

## The First Epistle of John

...so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ (1John 1:3)

1John 3:9-11

Review

Where is John writing from?

What heresy was he addressing?

What flavor of Gnosticism was John specifically dealing with?

What did the heretics teach?

How does John deal with this false teaching?

1John 1:6-10

Someone else read 1Jn 3:4-18

The 3 tests:

Moral Test of Obedience or Righteousness (2:28 – 3:10)

Social Test of love (3:11 – 3:18)

A digression about the our assurance of salvation and our condemning heart (3:19 – 3:24)

Doctrinal Test of truth about Christ (4:1 – 6)

Pass out and review 'Seed' article

Someone read v11

"This is the message..."

*Aggelia* = message, announcement, news, with the implication of something good. Not a mere commandment, as of a law that must be kept. Of course, Jesus makes it a commandment (*entolen*), but John puts a different 'spin' on it here ; he makes it more positive

What does *aggelia* sound like?

"Angel" = literally, "messenger" (this is also the case in Hebrew).

Either a human messenger or an angelic being (cf., Jas 2:25 and Rev 2:1ff for possible human messengers; see Rev 1:1 for divine angel (who had a message to deliver); cf. The angel or the LORD, eg., Gen 16:7 and 78 other verses in the OT).

This is the "new commandment" that originated with Jesus

John 13:34-35; cf., 1Jn 2:7-10

How does this compare to how the Gnostics were behaving?

Again we have the familiar phrase “from the beginning.” What ‘beginning is John referring to?

From the beginning of their Christian experience, with implications that it extends back to Jesus, and further back to Cain and Abel.

And this reference serves as a transition to the next verse.