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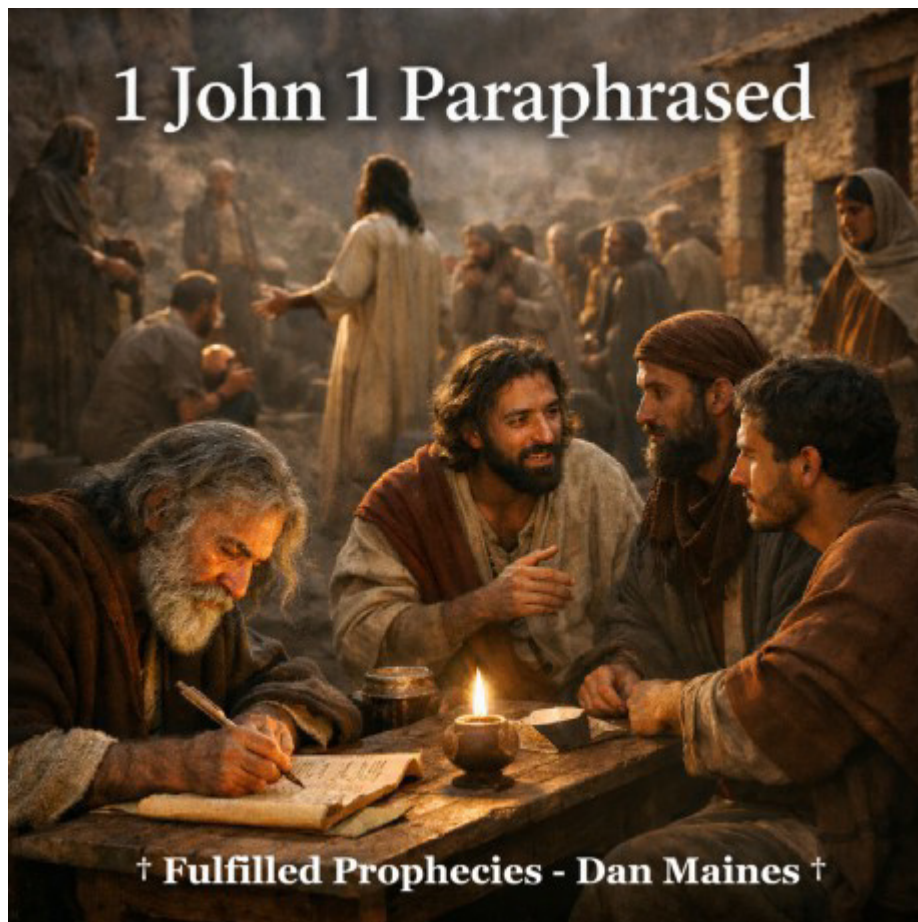
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1 John 1 Paraphrased



By Dan Maines

1 John 1 Paraphrased

Introduction

† The apostle John begins this letter by pointing believers back to the very foundation of the gospel, the life that was revealed in Jesus Christ. He reminds his readers that the message of Christ was not invented later by the church, it was witnessed, heard, and handled by those who were with Him from the beginning.

† John's goal is fellowship, both with God and with one another. Throughout this chapter he explains that true fellowship with God is connected to truth, light, confession of sin, and the

cleansing work of Jesus Christ.

† This message was especially important to the early church because false teachers were already spreading ideas that denied the reality of Christ's life and the seriousness of sin. John writes to anchor believers in what was truly revealed.

1 John 1:1

What existed from the beginning, what we heard, what we saw with our own eyes, what we carefully looked at and even touched with our hands, this is about the Word who gives life.

† John emphasizes direct eyewitness testimony. The apostles did not pass along rumors or theories, they personally heard and saw Christ during His earthly ministry (Luke 1:1-2).

† The phrase from the beginning points back to the beginning of the gospel message revealed through Jesus, the One who was manifested in history (John 1:1-2).

† John also highlights that Christ was physically experienced, seen and touched, which refutes early claims that Jesus only appeared to be human (John 20:27).

1 John 1:2

This life was revealed to us, we saw it and testify about it, and we are announcing to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us.

† Eternal life is not presented merely as a future promise but as a life revealed in the person of Jesus Christ (John 5:26).

† The apostles served as witnesses, proclaiming what they had personally encountered so others could believe the same message (Acts 1:21-22).

† John's emphasis on testimony shows the gospel was publicly proclaimed, not hidden or secret knowledge reserved for a few.

1 John 1:3

What we saw and heard we also announce to you, so that you may share fellowship with us, and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

† Fellowship with God comes through the shared message of

Christ, not through private spiritual experience apart from the gospel (John 17:3).

† John connects fellowship between believers to their shared relationship with the Father and the Son. True unity grows from the truth of the gospel (Acts 2:42).

