

BROTHERLY LOVE

BIBLE TEXT : I John 1:1-10; 2:1-17,24,25,28,29; 3:1-24; 4:7-21; 5:1-21; II John 1-6,12,13; III John 1-8,12-14

LESSON 361 Senior Course

MEMORY VERSE: "If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?" (I John 4:20).

BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

1 John 1:1-10

1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life;

2 (For the life was manifested, and we have seen *it*, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)

3 That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship *is* with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

4 And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.

5 This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

6 If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:

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

8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

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

10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

1 John 2:1-17

1 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

2 And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for *the sins* of the whole world.

3 And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.

4 He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

5 But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.

6 He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.

7 Brethren, I write no new commandment unto you, but an old commandment which

Bible References:

I Fellowship with God

1. Jesus Christ, the manifestation of God's love to us, is the only basis of eternal joy, I John 1:1-4; 2:25; 5:11-13;

John 3:14-15

14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:

15 That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

John 3:36

36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

Acts 4:10-12

10 Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, *even* by him doth this man stand here before you whole.

11 This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner.

12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

John 17:2

2 As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him.

John 17:3

3 And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

2. God is light, and those who fellowship with Him must walk in the light and keep His commandments, I John 1:5-7; 2:3-6, 24, 28; 5:1-3.

3. The children of God enjoy great fellowship one with another as they walk in the light, I John 1:7; II John 1-6, 12, 13; III John 1-4, 12-14.

4. All have sinned, but those who confess their sins to God find forgiveness, I John 1:8-10; 2:1, 2;

Proverbs 28:13

13 He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh *them* shall have mercy.

Isaiah 55:7

7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

Acts 3:19

19 Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

5. Those who love the world have no fellowship with God, I John 2:15-17;.

Romans 12:2

2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Titus 2:12

12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

ye had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which ye have heard from the beginning.

8 Again, a new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in him and in you: because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth.

9 He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now.

10 He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him.

11 But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes.

12 I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake.

13 I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known him *that is* from the beginning. I write unto you, young men, because ye have overcome the wicked one. I write unto you, little children, because ye have known the Father.

14 I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him *that is* from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one.

15 Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

16 For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

1 John 2:24-25

24 Let that therefore abide in you, which ye have heard from the beginning. If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall continue in the Son, and in the Father.

25 And this is the promise that he hath promised us, *even* eternal life.

1 John 2:28-29

28 And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.

29 If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him.

1 John 3:1-24

1 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God,

James 4:4

4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

II Sonship of Believers

1. The Father's great love paid the price that the sons of men might become the sons of God, I John 3:1-3;

John 3:16

16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Romans 5:8

8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Ephesians 2:4

4 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,

Ephesians 2:5

5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

2. The sons of God — born-again Christians — do not commit sin, I John 3:4-10; 2:12-14, 29; 5:4,5,18-21;

Galatians 6:7-8

7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

James 1:27

27 Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.

3. Children of God love their brothers, I John 3:11-19; 4:7-12, 20, 21; 2:7-11; 5:16, 17;

Luke 10:25-37

25 And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?

26 He said unto him, What is written in the law? how readest thou?

27 And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.

28 And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live.

29 But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbour?

30 And Jesus answering said, A certain *man* went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded *him*, and departed, leaving *him* half dead.

31 And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.

32 And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on *him*, and passed by on the other side.

33 But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on *him*,

34 And went to *him*, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him.

35 And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave *them* to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee.

36 Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves?

37 And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.

and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

3 And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

4 Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

5 And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin.

6 Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him.

7 Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.

8 He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.

9 Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

10 In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.

11 For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.

12 Not as Cain, *who* was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous.

13 Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you.

14 We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not *his* brother abideth in death.

15 Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.

16 Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down *our* lives for the brethren.

17 But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of *compassion* from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?

18 My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

19 And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him.

20 For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things.

21 Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, *then* have we confidence toward God.

John 13:35

³⁵ By this shall all *men* know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

John 15:12

¹² This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.

1 Peter 1:22

²² Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, *see that ye* love one another with a pure heart fervently:

3 John 1:5-8

⁵ Beloved, thou doest faithfully whatsoever thou doest to the brethren, and to strangers;

⁶ Which have borne witness of thy charity before the church: whom if thou bring forward on their journey after a godly sort, thou shalt do well:

⁷ Because that for his name's sake they went forth, taking nothing of the Gentiles.

⁸ We therefore ought to receive such, that we might be fellowhelpers to the truth.

