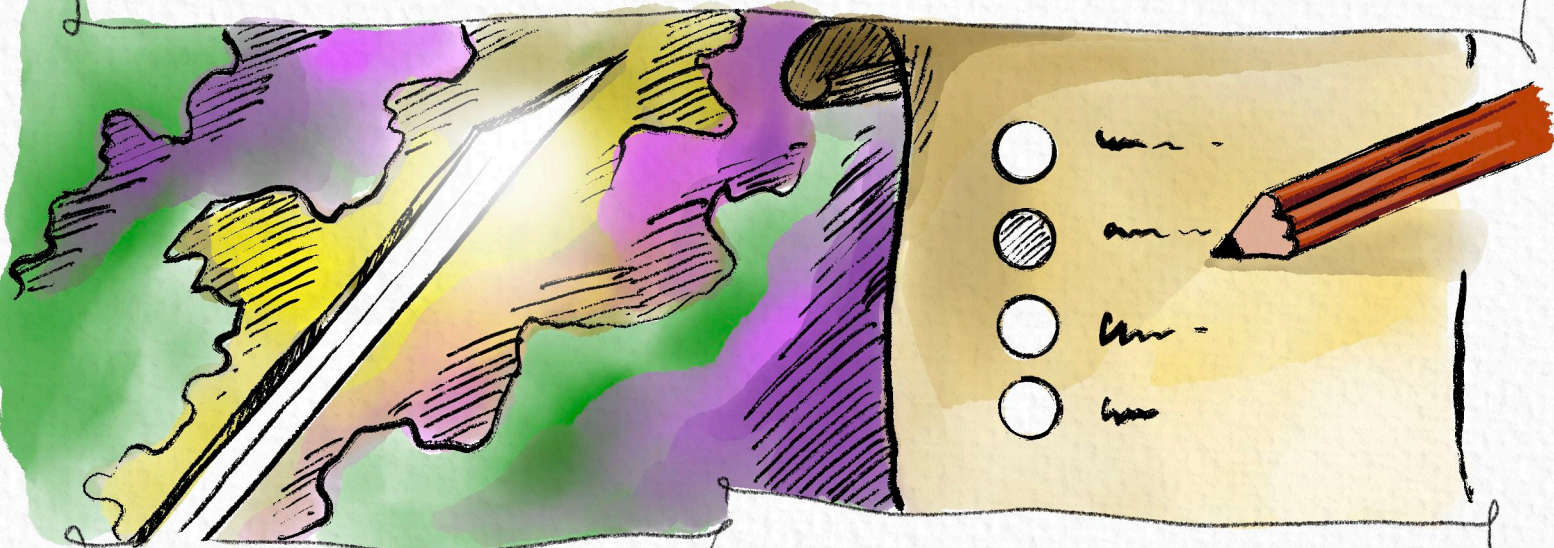


IN 1:6, 7, WE SEE JOHN'S THREE-FOLD EMPHASIS:
"OBEY **GOD'S COMMANDMENTS**; LOVE ONE ANOTHER;
CONFESS THAT JESUS CHRIST CAME IN THE **FLESH**".

THE IMPLICATION OF JESUS HAVING COME "IN THE **FLESH**"
IS THAT JESUS WAS **TEMPTED** LIKE US -- BUT HE DID **NOT**
SIN. HE KEPT ALL OF GOD'S **COMMANDMENTS** AND HE
LOVED OTHERS. SO WHY CAN'T WE?



HE SAYS THAT A CHRISTIAN INSPIRED BY THE **HOLY SPIRIT** CONFESSES THAT JESUS CAME IN THE **FLESH**; WHEREAS ONE WHO
DOES **NOT** CONFESS THIS HAS GOT THE SPIRIT OF THE **ANTICHRIST** -- WHICH IS THE SPIRIT OF **CONTINUING** TO LIVE IN **SIN**.



WHY DOES GOD ALLOW **DECEIVERS** TO COME
INTO **CHRISTENDOM** AND PREACH AGAINST THIS
TRUTH? SO THAT OUR **DISCERNING** FACULTIES
AS CHRISTIANS CAN BE **SHARPENED** AND SO
THAT WE BECOME **MATURE**.

MANY EXAMINATIONS THESE DAYS ARE CONDUCTED WITH
QUESTIONS HAVING '**MULTIPLE CHOICES**' FOR
ANSWERS. BELOW THE QUESTION THERE MAY BE FOUR
ANSWERS FOR YOU FROM WHICH YOU MUST **CHOOSE** THE
RIGHT ONE. **THREE** OF THOSE ANSWERS WILL BE
WRONG. THUS YOUR **DISCERNMENT** IS **SHARPENED**.

LET ME GIVE YOU ONE EXAMPLE: NOWADAYS THERE ARE MANY PREACHERS WHO CLAIM TO HAVE THE **SUPERNATURAL** GIFT OF HEALING THE **SICK**. **JESUS** IN THE FLESH HEALED **THOUSANDS** OF SICK PEOPLE. **COMPARE** THAT PREACHER AND **HIS** METHODS WITH **JESUS** IN THE FLESH. IMMEDIATELY YOU CAN KNOW WHETHER HE IS FROM **GOD** OR NOT.



FOR EXAMPLE, IF HE IS INTERESTED IN **COLLECTING MONEY** AT HIS MEETINGS, IS HE FROM **GOD** OR IS HE A **DECEIVER**? LEAVE THEM ALONE. **DON'T JUDGE** THEM -- AND **DON'T FOLLOW** THEM.