† The early church understood that faith in Christ joined believers into a living community centered on Him.

1 John 1:4

We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

† The goal of John's message is not debate or speculation, it is the fullness of joy that comes from knowing Christ and sharing in His life (John 15:11).

† The gospel produces joy because it restores fellowship with God and brings assurance of salvation (Romans 5:11).

† The apostles wrote so that believers could stand firm in truth and experience the joy that comes from walking in it.

1 John 1:5

This is the message we heard from Him and now announce to you, that God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.

† Light represents purity, truth, and holiness, and John declares that God is completely free from evil or deception (James 1:17).

† The statement establishes the moral standard for fellowship with God. If God is light, then those who belong to Him must walk in that same light (John 8:12).

† This theme echoes throughout scripture where light represents God's presence and truth revealed to His people (Psalm 27:1).

1 John 1:6

If we say we have fellowship with Him but continue walking in darkness, we are lying and are not living according to the truth.

† John confronts the contradiction of claiming to know God while living in deliberate sin (Titus 1:16).

† The truth of the gospel transforms life, so a lifestyle of darkness reveals that a person's claim is false (Ephesians 5:8-

11).

† This warning protects the church from empty professions of faith that lack genuine obedience.

1 John 1:7

But if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we share fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

† Walking in the light means living openly before God in truth and repentance rather than hiding sin (John 3:21).

† Fellowship among believers grows where the light of truth is embraced and Christ's cleansing work is acknowledged (Hebrews 10:22).

† The cleansing power of Jesus' blood is the foundation of forgiveness and restoration for God's people (Revelation 1:5).

1 John 1:8

If we say we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.

† John corrects the claim that believers no longer struggle with sin. Such thinking ignores the ongoing need for God's mercy (Romans 7:18-20).

† Self-deception occurs when people deny the reality of sin in their lives rather than honestly confessing it (Jeremiah 17:9).

† The presence of sin does not destroy fellowship with God, but denying it reveals that truth has not taken root.

1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

† Confession is the act of agreeing with God about our sin and turning toward Him for mercy (Psalm 32:5).

† God's forgiveness is grounded in His faithfulness and justice because Christ has already paid the price for sin (Romans 3:25-26).

† Cleansing points to the complete removal of guilt through the

work of Christ, restoring fellowship with God.

1 John 1:10

If we say we have not sinned, we make Him out to be a liar and His word is not in us.

† Denying sin ultimately accuses God of falsehood because scripture clearly teaches that all people have sinned (Romans 3:23).

† The word of God exposes sin and calls people to repentance, so rejecting that truth reveals that God's message has not been received (John 8:37).

† John closes the chapter by reaffirming that honesty before God is essential for real fellowship and spiritual life.

Historical References

† Irenaeus wrote that John taught believers to remain in the truth handed down by the apostles and to reject teachings that denied Christ's real manifestation in the flesh, *Against Heresies*, Book 3.

† Clement of Alexandria explained that John's letters were written to strengthen believers against false teachers who claimed spiritual knowledge but ignored righteous living, *Stromata* Book 2.

† Eusebius recorded that the early church widely received John's writings as authoritative testimony from one who personally walked with Jesus, *Ecclesiastical History* Book 3.

How It Applies To Us Today

† This chapter reminds us that faith in Christ is rooted in real historical testimony, not speculation or invented traditions.

† Walking in the light means living honestly before God, confessing sin, and trusting in the cleansing work of Jesus.

† Fellowship among believers grows where truth is embraced and Christ remains at the center of the community.

† The message of 1 John still calls us to reject empty claims of faith and instead live in the light of God's truth.

Q & A Appendix

Q What does John mean by the Word of life?

A John refers to Jesus Christ as the life revealed from the Father, the One through whom eternal life is made known to humanity (John 1:1-4).

Q What does it mean to walk in the light?

A Walking in the light means living openly in truth, turning from sin, and following the ways of God revealed through Christ (John 8:12).

Q Why is confession of sin important?

A Confession keeps believers honest before God and allows them to receive the forgiveness and cleansing promised through Christ (Psalm 32:5).

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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Source Index

† 1 John 1; Luke 1:1-2; John 1:1-4; John 3:21; John 5:26; John 8:12; John 8:37; John 15:11; John 17:3; John 20:27; Acts 1:21-22; Acts 2:42; Romans 3:23; Romans 3:25-26; Romans 5:11; Romans 7:18-20; Ephesians 5:8-11; Hebrews 10:22; James 1:17; Psalm 27:1; Psalm 32:5; Jeremiah 17:9; Revelation 1:5
† Irenaeus, Against Heresies Book 3; Clement of Alexandria, Stromata Book 2; Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History Book 3.

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