4. Obedience to God's commandments produces faith and confidence, I John 3:20-23; 4:17-19; 5:14, 15;

John 15:7

⁷ If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you..

5. God witnesses faithfully to His children, I John 3:24; 4:13-16; 5:6-10;

Romans 8:16

¹⁶ The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

Galatians 4:6

⁶ And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.

Notes:

God's Love

John, the disciple who leaned upon Jesus' breast, is often spoken of as the Apostle of love, not alone because he walked close to the Lord during His three years' ministry, but also because of the profound teachings in his writings concerning God's love. Because John was an eyewitness of Jesus Christ from the beginning of His ministry to His death upon the cross, and saw the effect of God's love upon himself and upon the other Apostles, the subject of God's love struck deeply into his soul. Many years later, under the inspiration of the Holy Ghost, he wrote much on this important subject.

"God is love," wrote the Apostle; and that love is outstandingly manifested in the gift of His only begotten Son to redeem the world. "He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name" (John 1:11, 12).

John was among that number who believed and received Jesus, the Son of God. After Jesus returned to Heaven John realised in a greater measure what a wonderful privilege he had had, to have been with Jesus. John could answer with firsthand, heartfelt knowledge those critics who said that Jesus was but a good man and teacher: "That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life" (I John 1:1). Flesh and blood had not revealed this wondrous, eternal truth to the beloved Apostle, but God the Father had revealed this truth from Heaven. (**Matthew 16:15-17**)

22 And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.

23 And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment.

24 And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.

1 John 4:7-21

7 Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.

8 He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

9 In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.

10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins.

11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.

12 No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.

13 Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.

14 And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son *to be* the Saviour of the world.

15 Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.

16 And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.

17 Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.

18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

19 We love him, because he first loved us.

20 If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?

21 And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.

1 John 5:1-21

1 Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.

2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and

¹⁵ He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? ¹⁶ And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. ¹⁷ And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.)

Born-Again Experience

John had an experiential knowledge of Jesus, and such knowledge is available to all men. Jesus said to Thomas: "Because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed" (John 20:29). In the writings of the Apostle, a truth is stressed that Jesus taught during His ministry; that is, to know Jesus and to believe in Him means far more than to have a mental knowledge or belief. This is an important truth, because a vast portion of professing Christians have gotten no farther than a mental conception of Jesus, and they are calling that "Christianity."

Jesus can be known with an experiential knowledge only as men confess their sins and forsake them, and then walk in the light of God's Word. The Bible conception of believing in Christ is that of obeying all His commandments. When a man comes thus to God, confessing and forsaking his sins, believing in Jesus Christ and the redemption that He purchased for mankind by His death on the cross, God is faithful and just to forgive the man's sins. Such an experience with God is known as being born again. It is an essential experience without which no man will see the Kingdom of God. (**John 3:1-8** ¹ There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: ² The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. ³ Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. ⁴ Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? ⁵ Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. ⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. ⁸ The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit)

Sons of God

The born-again experience transforms the man of the world (no matter how moral or how wicked he has been, no matter how high in worldly attainments or how deep into sin he has gone) into a child of God. The love for the things of the world is removed, and the love of God takes its place. Condemnation goes out of the heart, and a confidence toward God is born there that grows and grows as the child of God walks in the light of God's Word. The Spirit of God also witnesses to the spirits of His sons that they are His children.

All these wonderful blessings, and many more, are bestowed upon the children of God because of the Father's outstanding love. Another great work that is wrought in the human heart through redemption and adoption into the family of God is the hope that the children of God will one day see God as he is. "And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure" (I John 3:3). God saves a soul from his sins, but if he continues in that saved state, there must be a steady growth in grace from that time on until the soul is transported to Glory.

There are no sins in the lives of the children of God. Sin is the transgression of God's law, and Jesus Christ was manifested to take away sin. In Christ there is no sin, and "whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither

keep his commandments.

3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, *even* our faith.

5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

6 This is he that came by water and blood, *even* Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth.

7 For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.

8 And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.

9 If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son.

10 He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.

11 And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

12 He that hath the Son hath life; *and* he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

14 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:

15 And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

16 If any man see his brother sin a sin *which is* not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it.

17 All unrighteousness is sin: and there is a sin not unto death.

18 We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not.

19 *And* we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness.

20 And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, *even* in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

known him" (I John 3:6). The Apostle, an eyewitness to Jesus' miraculous power and an eager listener to His conversations and instructions, was very explicit about this matter of so-called Christians who sin. Through the Spirit the Apostle said that it is impossible to commit sin and still be a Christian. "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God" (I John 3:9). God changes man and takes the desire for sinful things out of the heart when man is born of God.

