

Studying To Show  
Ourselves Approved

# Philemon, 1-3 John, Jude



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# Table Of Contents

Philemon Background	p.2
Chapter 1	p.3
1-3 John Background	p.4
1 John Chapter 1	p.5
1 John Chapter 2	p.6
1 John Chapter 3	p.7
1 John Chapter 4	p.8
1 John Chapter 5	p.9
2 John Chapter 1	p.10
3 John Chapter 1	p.11
Jude Background	p.12
Chapter 1	p.13

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# Philemon – Background Information

There is no doubt that this letter was written by the apostle Paul (v.1, 9, 19). It is addressed to Philemon who was a Christian slave owner who allowed the church to meet in his house (v.2). One of his slaves, Onesimus, escaped and somehow came into contact with Paul. Onesimus has learned the truth and obeyed the gospel by the time of the writing, many supposing he was taught by Paul. It is significant to note Colossians 4:7-9 which reads, “As to all my affairs, Tychicus, our beloved brother and faithful servant and fellow bond-servant in the Lord, will bring you information. For I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know about our circumstances and that he may encourage your hearts; and with him Onesimus, our faithful and beloved brother, who is one of your number. They will inform you about the whole situation here.” This corresponds with Philemon 12 where Paul says “I have sent him back to you in person.”

Philemon is one of the letters Paul wrote while in Roman imprisonment around 60A.D. It seems to have been sent at the same time as the letter to the Colossians (based on Col. 4:7-9). It is believed Philemon was a resident of Colossae.

The letter emphasizes Christian forgiveness. Under Roman law, a runaway slave could be severely punished or even condemned to death by his owner. The forgiveness taught in this letter is based on the new relationship between the two men as fellow believers. There is great information that helps us know how to treat one another.

## A Quick Outline

- I. Greetings and Thanksgivings (1-7)
- II. Paul’s interest in Onesimus (8-14)
- III. Paul’s request for Onesimus (15-21)
- IV. Conclusion (22-25)

# Philemon – Chapter 1

1. Why did Paul have this letter addressed to more than just Philemon (v.1-3)?
2. Why was Paul thankful for Philemon (v.4-7)?
3. What two methods of appeal does Paul speak of (v.8-9)?
4. What was Paul's appeal (v.10-14)? What should we learn about being careful (especially evangelists)?
5. How might Onesimus' escape have been the providence of God (v.15-16)?
6. What is Paul's promise to Philemon (v.17-18)?
7. What did Paul want as a benefit from Philemon (v.19-20)?
8. What was Paul's expectation (v.21-22)?
9. Who was with Paul in Rome at the time of the writing? What do we know of them (v.23-25)?

# 1-3 John – Background Information

The author of all three letters does not name himself, other than “the elder” (2 John 1, 3 John 1). In 1 John there is much use of “we” (meaning apostles), “you” (meaning readers), and “they” (meaning false teachers). The author is clearly an apostolic eyewitness of Christ (1 John 1:1-3). When coupled with the very similar style and vocabulary to the gospel of John (with distinct phrases and frequent contrasts of opposites) most have accepted John as the author. The internal evidence points to John, but there is much more external evidence (mainly in the writings of the “Early Church Fathers” in the second century) that verifies John as the author.

The apostle John became associated with the Church in Jerusalem, being one of the “pillars” of that congregation (Gal. 2:9). We know very little from Scripture about his later years, other than the book of Revelation. 1 John 2:7 and 2 John 1:5 speaks of knowledge the readers had “from the beginning” which causes us to think the letter was written later rather than earlier, perhaps between 90 and 100 A.D. This is born out by his referring to the readers as “children” (1 John 2:1, 18, 28; 3:18; 4:4; 5:21; 2 John 1:1, 4; 3 John 1:4), as well as external evidence such as the writing of Irenaeus that John remained among the Ephesian Christians “permanently until the time of Trajan” (*Against Heresies* III.3.4). Emperor Trajan came to power in 98 A.D. John writes much about heresies (many think against Gnosticism) which did not begin to take place until after 80 A.D. beginning in Asia Minor, the region in which many believe John labored in his later years.

