

Leader

John 20:29-31(ESV)

29 Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” **30** Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; **31** but these are written **so that** you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Congregation

1John 1:1,2 (ESV)

1:1 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—

Leader

1 John 1:3,4 (ESV)

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. **4** And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

Congregation 1 John 2:1,26; 5:13 (ESV)

2:1 My little children, I am writing these things to you **so that** you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

26 I write these things to you **about** those who are trying to deceive you.

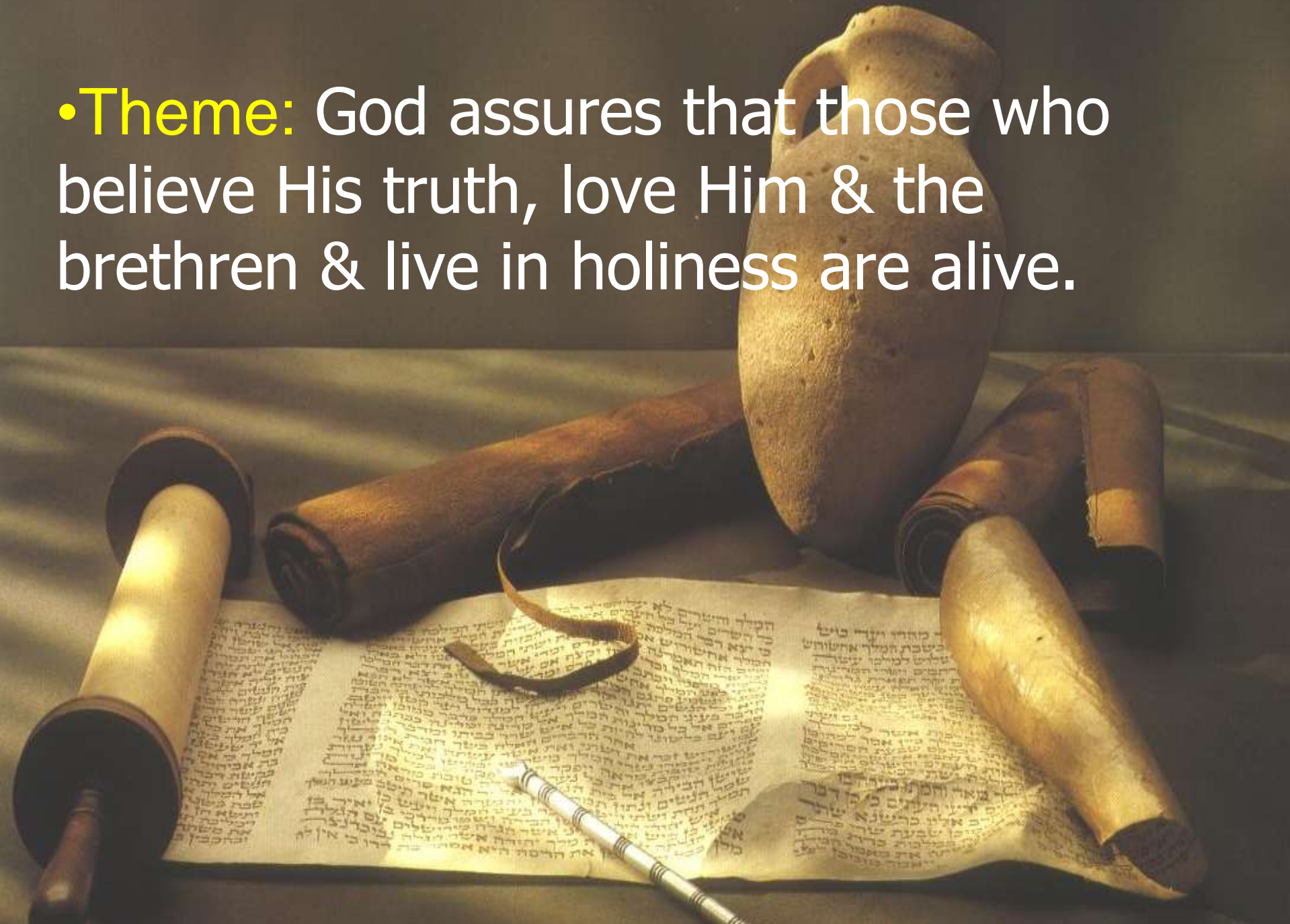
13 I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God **that** you may know that you have eternal life.



The Tests of Life: Vital Signs

1 John 1:1-4

- **Theme:** God assures that those who believe His truth, love Him & the brethren & live in holiness are alive.



Why John writes

- The purpose of John's Gospel is that we believe Jesus is Christ & live. (20:31)
- The purpose of his Epistle is that those who do believe should know they have eternal life. (5:13)

Why John writes

- ❖ His purpose has 3 parts:
 - He proclaims Christ (writes) that we share fellowship & joy [**love**] (1:3,4).
 - He writes so we don't sin [**holiness**] (2:1).
 - He writes so that we won't be deceived [**truth**] (2:26).
- The method John uses is to test us for truth, love and holiness.

Why He Tests for Truth, Love, Holiness

- God *made* us in His image, sharing 3 attributes: Truth, Love & Holiness
- He gave us three aspects to express these attributes: Mind, Emotion & Will
- In the *Fall* all three aspects were distorted (ie. total depravity).
- In *Redemption* all three are restored.

Why He Tests for Truth, Love, Holiness

- John tests for signs of truth in our minds, love in our emotions and holiness in our wills.
- Assurance comes to those who have these signs emerging. So, those who are beginning to look like Christ belong to Christ!

How He Applies the Tests (1:1-4)

- The Gospel tests Jesus' credentials; in the Epistle John tests ours.
- John's credentials: He heard, saw, studied, & handled Life & found Life is Jesus. (1-2)
- The **Test of Life** is applied on three levels to fulfill John's three purposes in writing:

How He Applies the Tests (1:1-4)

- **Assures** those growing in His image so they share fellowship in joy (1:3,4; 5:13). [**emotion**]
- **Challenges** those who aren't growing so they quit sin & grow (2:1). [**will**]
 - Ignorance **⇒** truth in their **minds**
 - Lacking love **⇒** love God & brethren in their **emotions**
 - Disobeying **⇒** holiness in their **wills**

How He Applies the Tests (1:1-4)

- **Exposes** those who don't have eternal life to keep us from deception (2:26). [**mind**]
- **Q.1** Are Truth, Love & Holiness emerging in your life?
- **Q.2** Will God Assure, Challenge, or Expose you?