Love for the Brethren

"Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another" (I John 4:10, 11). Herein is stated more than a free choice as to whether the children of God love their brethren or not, for this is a positive commandment. Throughout the New Testament we find that a man's measure of love for God is displayed by his love or lack of love for his fellow men: "If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us" (I John 4:12).

Love for his fellow man does not precede love for God in the Christian's heart, but the two are very closely tied together. Hardheartedness and love for God never dwell together. Some people would be content to love their friends and kinsmen, but they hate their enemies. Jesus said, "I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; that ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 5:44, 45).

This love for the brethren is not man-made, for God imparts it to the human heart. Fellowship with God and fellowship with God's people go hand in hand — a person cannot have the one without having the other. Fellowship cannot be counterfeited; for, in reality, fellowship is a measure of God's Spirit that flows between the spirits of the children of God. When the fellowship between a man and God is broken, then the fellowship between that one and the children of God is broken also.

How far-reaching should this love for the brethren be? It must be far-reaching enough to cause the child of God to share his bread and possessions with his needy brother. Whatever profession of godliness a man may have, if he has no compassion for his fellow man in need, then there is no truth in his profession. The Spirit of God dictated that as Christ laid down his life for us, so we "ought to lay down our lives for the brethren" (I John 3:16). In the Apostle's day martyrdom was prevalent, and no doubt it was possible for one of God's children to spare the life or lives of others by giving his life. Love for the brethren should be no less today. The one who would withhold his bread from the hungry would never lay down his life for the brethren.

The lawyer asked Jesus, "Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus asked the lawyer what the law said about this question, and the lawyer stated it. Jesus said, "Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live" (Luke 10:25, 28). What had the lawyer's answer been? "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself" (Luke 10:27). This love, then, will result in eternal life for the man who has it. Like so many people today, the lawyer wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus to define who his neighbour might be. Jesus told the story of the Good Samaritan, and asked the lawyer who he thought was neighbour to the Jew who fell

21 Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.

2 John 1:1-6

1 The elder unto the elect lady and her children, whom I love in the truth; and not I only, but also all they that have known the truth;

2 For the truth's sake, which dwelleth in us, and shall be with us for ever.

3 Grace be with you, mercy, *and* peace, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.

4 I rejoiced greatly that I found of thy children walking in truth, as we have received a commandment from the Father.

5 And now I beseech thee, lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment unto thee, but that which we had from the beginning, that we love one another.

6 And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it.

2 John 1:12-13

12 Having many things to write unto you, I would not *write* with paper and ink: but I trust to come unto you, and speak face to face, that our joy may be full.

13 The children of thy elect sister greet thee. Amen.

3 John 1:1-8

1 The elder unto the wellbeloved Gaius, whom I love in the truth.

2 Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.

3 For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth.

4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.

5 Beloved, thou doest faithfully whatsoever thou doest to the brethren, and to strangers;

6 Which have borne witness of thy charity before the church: whom if thou bring forward on their journey after a godly sort, thou shalt do well:

7 Because that for his name's sake they went forth, taking nothing of the Gentiles.

8 We therefore ought to receive such, that we might be fellowhelpers to the truth.

3 John 1:12-14

12 Demetrius hath good report of all *men*, and of the truth itself: yea, and we *also* bear record; and ye know that our record is true.

13 I had many things to write, but I will not with ink and pen write unto thee:

14 But I trust I shall shortly see thee, and we shall speak face to face. Peace *be* to thee. *Our* friends salute thee. Greet the friends by name.

among the thieves. Perhaps the lawyer hated the Samaritans, as most Jews did, for he did not use the name, but he had to admit the truth: "He that shewed mercy on him." Then Jesus said unto him, "Go, and do thou likewise" (Luke 10:37).

Remember, the story of the Good Samaritan has an eternal bearing. "Who is my neighbour?" The question concerns all who would enter into Heaven. Our neighbour is anyone to whom we may do good, or whom we may lead to God.

QUESTIONS

1. How is it possible to have fellowship with the sons of God?
2. Who among the sons of men have sinned?
3. How is it possible to have our sins forgiven?
4. What happens when a man tries to love God and the world at the same time?
5. Who are the sons of God?
6. Why can there be no sin in the life of a child of God?
7. Why is it necessary for the sons of God to love their brethren?
8. How far should a child of God be willing to carry this love for his brother?
9. How should the sons of God treat those who preach a false doctrine?