OR HERE IS ANOTHER PREACHER WHO PREACHES, "IF YOU **REALLY BELIEVE** IN **GOD** YOU WILL BE **FINANCIALLY WEALTHY**" -- QUOTING SOME OLD-COVENANT PROMISE LIKE DEUTERONOMY 28:11. **JESUS** ALSO KNEW DEUTERONOMY 28:11. BUT **DID JESUS** IN THE FLESH EVER TEACH **FINANCIAL PROSPERITY** TO HIS DISCIPLES FROM THAT VERSE? THE ANSWER IS "**NO**".



WE SEE **MANY THINGS** GOING ON TODAY IN THE NAME OF "**HOLY-SPIRIT POWER**". WHEN WE SEE PEOPLE TODAY **FALLING DOWN** AND **LAUGHING, ROARING** LIKE LIONS AND **BARKING** LIKE DOGS AND SAYING THAT THOSE ARE **MANIFESTATIONS** OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, WE **DON'T** HAVE TO BE **CONFUSED**. LET US JUST **LOOK** AT **JESUS** IN THE FLESH AND SEE WHETHER HE EVER DID THOSE THINGS.

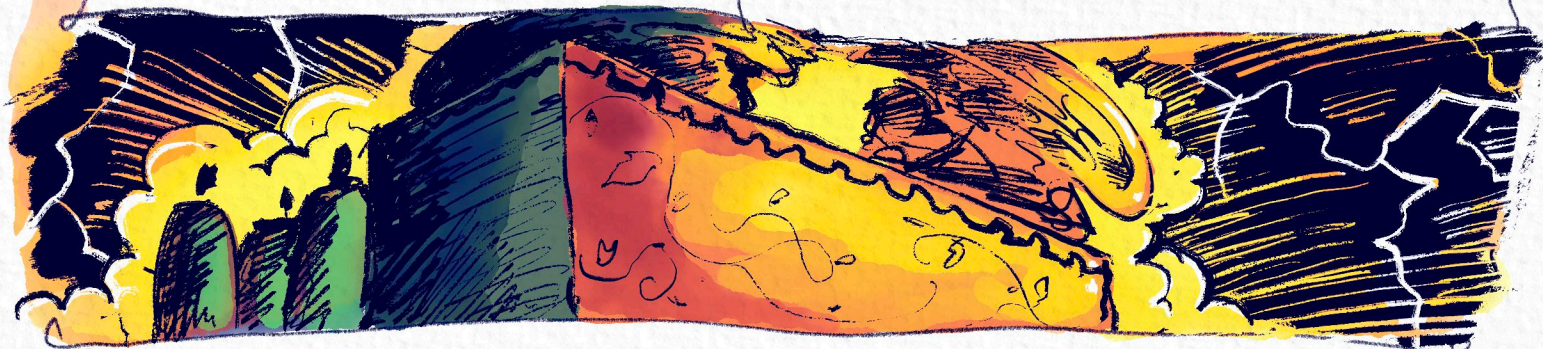


IN 1:8, JOHN WARNS US, "**WATCH YOURSELVES, BE CAREFUL**." BE CAREFUL THAT YOU DO NOT LOSE YOUR FULL REWARD, BY BEING LED **ASTRAY** BY ALL THESE **DECEPTIONS** IN CHRISTENDOM TODAY.



IN 1:9, JOHN WARNS: "IF ANYONE GOES **TOO FAR** AND DOES NOT **ABIDE** IN THE **TEACHING OF CHRIST...**". THAT IS REFERRING TO THOSE WHO GO **BEYOND** WHAT **JESUS TAUGHT** AND **BEYOND** WHAT THE **WORD OF GOD** TEACHES ON THIS SUBJECT.

HERE IS ONE EXAMPLE. THE BIBLE SAYS THAT JESUS DID **NOT COME IN SINFUL FLESH** BUT ONLY IN "THE **LIKENESS**" OF SINFUL FLESH (ROMANS 8:3). BUT SOME **FOOLISH** CHRISTIANS IN A **FALSE ZEAL** FOR THIS DOCTRINE, "**GO TOO FAR**" AND SAY THAT JESUS MUST HAVE HAD **SINFUL LUSTS** IN HIS **FLESH** IF HE WAS TO BE **TEMPTED** LIKE US.



LIKE **PSYCHOLOGISTS**, THEY TRY TO **ANALYSE** THE **INNER LIFE OF JESUS** (WHICH **NONE OF US CAN DO**) AND THUS **TEACH ERROR**. THEY ARE LIKE THE PEOPLE OF **BETHSHEMESH** WHO "**LOOKED INSIDE THE ARK**" AND WERE **KILLED BY GOD** FOR THEIR **LACK OF REVERENCE** (1 SAMUEL 6:19).

IN 1:10, 11, JOHN SAYS, "IF ANYONE COMES TO YOU AND DOES **NOT BRING THIS** TEACHING, DO **NOT RECEIVE** HIM INTO YOUR HOUSE, AND DO **NOT GIVE** HIM A **GREETING** -- FOR THE ONE WHO GIVES HIM A GREETING PARTICIPATES IN HIS **EVIL DEEDS**".



THOSE WHO BELONG TO THE **JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES CULT** OPENLY DECLARE THAT **JESUS CHRIST IS NOT GOD** BUT A **CREATED BEING**. THEY GO, **TWO BY TWO**, FROM **HOUSE TO HOUSE**, IN MANY LANDS AND **DECEIVE** PEOPLE. JOHN SAYS THAT WE SHOULD **NOT EVEN RECEIVE** THEM INTO OUR HOUSE OR GIVE THEM A **GREETING**

SO, **DON'T THINK** IT IS **CHRISTIAN LOVE** TO SHOW **HOSPITALITY** TO SUCH **DECEIVERS**. **STAND TRUE** TO THE **LORD** IN THESE DAYS OF **DECEPTION**.