

Beloved: A Study in 1, 2, & 3 John
Lesson One – Be Joyful
1 John 1

I. The Word of Life (1 John 1:1-2)

II. The Eyewitness (1 John 1:3)

“What we have seen and heard we proclaim”

III. The Fullness of Joy (1 John 1:4)

3 John 4

IV. The Message (1 John 1:5-7)

A. God is Light

Genesis 1:3

Revelation 21:23-25

“Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow” (James 1:17).

B. Sin is Dark

“In like manner, darkness sums up the elements of evil—foulness, secrecy, repulsiveness, and gloom. In all but the lowest forms of existence it inevitably produces decay and death. Everything of the kind is excluded from the nature of God” (1 John, H. D. M. Spence, Logos).

V. The Faithful One (1 John 1:8-10)

“He is faithful and just” (KJV)

VI. John – Living Loved

A. The Gospel of John

“Believe” appears 98 times

“Love” appears 57 times

Jesus is described – John 1:1-3; 14

“This is why the Christian religion is not obedience to a legal system, but devotion to a Person” (Tyndale, *The Gospel According to St. John*, p. 44).

You cannot love someone you only know about second hand. You cannot love the idea of a person, you must get to know the person! You can only live loved when you spend time in the Presence of the One Who loves you!

B. The Letters of John

John uses the word “beloved” 10 times in his three short epistles – 1-3 John.

“Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is” (1 John 3:2).

“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God” (1 John 4:7).

“Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another” (1 John 4:11).

“Beloved, I pray that in all respects you may prosper and be in good health, just as your soul prospers” (3 John 1:2).

Living loved is in the present and directly linked to living in His Presence.

“Perfect love casts out fear” (1 John 4:18). Living loved leads to trust.

“Trust has no backup plan” (Dayna Street).

Trust is perfect love – knowing you are beloved.

C. The Revelation of John

Living loved leads to revelation.

John’s Revelation on the Isle of Patmos –

“The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must soon take place; and He sent and communicated it by His angel to His bond-servant John, who testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw. Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near” (Revelation 1:1-3).

“After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven, and the first voice which I had heard, like the sound of a trumpet speaking with me, said, ‘Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after these things.’” (Revelation 4:1)

He is inviting you as well. Answer His call to come to Him, sit at His feet, and hear His voice. Do you know that you are the disciple whom Jesus loves? Surrender to His perfect love and allow Him to cast out all fear! May He lead you into full trust – absolute abandon – Abundant Life!