## Quick Outlines

### 1 John

- I. Introduction (1:1-4)
- II. The Conditions of Fellowship (1:5-2:14)
  - A. Walk in the light (1:5-7)
  - B. Confession of sin (1:8-2:2)
  - C. Obedience to His Commands (2:3-6)
  - D. Love for one another (2:7-14)
- III. The Cautions to Fellowship (2:15-27)
  - A. Love of the World (2:15-17)
  - B. Spirit of the Antichrist (2:18-27)
- IV. The Characteristics of Fellowship (2:28-5:3)
  - A. Purity of Life (2:28-3:3)
  - B. Practice of Righteousness (3:4-12)
  - C. Love in Deed and Truth (3:13-24)
  - D. Testing the Spirits (4:1-6)
  - E. Love as Christ Loved (4:7-5:3)
- V. Consequences of Fellowship (5:4-21)
  - A. Victory Over the World (5:4-5)
  - B. Assurance of Salvation (5:6-13)
  - C. Guidance in Prayer (5:14-17)
  - D. Freedom from Habitual Sin (5:18-21)

### 2 John

- I. Abide in God’s Commandments (1:1-6)
  - A. Salutation (1:1-3)
  - B. Walk in Truth (1:4)
  - C. Walk in Love (1:5-6)
- II. Abide Not with False Teachers (1:7-13)
  - A. Doctrine of the False Teachers (1:7-9)
  - B. Avoid False Teachers (1:10-11)
  - C. Benediction (1:12-13)

### 3 John

- I. Salutation (1:1)
- II. Godliness of Gaius (1:2-4)
- III. Generosity of Gaius (1:5-8)
- IV. The Pride of Diotrephes (1:9-11)
- V. Praise for Demetrius (1:12)
- VI. Benediction (1:13-14)

Outlines from *Nelson’s Complete Book of Bible Maps and Charts* (pp. 472, 475), used by permission.

# 1 John – Chapter 1

1. Of what importance to us are eyewitness accounts such as are affirmed in 1:1-4?
2. Define “fellowship” (1:3).
3. Explain the meaning of “fellowship” in the context (1:3-7). Compare this use of “fellowship” with the modern world’s use of “fellowship.”
4. How can we deceive ourselves to believe “we have no sin” (1:8)? Does this happen today?
5. Compare 1:5 with 1:9. What truth is conveyed about God?
6. What is meant by “His word” being in us (1:10)?

# 1 John – Chapter 2

1. Define “advocate” (2:1) and explain how Jesus is our advocate.
2. Define “propitiation” (2:2) and explain how Jesus is our propitiation.
3. How can we be assured that we know Jesus (2:3-5)?
4. Explain how God’s love is “perfected” by our keeping His word (2:5).
5. Explain how our walk is to be “in the same manner as He walked” (2:6).
6. What is the “old” and “new” commandment (2:7-11)?
7. Why the differences expressed to those to whom he is writing (2:13-14)?
8. Express the difference in “loving the world” and a proper “love of the Father” (2:15).
9. List the three avenues of sin described in 2:16. Compare them with Genesis 2 and list the parallels in the behavior of Eve.
10. Will there be one antichrist (2:18)? Who is the antichrist (2:22)?
11. What was the “anointing from the Holy One” in context (2:20-21, 27).
12. How does something we hear “abide” in us (2:24)?
13. What deceiving things were the readers hearing from some (2:26)?
14. What is our confidence when He appears (2:28)?
15. “Everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him” (2:29). I thought we were born again of water and the spirit (John 3:5)? Please explain.



# 1 John – Chapter 3

1. Why does the world not know us (3:1)? Please explain.
2. How shall we “be like Him” when He appears (3:2)?
3. How do we purify ourselves (3:3)?
4. Explain the phrase “no one who abides in Him sins”(3:6).
5. Why did Jesus appear (3:5, 8)?
6. What attributes are given for those who abide in Him (3:6-12)?
7. List the main points about love expressed in this chapter. Give special attention to verses 1, 16, 18, and 23.
8. How can we know we are of the truth (3:19)?
9. How can we know He abides in us (3:24)?
10. Explain 3:20-21 in context.

# 1 John – Chapter 4

1. What is meant by “spirits” (4:1)?
2. How do we test the spirits (4:1-6)?
3. Explain the use of “born of God” (4:7) in relation to being “born again” (John 3:3). Is there a difference?
4. What is meant by “God is love” (4:8, 16)?
5. Define “ought” (4:11) and relate how the definition impacts our understanding in the context.
6. How is His love perfected in us (4:12)?
7. When does God abide in us (4:15)?
8. What personal result is ours when we have love (4:17-18)?
9. How can we know we love God (4:20)?

