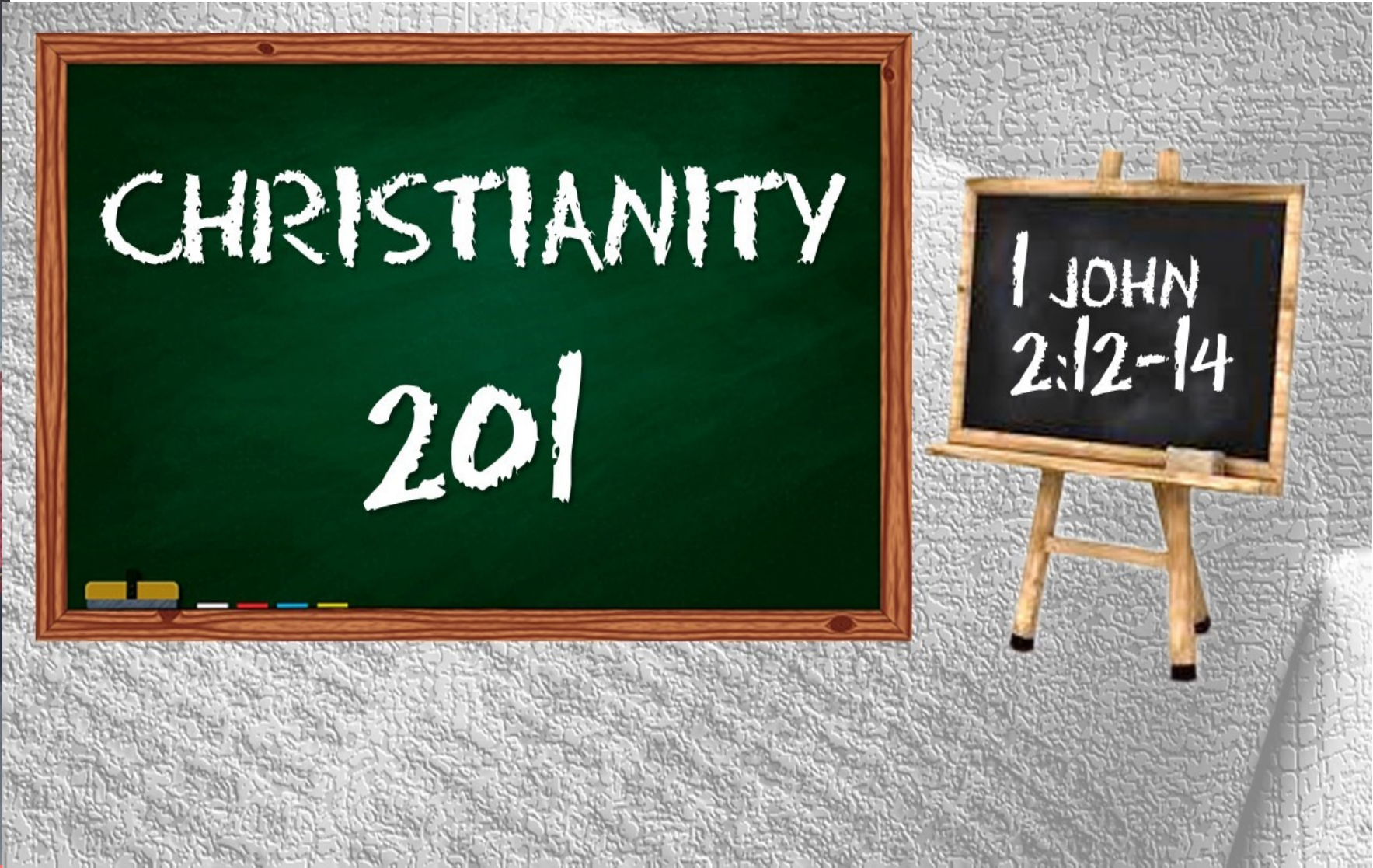




SUNGAI WAY-SUBANG
METHODIST CHURCH



SERMON

REV DR NG SWEE MING

28 November 2021



CHRISTIANITY

201

1 JOHN
2:12-14

ps swee ming
sun 28th nov 2021



1 John OVERVIEW



GOD is
LIGHT



GOD is
LOVE

Timeline for John the Apostle



- AD 28** Called by Jesus together with James
- 28-30** With Jesus during His public ministry
- Inner circle of Jesus
- Jairus's daughter & Transfiguration
- Luke 9:54 *"call down fire from heaven..."*
- Gethsemane & Golgotha – 'Caring for Mary'
- 30-70** Apostle in Jerusalem
- 70-95** Ephesus {*Emperor Domitian 81-96*}
- 95-96** Domitian persecution,
Exiled to Patmos
- 96-100** Back to Ephesus until his death

