

1 John: The Signs of Life

1:1-2:2 Summary (“Fellowship”)

- 1:1-4, Objective: Fellowship
- 1:5-2:2, Obstacle: Sin

2:3-5:12, Exposition (“Know”)

2:3-28, First Cycle

- 2:3-6, Righteousness
- 2:7-17, Love
- 2:18-28, Belief

2:29-4:6, Second Cycle

- 2:29-3:10a, Righteousness
- 3:10b-24a, Love
- 3:24b-4:6, Belief

4:7-5:12, Third Cycle

- 4:7-5:1, Love and Belief
- 5:2-5, Love, Righteousness, and Belief
- 5:6-12, Witnesses to Love, Righteousness, and Belief

5:13-22, Closing Summary and Exhortation

The First Cycle of Signs

Things to Look For

- How does “keeping God’s commandments” go beyond “obeying God’s commandments”?
- What is the difference between keeping God’s commandments and keeping his word?
- What are the three examples of one person being “in” another that the Lord gives in the upper room?
- Who develops and applies the notion of being “in Christ” after the Lord’s resurrection?

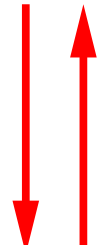
Getting our Bearings

The Main Body of 1 John

| | Righteousness | Love | Belief |
|----------|---|-----------|-----------|
| 2:3-28 | 2:3-6 | 2:7-17 | 2:18-28 |
| 2:29-4:6 | 2:29-3:10a | 3:10b-24a | 3:24b-4:6 |
| 4:7-5:12 | 4:7-5:1, Love and Belief; 5:2-5, Love, Righteousness, and Belief 5:6-12, Witnesses to Love, Righteousness, and Belief | | |