# 1 John – Chapter 5

1. Which is it? Are we born of God when we “believe” (5:1), “love” (4:7), or are baptized (John 3:3)?
2. What is meant by “love God” (5:3)?
3. Why should we understand “His commandments are not burdensome” (5:3)?
4. How do we overcome the world (5:4-5)? Explain.
5. How does the Spirit bear witness (5:8-11)?
6. Using 5:11-12, make an argument for the necessity of being in Christ. Conversely, argue against the worldly idea of living any way you want and still be right with God (you may wish to extend the context back to 5:9).
7. Are we supposed to believe that Jesus is the Christ (5:1) or believe “in the name of the Son of God” (5:13)? Explain.
8. We have confidence in the day of judgment (4:17) and have no fear of punishment (4:18). What else does this confidence do for us (5:14-15)?
9. What is “a sin not leading to death” (5:16-17)?
10. What assurance is given to the believer (5:18-19)?
11. Why did Jesus come to earth (5:20)?
12. What idols should we guard ourselves from (5:21)?

# 2 John – Chapter 1

1. How do you love someone “in truth” (1:1-2)?
  
2. What is the significance of the grace, mercy and peace promised to us (1:3)?
  
3. Explain what is meant by “walking in truth” (1:4-6).
  
4. Who is identified as the antichrist (1:7)? Compare with 1 John 2:18-22.
  
5. From 1:8 give an argument against the false doctrine “once saved always saved.” Include what is meant by “full reward” (1:8).
  
6. List three examples:
  - A. Of “going too far” (1:9)
    - 1.
    - 2.
    - 3.
  - B. Of abiding “in the teaching” (1:9)
    - 1.
    - 2.
    - 3.
  
7. What is the importance of our knowing the truth (1:10-11)?

# 3 John – Chapter 1

1. What is revealed of Gaius' faith (1:1-4)?
2. What is referred to as a faithful act (1:5-8)?
3. What is a "manner worthy of God" (1:6)?
4. List ways in which Diotrephes (1:9-10) fails to exhibit love as taught in 1 John (2:7-11, 15; 3:4-10, 17-19, 23; 4:1-21; 5:1-3).
5. What are we to imitate (1:11)?
6. How does a person receive a testimony from the truth itself (1:12)?
7. What benefit is there in speaking "face to face" rather than writing something (or e-mailing, or texting) (1:14 and 2 John 12)?

# Jude – Background Information

While most of the New Testament writings have some warnings and indications about false teachers, many do not go into descriptions of the false teachers like Jude does. The warnings of the letter are strong and written in such a way that we must give attention. No geographic location is indicated, but it seems likely he was addressing a need in a specific location by writing the letter. There are some strong parallels between Jude and 2 Peter. In fact, Jude 17 quotes 2 Peter 3:3 in saying, “In the last time there will be mockers, following after their own ungodly lusts.” For this reason many contend Jude was written later than 2 Peter, perhaps as late as 80A.D.

Matthew 13:55 indicates “Judas” (also rendered Jude) was a brother of Jesus. This must be the same man who penned this letter, for Jude indicates he was a “brother to James” (1:1; Matt. 13:55). This cannot be Judas Iscariot who hung himself, for Jude 17 refers to words spoken by the apostles as warnings to the believers. Most believe it was originally written as a warning against the rise of Gnosticism, yet it remains extremely valid today, for the methods and attitudes of false teachers have not changed.

## A Quick Outline

- I. Purpose of Jude (1-4)
- II. Descriptions of False Teachers (5-16)
  - A. Past Judgment of False Teachers (5-7)
  - B. Present Characteristics of False Teachers (8-13)
  - C. Future Judgment of False Teachers (14-16)
- III. Defense Against False Teachers (17-23)
- IV. Doxology (24-25)

Outline from *Nelson's Complete Book of Bible Maps and Charts* (p. 481), used by permission.

# Jude – Chapter 1

1. Describe our relationship with Jesus (1:1).
2. What is the theme of this letter (1:3-4)?
3. Where do we most need to watch for the threat of false teaching (1:4)?
4. What past judgments against disbelievers are given in the text (1:5-7)?
5. Who are “these men” (1:8) in context?
6. How are “these men” more daring than the angels (1:9-10)?
7. How have “these men” gone the way of Cain, Balaam, and Korah (1:11)?
8. What is meant about “these men” from the figures in 1:12-13?
9. What are some of the attitudes and methods of false teachers which we must remember and watch for (1:16-19)?
10. What instructions are given to the faithful (1:20-23)?
11. Describe our relationship with Jesus (1:24-25).