Timeline for John the Apostle

AD 28 Called by Jesus together with

28-30 With Jesus during His public ministry

Inner circle of Jesus

Jairus's daughter & Transfiguration

Luke 9:54 *"call down fire from heaven..."*

Gethsemane & Golgotha – 'Caring for Mary'

30-70 Apostle in Jerusalem

70-95 Ephesus {*Emperor Domitian 81-96*}

95-96 Domitian persecution,

Exiled to Patmos

96-100 Back to Ephesus until his death





Bartholomew

Flayed to death by whip in Asia Minor



Andrew

Crucified on X-shaped cross in Greece



Matthew

Impaled by spears in Ethiopia



James*

Thrown off wall then clubbed to death
(*Son of Alphaeus)



how did the APOSTLES die?

Simon

Crucified in Persia



Jude

Crucified by magi in Persia



James*

Beheaded in Palestine
(*Son of Zebedee)



John

Died in exile on island of Patmos



Thomas

Stabbed with a spear in India



Matthias

Stoned and beheaded



Philip

Hung by iron hooks upside down



Peter

Crucified upside down by Nero



We did not follow cleverly devised fables...
but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty.

2nd Peter 1:16



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EPHESUS

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Crucified upside down by Nero



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1 John 2:12-14 (NIV)

12 I write to you, dear children, because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name.

13 I write to you, fathers, because you have known him who is from the beginning.
I write to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one.

I write to you, dear children, because you have known the Father.

14 I write to you, fathers, because you have known him who is from the beginning.
I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you,
and you have overcome the evil one.



1 John 2:12-14 (ESV)

12 I am writing to you,
little children,
because your sins are
forgiven for his name's sake.

13 I am writing to you,
fathers,
because you know him who
is from the beginning.
I am writing to you,
young men,
because you have overcome
the evil one.

I write to you, children,
because you know the
Father.

14 I write to you, fathers,
because you know him
who is from the beginning.
I write to you, young men,
because you are strong,
and the word of God
abides in you,
and you have overcome
the evil one.

Background of 1 John 2:12-14



- Threat of external persecution may have abated for the moment ...
- New threat -> false teachers & teachings
- Poetry format
 - ↳ Ancient Creed ??
 - ↳ Easier to understand / remember
- Repetition / Cyclical ...
- Only refers to 'Fathers' & 'Young Men' ...
 - ↳ Was John a male chauvinist ?
- Why the three classification ?

1 John 2:12-14



V12 'LITTLE CHILDREN'

- John's term of endearment ...
 - ↳ Used 7 times in 1 John – 'all believers' ...
- Gk – '*Teknion*'
 - ↳ Only other time in the NT was by Jesus ...
Ref Jn 13:33 '*Little children, yet a little while I am with you.*'

V13c 'Children' Gk – '*Paidion*'

- Generally older children being instructed...
- Most common usage NT

1 John 2:12-14



'FATHERS'

- ↪ Older chronologically...
- ↪ Longer in the faith ...
- ↪ ? Spiritual maturity ...

'YOUNG MEN'

- ↪ Younger in age...
- ↪ Been a believer for a while ...
- ↪ ? Spiritual Maturity ...

Chronological Age \neq Spiritual Maturity

↪ 1 Cor 3:2

Paul referred to it ...

↪ 1 Peter 2:2

Peter referenced it ...

↪ Heb 5:12

Writer of Hebrews ...

Problem then → Problem now

1 John 2:12-14



Conclusion of the 'Three Classification'...

- Not very clear ...

- ↳ No clear consensus ...

- ↳ *If Only : Children → Young Men → Fathers*
Fathers → Young Men → Children

BUT what is clear :

- ↳ Everyone is included ... Intergenerational

- ↳ Everyone have a role to play ...

- ↳ All need to grow and go into maturity ...

- ↳ We are our 'brothers-keeper' ...

**Chronologically
Spiritually**



12 *I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven for his name's sake.*

13c *I write to you, children, because you know the Father.*

Every **NEW BELIEVER** need to know ...