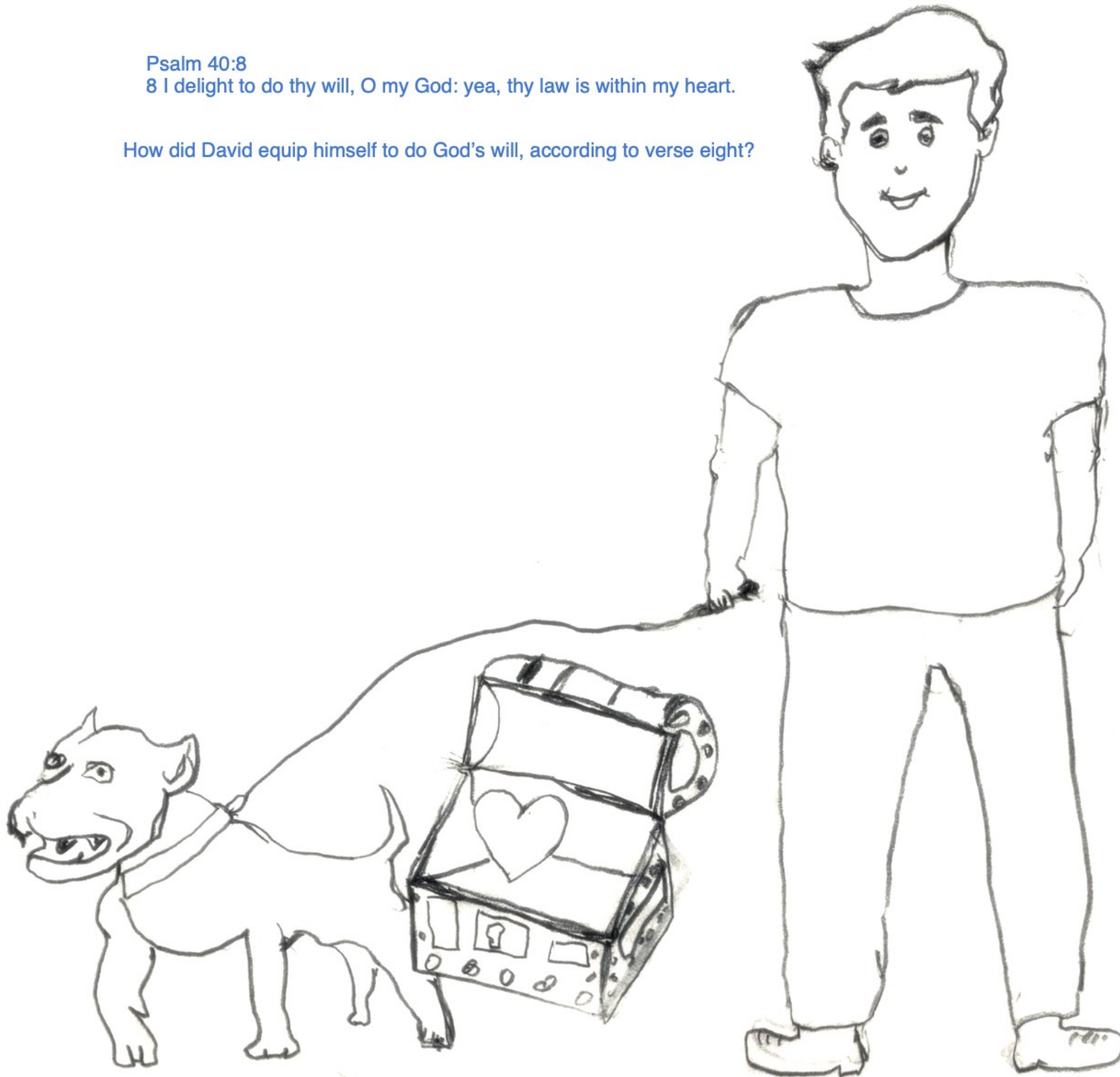
Chiasm in 2:3-5

Jhn 17:3 And this is life eternal, that they might **know thee** the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

| | | | |
|----------------|--|---|---|
| Conclusion | :3a hereby we do know that we know [have known] him |  | :5b hereby know we that we are in him |
| Condition | :3b (we know him) if we keep his commandments | | :5a whoso keepeth his word , in him is the love of God perfected |
| Counterexample | :4 he that saith ... and keepeth not ... is a liar | | |

Psalm 40:8
8 I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.

How did David equip himself to do God's will, according to verse eight?



“Keeping” God’s Word τηρέω *tēreō* G5083

1Pe 1:4 ... an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, **reserved** in heaven for you, ...

John 17:11 And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, **keep** through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.

John 17:12 While I was with them in the world, I **kept** them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have **kept**, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled.

John 17:15 I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest **keep** them from the evil.

Prov. 3:1 My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart **keep** my commandments:

Prov. 3:21 My son, let not them depart from thine eyes: **keep** sound wisdom and discretion:

Prov. 2:11 Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall **keep** thee:

Prov. 4:6 Forsake [wisdom] not, and she shall preserve thee: love her, and she shall **keep** thee.

Prov. 19:16 He that keepeth the commandment **keepeth** his own soul; but he that despiseth his ways shall die.

Rom 7:22 For I **delight** in the law of God after the inward man:

Heb. 10:28 He that **despised** Moses’ law died without mercy under two or three witnesses:

Triple Claims

2:4 as Echo of 1:6

If we say ...

1:6-7 Deliberate Sin:
“we have fellowship,”
and walk in darkness
1:8-9 Discovered
Sin: “we have no sin”
1:10-2:2 Dark Sin:
“we have not sinned

He that saith ...

2:4 “I know him”
and keepeth not his
commandments ...
2:6 he abideth in
him, ought ... to
walk ...
2:9 he is in the light,
and hateth his
brother ...

| | |
|--|---|
| 1:6 If we say that we have fellowship with him, | 2:4 He that saith, I know [have known] him, |
| and walk in darkness, | and keepeth not his commandments, |
| we lie, | is a liar, |
| and do not the truth: | and the truth is not in him. |

Keep Commandment vs. Keep Word

2Sa 23:13 And three of the thirty chief went down, and came to David in the harvest time unto the cave of Adullam: and the troop of the Philistines pitched in the valley of Rephaim. 14 And David was then in an hold, and the garrison of the Philistines was then in Bethlehem. 15 And **David longed, and said**, Oh that one would give me drink of the water of the well of Bethlehem, which is by the gate! 16 And the three mighty men brake through the host of the Philistines, and drew water out of the well of Bethlehem, that was by the gate, and took it, and brought it to David: nevertheless he would not drink thereof, but poured it out unto the LORD. 17 And he said, Be it far from me, O LORD, that I should do this: is not this the blood of the men that went in jeopardy of their lives? therefore he would not drink it.

2:5 “love of God”—who loves whom?

Exo 20:6 And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that **love me, and keep** my commandments.

