THE FIRST EPISTLE OF JOHN.

THE STRUCTURE OF THE EPISTLE AS A WHOLE.

| 1: 1—2:17 | CHRIST. |
| 2: 18—29 | ANTICHRIST. |
| 3: 1—24 | LOVE. |
| 4: 1—6 | ANTICHRIST. |
| 4: 7—21 | LOVE. |
| 5: 1—21 | CHRIST. |

NOTES.

1. WRITTEN BY the apostle John, as proved no less by its character than by external testimony. The similarity in tone and language to the Fourth Gospel shows both to be the work of that disciple whom Jesus loved (John 21:7).

2. WRITTEN, as generally understood, to the “circle of Asiatic churches”. But it is suggested that this First Epistle of John may be reckoned among the Diaspora and earlier epistles, for the following reasons:--
   (a) The occurrences of the word parousia (2:28). See Matt. 24:3; 1 Thess. 2:19, &c.
   (b) The significance of the possessive pronoun hemeteros (1:3; 2:2; see Notes), and
   (c) Paul’s statement that John was one of the “pillars”, i.e. teachers of the Law, and therefore a minister of the circumcision (see Gal. 2:9).

   The position that the epistle occupies canonically among the Diaspora writings strengthens the argument that it also is to be reckoned among them.

3. THE CONTENTS are practical teaching in the light of the love of God. God is Life, is Light, is Truth, is Righteous, is Love, and we have fellowship with Him through the Lord Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit. “We know that He abideth in us by the spirit which He hath given us” (3:24). The apostle sets in vivid contrast the death, darkness, falsehood, hate, which are the characteristics of the devil who “sinneth from the beginning” (3:8), and those who are led by the spirit of error (4:6), with the work of the Holy Spirit in believers. But the dominant conception running throughout the epistle is that of the love which constraineth, as it constrained Paul (2 Cor. 5:14).

4. WRITTEN FROM Ephesus according to tradition, but no definite statement can be made as to either place or time of writing. The character of the contents indicates a much earlier date than is usually supposed (see Ap. 180).

Page 1870 From The Companion Bible.
1. THAT which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we ... looked upon, and our hands ... handled, of the Word of life;
2. (And the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and report to you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested to us;) That which we have seen and heard report we to you, in order that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ. And these things write we to you, in order that your joy may be filled full.
3. And this is the message which we have heard from Him, and declare to you, that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all.
4. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as He [the Father] is light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanseth us from all sin. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just in order that He might forgive our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.
5. My little children, these things write I to you, to the end that ye may not commit sin habitually. And if any man commit an act of sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And He is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but ... for the sins of the whole world. And this we do know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He that saith, "I know Him," and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth His word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: in this know we that we are in Him.

1: 1-2: 17. CONCERNING CHRIST.
1: 1-5. Cause of writing.
1: 6-10. Test of fellowship.
2: 3-6. Test of knowing God.
2: 9-11. Test of being in the Light.
2: 15-17. Test of loving God.

1. 1 from the beginning. Gr. ap (Ap. 104. iv) arches. See John 8. 44. Occ. nine times in this epistle.


3. Gr. anapangello. See Acts 20. 27.
5. Test of knowing God.
6. This refers to the Father. Cp. 2. 6.
8. Gr. angelia. Only here and 3. 11.
10. Not with fellow-believers, but with the Father and the Son.
11. Jesus Christ. The texts read "Jesus".
12. To.  Gr. hina. as in v. 3. Lit. in order that He might forgive.

15. Liar. See 5. 10. John 8. 44.
17. Sin not = may not sin.
6 He that saith he abideth in Him ought himself also so to walk, even as He walked.

7 Brethren, I write not a new commandment to you, but an old commandment which ye had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which ye heard.

8 Again, a new commandment I write to you, which thing is true in Him and in you: because the darkness passes away, and the true light already shineth.

9 He that saith he abideth 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 blineth his eyes.

12 I write to you, little children, because ye have sinned are forgiven you on account of His name.

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

14 I wrote to you, fathers, because ye have known Him that is from the beginning. I wrote to 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.

18 Little children, it is the last hour and as ye have heard that antichrist cometh, even now have arisen many antichrists; whence we know that it is the last hour.

19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, in order that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.

20 And ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things.

21 I have not written to you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth.

22 Who is the liar except he that denieth that Jesus is not the Christ? He is an antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.