↪ their sins are forgiven **IF ...**

- **CONFESSION** of sin
- **REPENTANCE** from sin
- **ACCEPTANCE** of Jesus' sacrifice
- **INVITING** Jesus as Savior & Lord

➤ **Foundational for Faith**

Q: Do you know this FORGIVENESS ?

Q: Does it then mean we will not sin?

A: No (Ref 1 Jn 1:8-10)



12 *I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven for his name's sake.*

13c *I write to you, children, because you know the Father.*

Every NEW BELIEVER need to know ...

- ⇒ **Forgiveness is because of Christ's finished work at Calvary ...**
- ⇒ **We are just recipients of his 'atoning sacrifice' (2:2; 4:10)**
- ⇒ **We then need to be ..**
 - ⇒ **Thankful ...**
 - ⇒ **Grateful ...**
 - ⇒ **Rejoice ...**

LITTLE CHILDREN

1. FORGIVENESS

12 *I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven for his name's sake.*

13c *I write to you, children, because you know the Father.*

Every NEW BELIEVER need to know ...

- ↪ Forgiveness of sin ...
- ↪ 'atoning sacrifice' of Christ...
- ↪ We can have direct access to God ...
- ↪ Curtain is torn (Mk 15:38)
- ↪ We can know our Heavenly Father
- ↪ We enter into a new relationship

FATHERS



13 *I am writing to you,
fathers,
because you KNOW
him who is FROM THE
BEGINNING.*

14 *I write to you,
fathers,
because you KNOW
him who is FROM THE
BEGINNING.*

**Q: Who is 'from the beginning' ?
Gospel of John 1:1-4**

1 *In the beginning was the Word, and
the Word was with God, and the Word
was God.*

2 *He was with God in the beginning.*

3 *Through him all things were made;
without him nothing was made that
has been made.*

4 *In him was life, and that life was the
light of men.*

FATHERS

13 *I am writing to you, fathers, because you KNOW him who is FROM THE BEGINNING.*

14 *I write to you, fathers, because you KNOW him who is FROM THE BEGINNING.*

Q: Who is *'from the beginning'* ?

Ref 1 John 1:1-3

1 *That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—* **2** *the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us—* **3** *that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have FELLOWSHIP with us; and indeed our FELLOWSHIP is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.*

FATHERS

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2. FELLOWSHIP



Fathers

- ↪ **FELLOWSHIP** with Jesus & God
- ↪ **Gk – ‘Koinonia’** : 4x in 1 John
- Definition: Intimate spiritual communion and participative sharing in a spiritual community*
- ↪ **Fathers KNOW about Fellowship ...**
- ↪ **KNOW –**
 - ↪ **Not only ‘Head knowledge’ ...**
 - ↪ **Relationship ...**
 - ↪ **Experience ...**
 - ↪ **Closeness & Intimacy...**

FATHERS

2. FELLOWSHIP



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14 *I write to you, fathers,*

because you KNOW him who is FROM THE BEGINNING.

One of the most important result of our intimate FELLOWSHIP is ...

↪ **To Know WHO we are ...**

↪ **To Know WHOSE we are ...**

John 1:12 *Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.*

1 John 3:1 *See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.*

FATHERS

2. FELLOWSHIP



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14 *I write to you, fathers,*

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Our FELLOWSHIP is not only with God and Jesus BUT

1 John 1:5-7

God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have FELLOWSHIP WITH ONE ANOTHER,

FATHERS

2. FELLOWSHIP



13 *I am writing to you, fathers,*

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14 *I write to you, fathers,*

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- **FELLOWSHIP with God**
- **FELLOWSHIP with One Another ...**

1 John 4:20-21

If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.

FATHERS

2. FELLOWSHIP



13 *I am writing to you, fathers, because you KNOW him who is FROM THE BEGINNING.*

14 *I write to you, fathers, because you KNOW him who is FROM THE BEGINNING.*

Q : 'but you don't know my brother'
How we sometimes read 1 John 4:20-21
*If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, **except when he is good for nothing scoundrel, lazy, addict... he is a liar.** For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, **usually only when he needs money** cannot love God, whom he has not seen. And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother **except if he is***

YOUNG MEN



13b *I am writing to you,
young men,
because you have
overcome the evil one.*

14b *I write to you, young
men,
because you are strong,
and the word of God
abides in you,
and you have overcome
the evil one.*

- **There is a war out there**
- **Unseen with the human eye
BUT just as real ...**

Ref Eph 6:12

***For we wrestle not against flesh
and blood, but against
principalities, against powers,
against the rulers of the darkness
of this world, against spiritual
wickedness in high places.***