1Jn 5:3 For this is the **love of God**, that we **keep** his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

Jhn 14:15 If ye **love** me, **keep** my commandments.

Jhn 14:31 But that the world may know that **I love** the Father; and as the **Father gave me commandment**, even so I do.

“In Christ” in the Upper Room Discourse

Jhn 14:9 ... Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father? 10 Believest thou not that **I am in the Father, and the Father in me?** the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.

Jhn 14:16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; 17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for **he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.**

Jhn 14:20 At that day ye shall know that **I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.**

Synthesis:

1Jn 5:20 And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may **know him** that is true, and **we are in him** that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and **eternal life.**

“In Christ” in Paul

2Co 5:17 Therefore if any man be **in Christ**, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Rom 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are **in Christ Jesus**, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

Rom 16:7 Salute Andronicus and Junia, my kinsmen, and my fellowprisoners, who are of note among the apostles, who also were **in Christ** before me.

Eph 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful **in Christ Jesus**:

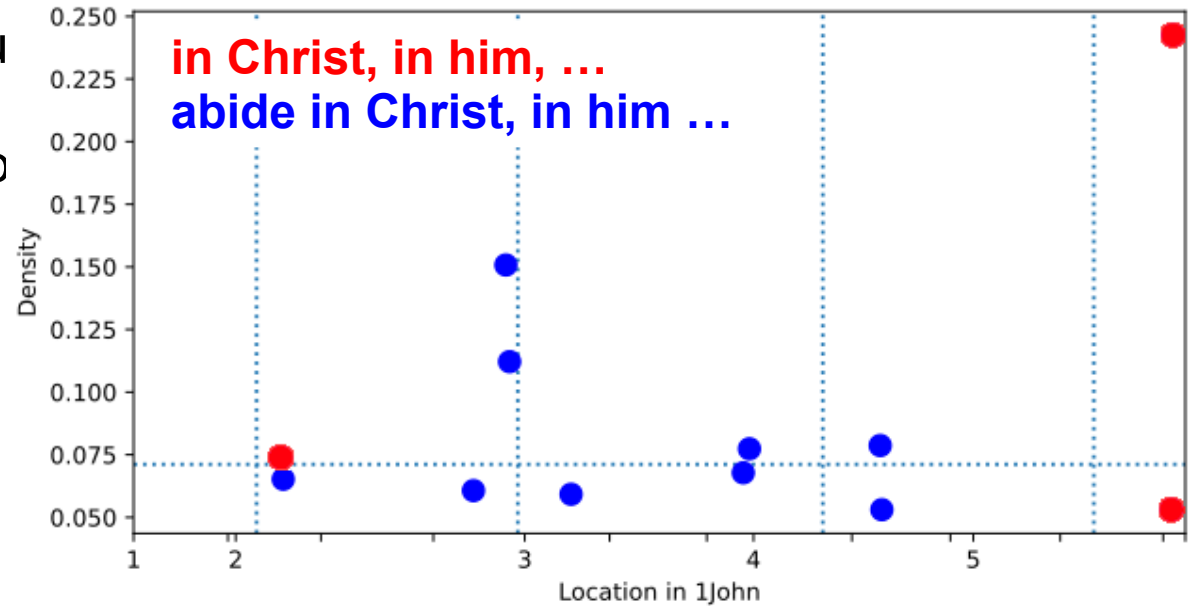
2Co 5:21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God **in him**.

Eph 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places **in Christ**: 4 According as he hath chosen us **in him** before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: 5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, 6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted **in the beloved**. 7 **In whom** we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace; ... 11 **In whom** also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: 12 That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted **in Christ**. 13 **In whom** ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: **in whom** also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

In Christ ... Abide μένω *menō* G3306 in Christ

Jhn 15:4 **Abide in me**, and I in you
As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye **abide in me**. 5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that **abideth in me**, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. 6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. 7 If ye **abide in me**, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

John 14:10 Believest thou not that I **am εἰμι in the Father**, and **the Father in me**? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but **the Father that dwelleth μένω in me**, he doeth the works.



1 John 2:9 He that saith he is **in the light**, and hateth his brother, is **in darkness** even until now. 10 He that loveth his brother **abideth in the light**, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him. 11 But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and **walketh in darkness**, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes.

1Jn 5:20 And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are **in him** that is true, even **in his Son** Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.