23 Whosoever denieth the Son hath not the Father also: he that confesseth the Son hath the Father also.

I. JOHN.

2. 23

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

25 And this is the promise that He promised us, even eternal life.

26 These things I wrote to you concerning them that lead you astray.

27 And the anointing [the unction] which ye received concerning Him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and even as it hath taught you, abide in Him.

28 And now, little children, abide in Him; in order that, if He shall appear, we may have boldness, and not be ashamed from Him in His coming.

29 If ye know that He is righteous, ye know that every one that practiseth righteousness is begotten of Him.

3 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath given to us, in order that we should be called the children of God and we are so: on account of this the world knoweth us not, because it knew Him not.

2 Beloved, now are we children of God, and doeth not yet appear what we shall be: we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him even as He is.

3 And every man that hath this hope fixed on Him purifieth himself, even as He is pure.

4 Every one who practiseth sin doeth lawlessness also: and sin is the transgression of the law.

5 And ye know that He was manifested in order that He might take away sins; and in Him there is not sin.

24. The word heard: abiding in them.
25. His promise: eternal life.
26, 27-. The anointing: abiding in them.
28. Confidence through abiding in Him.
29. His righteousness: they born of Him.

24 remain. Same as "abide", v. 6.
25 promise. Gr. epangelia, the only occ. in John's writings.


26 seduce = lead astray, or cause to err.
27 anointing. Same as "unction", v. 20. of = concerning.


ashamed. Gr. aischno. See 2 Cor. 10. 8. before = from.

doeth = practiseth. Gr. poieo, as 3, 7, 10.

born = begotten. A Latin MS., the Fleury Palimpsest, instead of "ashamed, &c.", reads "confounded by Him. If in His presence ye have known Him that is faithful, know that every one that doeth the truth hath been born of Him."

3: 1-24. LOVE.

1. 2. The Father’s love to us.
3-15. Effect upon us.
16.- The Son’s love to us.
-16-24. Effect upon us.

3: 3-9. INWARD PURITY.

3. Purity.
6. Test of abiding.
7.- Warning against deceivers.
8.- Righteousness.
9.- Sin’s origin. The devil.
10.- Christ manifested. Reason.
9. Test of being begotten of God.

3 in = upon (Ap. 104. iv. 2). i.e. set, or fixed on.

pure. Gr. hagnos. See 2 Cor. 7. 11.

i.e. practiseth. See 2. 29.
sin. Gr. 128. I. ii. 1.

for = and. the transgression, &c. Gr. anomia, as above.
(Gr. hina) He might.

3: 3-9. EFFECT UPON US.

3-9. Inward purity.


Father. Ap. 98. III.
bestowed upon = given to. that = in order that. Gr. hina.

God. Ap. 98. I. 1. All the texts add, "and we are (so)".
therefore = on account of (Ap. 104. v. 2) this.


the. Omit.
not yet. Gr. oupo.

Gr. oupo.
3. 6.

6 *Every one who* abideth in Him *sinneth not:* whosoever *sinneth hath not *seen Him, *neither known Him.

7 *Little children, let no one* deceive [seduce] you: *he that doeth* righteousness is *righteous,* even as He is righteous.

8 He that *practiseth* sin is of the devil; for the devil *sinneth* from the beginning. For this purpose the *Son of God* appeared, *in order that* He might *destroy* the works of the devil.

9 *Every one who* is begotten of God doth not *practiseth* sin; for His seed abideth in him: and he is *not able to* sin, because he is begotten of God.

10 In this the *children of God are manifest, and the* children of the devil: *every one who* practiseth not *righteousness is not of God,* and 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 the devil,* and *slew* his brother. *And for the sake of what* slew he him? *Because his ...* works were wicked, and his brother’s righteousness.

13 Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you. *We know that we have passed* from death unto life, *because we love the brethren.* He that *loveth not* ... abideth in death.

15 *Every one who* hateth his brother is a *murderer* [manslayer]: and ye know that *not any* murderer hath eternal life *abiding within* him.

16 *In this we know* 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 *whoever* hath this *world’s goods or living,* and *seeth* his brother have need, and *shuteth up* his *bowels [inward affections] 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 *in this* we know that we are of the *truth,* and *shall assur...* 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.

