

John Wasn't Talking to You

Part II in a Series on the Hebrew Epistles

"I write no new commandment unto you, but an old commandment, which ye had from the beginning" – 1 John 2:7

1. The Theme of John's Epistles is Love Future Salvation Conditional Upon Your Works

- a. At least 30 out of 132 total verses in John's epistles (that's 23%!) describe the audience receiving salvation if they perform good works and do the law
 - i. 1Jn 1:7, 1:9, 2:3, 2:5, 2:9, 2:15, 2:17, 2:29, 3:6-7, 3:9-10, 3:14-15, 3:17, 3:19-21, 3:24, 4:7-8, 4:12, 4:15-16, 4:20-21, 5:16, 5:18; 2Jn 1:9; **3Jn 1:11**
- b. Different ways John communicates the necessity for good works:
 - i. "if we walk...his Son cleanses us from all sin"(1Jn 1:7)*Eph 2:8-9, Ti 3:5-7*
 - ii. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful...to forgive us"(1Jn 1:9)*Eph 4:32, Ro 4:5-7*
 - iii. "...we know him if we keep his commandments" (1Jn 2:3)*Mat 19:17, Rom 3:21*
 - iv. "...everyone that doeth righteousness is born of him."(1Jn 2:29)*John 3:5-6*
 - v. "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin..."(1Jn3:9)
 - vi. "...He that loveth not...abideth in death."(1Jn3:14)
 - vii. 1Jn 3:24 = commandment keeping is how they know they have the Spirit
 1. John 15:1-7, Mat 7:19 vs *Eph 1:13 & 3:17*
- c. They are "in him" based on maintaining their covenant, not by grace through faith
- d. The audience's completeness still yet future → 1John 2:28, 2John 1:8

2. John Clearly Describes His Message/Commandment Clearly

Hint: it's not the revelation of the mystery of Christ or the gospel of the grace of God

- a. "...that God is light and in him is no darkness..." (1Jn1:5)
- b. "...that we should love one another..."(1Jn 3:11)
 - i. John uses the word "love" 61x's (approx. every other vs.)
 - ii. But it's defined differently & made a requirement to be in Christ (see below)
- c. They must believe on ~~the cross~~ the name of Jesus, that he is the Christ, the Son of God
 - i. 1John 3:23, 4:15, 5:1, 5:5, 5:10-13
 - ii. See also (Gospel of) John 1:12, 2:23, 3:18, 14:13-14, 15:16, 16:23, 20:31

3. Do Not Be Deceived By Those Who Say John Was "Mystery-Aware"

- a. Whether he learned it from Paul or not is irrelevant: his epistles don't contain it
 - i. John never speaks of a present possession of salvation by grace through faith in the finished crosswork of Jesus Christ, head of the body of Christ, a new creature where there is neither Jew nor Greek, no covenant or law, that will reign in heavenly places separate from Israel's kingdom on the earth
- b. People flock to the similarities to discount the differences – that's 100% backwards
- c. 1Jo 2:2, 4:14 "he is the propitiation for our sins...also for...the whole world" Isa 52-53
- d. 1Jo 2:25 "he has promised us...eternal life" – Gen 3:22, Gen 17:7, Job 19:25-26
- e. 1Jo 3:16, 4:9-10 "perceive we the love of God b/c he laid down his life for us..."
 - i. Consider John 15:13 vs. *Rom 5:6-10*

4. The Audience for John's Epistles is the Little Flock, Israel's Believing Remnant

1Jo 1:1	"...we have seen with our eyes...we have looked upon ...our hands have handled...the Word of life"	John 13:23, Luke 7:44, Luke 24:39 <i>Rom 9:5, 2Cor 5:7, 5:16</i>
1Jo 2:7, 5:3 2Jo 1:5-6	"I write an old commandment...which ye have heard from the beginning...that we keep his commandments..."	Deut 10:12-13
1Jo 2:20 1Jo 2:27	"...ye have an unction from the Holy One and ye know all things...the anointing which... ye need not that any man teach you..."	Mat 10:19-20, Act 4:13 <i>2Ti2:15, Eph 3:4, Col 1:10</i>
1Jo 3:4	"Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law..."	Dan 9:11, Jas 2:9-10 <i>Rom 4:15, 6:14, 8:2</i>
1Jo 3:22 & 5:14-15	"...whatsoever we ask, we receive...because we keep his commandments and do [righteousness]..."	1Pet 3:12, Ps 34:15-17 Mat 7:7-8, 21:22
2Jo 1:1	"...unto the elect lady and her children..."	Isa 45:4, Ezk 16, Rev 12
2Jo 1:7	"...many deceivers...who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh..."	John 1:14, Mat 10:32, Rom 10:9-10 <i>2Cor 5:16, Rom 15:8</i>
3Jo 1:2	"...that thou mayest prosper and be in health..."	Acts 5:16 & 8:7 Isa 58:8, John 10:10 <i>2Cor 12:9, Rom 8:18</i>
3Jo 1:5-6	"...thou doest faithfully...to the brethren, and to strangers...thou shalt do well"	Mat 25:33-41, Heb 13:1-3, Deut 10:18-19 John 13:34-35
3Jo 1:7	"...[the brethren] went forth, taking nothing of the Gentiles..."	Rom 2:24 & 17, Exo 20:7, <i>Col 3:11</i>

Comparing key words and phrases can often help determine the general content of the books and their relation to one another (or not)

	7 chapters total		I, II, III John		Paul's 13 Epistles		89 chapters comprising 1/3 of NT and only 7% of entire Bible
	<u>Total cnt</u>	<u>avg/chpt</u>	<u>Total #</u>	<u>avg/chpt</u>	<u>Total #</u>	<u>avg/chpt</u>	
love	61	9	111	1	111	1	
sin/unrighteousness/transgression	34	5	92	1	92	1	
Son	25	4	17	0	17	0	
"if we / whosoever" [verb]*	23	3	25	0	25	0	
abide/dwell in God, truth, light	22	3	15	0	15	0	
commandment(s)	18	3	23	0	23	0	
"love of God/the Father"	15	2	5	0	5	0	
audience being born	7	1	0	0	0	0	
believe on His name / is the Christ	6	1	0	0	0	0	

*John always uses action verbs such as keepeth, committeth, sinneth, transgresseth, doeth not righteousness, shall confess, etc. Whereas, Paul uses words like believe, hope, be dead, etc.

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righteous(ness)	8	1	62	1	62	1	43% of all New Testament instances
faith	1	0	153	2	153	2	45% of all instances in scripture
grace	1	0	85	1	85	1	more than the rest of scripture combined
Lord	1	0	255	3	255	3	more than any other author of scripture
gospel	0	0	69	1	69	1	238% more than all of scripture
Gentiles	1	0	44	0	44	0	47% of all NT instances (only found 4x in Heb-Rev)
saved/salvation	0	0	40	0	40	0	only NT writer to use in the possessive/present tense
justified/justification	0	0	31	0	31	0	3x more than all NT uses**
cross	0	0	10	0	10	0	more than all of scripture combined outside of the crucifixion accounts in MMLJ (only found 1x in Heb-Rev)

**6x = are justified; 20x = by grace/faith/Christ/blood/freely/not of works/not by the law