YOUNG MEN



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1 John 4:4 *You, dear children, are from God and have **OVERCOME** them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.*

1 John 5:4-5 *for everyone born of God **OVERCOMES** the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that **oVERCOMES** the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.*

YOUNG MEN

3. FIGHTING



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**Spiritual fight going on ...
the 'Young Men' have fought and
won .. OVERCOMING the evil one...
we rejoice in their victory ...
so they are 'OVERCOMERS'...**

QUESTION:

- **Does Spiritual Warfare only involve 'Young Men' ?**
- **Are 'Little Children' & 'Fathers' immune from such attacks ?**

YOUNG MEN

3. FIGHTING



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the 3 groups are just arbitrary...

All Believers need to Know the ...

- ⇒ FORGIVENESS of sins...**
- ⇒ FELLOWSHIP with God & man...**
- ⇒ FIGHT the good fight with the evil one ...**

You will not left alone...

The evil one will come for you ...

- cause you to doubt God...**
- tempt you ...**
- anything & everything**

YOUNG MEN

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**Why were the 'Young Men' strong?
How could they be Overcomers ?**

BECAUSE

- ⇒ **God's Word Abides in them**
- ⇒ **Eph 6:17 'take ... the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God'**
The only offensive weapon in our Armor of God
- ⇒ **Heb 4:12 'God Word is ...'**

YOUNG MEN

3. FIGHTING



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YOUNG MEN

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Gk: 'Meno' :

↪ **to stay, dwell, abode, tarry...**

Q: Do we 'tarry' in God's Word ?

**Q: Have God's Word become our
place of 'abode' ?**

**Q: Are we – you and I – 'dwelling'
in the Word of God ?**

YOUNG MEN

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3. FIGHTING

“BWJ - BEING WITH JESUS”

**Last 4 years as a Church ...
Reading thru the Bible ...**

- ↪ **Systematically**
- ↪ **Chronologically**
- ↪ **Topically**

**Abiding in the WORD
The WORD Abiding in Us
Not only for Young Men
BUT for ALL MEN & WOMEN
ALL GENERATION ...**





1 John 2:12-14

1. **FORGIVENESS** of sin

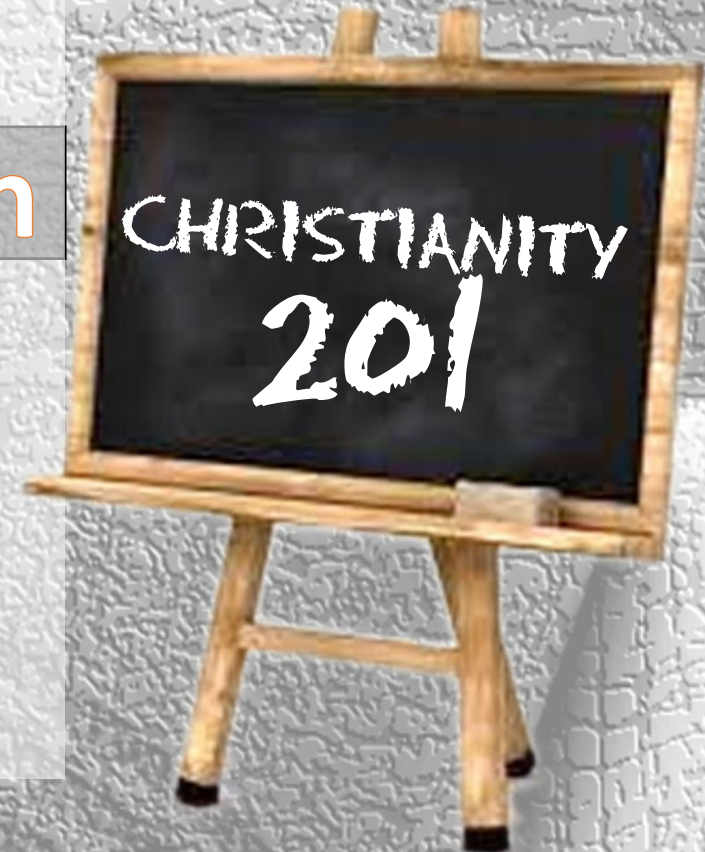
is **ASSURED**

2. **FELLOWSHIP** with God & Man

to be **ENJOYED**

3. **FIGHTING** the evil one &

OVERCOMING





*Little children,
Love One
Another*

John 13:34-35

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.

By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."