22 And whatsoever we *ask for something to be given,* 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 receive* His goods or living, and *do those things that are pleasing* in His sight.
3. 23. I. JOHN. 4. 15

should ③believe on the name of His ⑧Son ⑤Jesus Christ, and ⑩love one another, as He gave us commandment.

24 And he that ⑨keepeth His commandments ⑩dwelleth in Him, and He in him. And ⑪in this we know that He ⑥abideth in us, by the spirit [the new nature] which He gave us.

4 ⑤Beloved, ⑥believe not every ⑥spirit, but test by the Word of God the ⑥spirits if they are of ⑥God: Because many ⑥false prophets are gone out into the ①world.

2 In this ③know ye THE Holy Spirit of God: Every ⑥spirit that confesseth ④Jesus Christ to have come in … flesh is of ①God:

3 And every ⑥spirit that confesseth not ⑤that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of ①God: and this is the spirit of the Antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it cometh; and even now already is it in the ①world.

4 Ye are of ①God, ⑨little children, and have overcome them: because greater is He That is in you, than he that is in the ①world.

5 They are of the ①world: on account of this ⑥speak they of the ①world, and the world heareth them.

6 We are of ①God: he that ③knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. From this ③know we the ⑥spirit ⑤of truth, and the ⑥spirit ⑤of error.

7 Beloved, let us ⑩love one another: for ⑥love is of ①God; and every one that loveth is ⑨begotten of God, ②knowneth God.

8 He that loveth not ②knoweth not God; for God is ⑥love.

9 In this was ⑥manifested the ⑥love of God in us, because that God ⑩hath sent His ⑧only begotten ⑨Son into the ①world, in order that we might ⑩live through ①Him.

10 In this is ⑥love, not that we ⑩love ①God, but that He ⑩loved us, and ⑩hath sent His ⑧Son to be the ⑥propitiation [atonement] concerning our ⑥sins.

11 Beloved, if God so ⑩loved us, we ⑩also ought to ⑩love one another.

12 No one ⑩hath beheld ①Him at any time. If we ⑩love one another, God ⑩dwelleth in us, and His ⑥love is made perfect in us.

13 In this ③know we that we ⑩dwell in Him, and He in us, because He ⑩hath given us of His ⑥Spirit [the gifts].

14 And we have ⑩seen and do ⑩bear witness that the ⑤Father ⑩hath sent the ⑨Son to be the Saviour of the ①world.

15 Whosoever shall ⑩confess that Jesus is the ⑧Son of God, God ⑩dwelleth in him, and he ⑩in God.


ought also = also ought.


dwelleth. Gr. meno. See p. 1511.


LOVE.


only begotten. See John 1. 14.


Herein = In (Ap. 104. ①viii) this.


No man = No one. Gr. oudelis.


testify = bear witness. Gr. martureo. See p. 1511.


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

17 In this is love, not in word, but in deed. This is the perfect love casteth out fear. For there is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear. Because as he is, so are we in this world. 

18 He that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? 

19 We love ..., Because He first loved us. 

20 If any one 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. 

5 Every one who believeth that Jesus is the Christ is begotten of God: and every one that loveth Him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of Him. 

2 In this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and do His commandments. 

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

4 Because 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, except he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God? 

6 This is He that came by water and in the blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and in the blood. And it is THE Holy Spirit That beareth witness, because THE Holy Spirit is truth. 

7 For there are three that bear witness 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 concerning His Son. 

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

11 And this is the witness, that God gave to us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. 

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

13 These things I wrote to you that believe on the name of the Son of God: 

14 God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. 

15 These things I write to you that believe in the name of the Son of God, that ye may know that ye have eternal life. 

16 And this is the love which proceedeth from the Father, that we love one another. 

17 For this is the commandment which He hath given us, even this, That he who loveth God love his brother also.
God; if ye may know that ye have eternal life, even unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God.

14 And this is the confidence that we have toward Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He heareth us:

15 And if we know that we have the requests that we have desired of Him.

16 If any one see his brother sinning 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 sin unto death: I do not say that he shall ask concerning that.

17 All unrighteousness is sin: and there is sin not unto death, he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death.

18 We know that every one who is born of God does not continue in sin; but He that is begotten of God keepeth him, and that wicked one toucheth him not.

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

20 And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, in order 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.

21 Little children, guard yourselves from idols. …