

A pair of round, gold-rimmed glasses with clear lenses is positioned diagonally across the frame. The background is a document with elegant cursive handwriting in dark ink on aged, light-colored paper. The text is partially obscured by the glasses and the overlaid text.

**This We Proclaim**  
**1 John 1:1-4**

---

**Curt Deming**  
**Melbourne Community Church**  
**September 30, 2018**

A pair of round, dark-rimmed glasses with a thin bridge is resting on an old, yellowed, and heavily textured piece of paper. The paper is covered in faint, illegible handwritten text in dark ink. The glasses are positioned in the upper half of the frame, with the lenses partially overlapping the text. The overall lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the paper and the frames of the glasses.

# New Testament:

---

- ❖ History (5)
- ❖ Letters (21)
- ❖ Apocalypse (1)

# Paul's letters to groups:

---

- ❖ Romans
- ❖ 1 and 2 Corinthians
- ❖ Galatians
- ❖ Ephesians
- ❖ Philippians
- ❖ Colossians
- ❖ 1 and 2 Thessalonians

# Paul's letters to individuals:

---

- ❖ 1 and 2 Timothy
- ❖ Titus
- ❖ Philemon

# General epistles:

---

- ❖ Hebrews
- ❖ James
- ❖ 1 and 2 Peter
- ❖ 1, 2 and 3 John
- ❖ Jude

The background of the slide features a pair of glasses with light-colored lenses and a dark frame, resting on a textured, light-colored surface. The name "John" is written in a white, serif font across the bridge of the glasses. A thin red horizontal line is positioned below the name.

## John

- ❖ Son of Zebedee, brother of James
- ❖ Called by Jesus “Son of Thunder”
- ❖ Inner circle – Peter, James and John
- ❖ Near Jesus at the Last Supper
- ❖ With Mary at the foot of the cross
- ❖ With Peter at the empty tomb

A pair of glasses with a wooden frame and clear lenses is placed over an open book. The book's pages are filled with cursive handwriting in dark ink. The title 'John's books' is centered at the top of the image, underlined with a red line.

# John's books

---

- ❖ Gospel of John
- ❖ 1 John
- ❖ 2 John
- ❖ 3 John
- ❖ Revelation

# Ancient witnesses:

---

- ❖ Polycarp
- ❖ Papias
- ❖ Eusebius
- ❖ Irenaeus
- ❖ Clement of Alexandria
- ❖ Tertullian



# “schools” of early Christianity:

---

- ❖ Pauline
- ❖ Petrine
- ❖ Johannine



Moesia

BLACK SEA

Armenia

Thrace

Pontus

Macedonia

BYZANTIUM

Cappadocia

PERGAMUM

Asia Minor

Galatia

Cilicia

DELPHI

EPHESUS

TARSUS

ATHENS

Euphrates River

Crete

Syria

The Letters of John

GREAT SEA (The Mediterranean)

Cyprus

DAMASCUS

CAESAREA

SAMARIA

JERUSALEM

MELBOURNE COMMUNITY CHURCH REFLECTING CHRIST'S LOVE

ALEXANDRIA

Nile River

Arabia

Egypt



# Seven Churches

MELBOURNE  
COMMUNITY  
CHURCH  
REFLECTING CHRIST'S LOVE

## Revelation 2:1-2

---

[Jesus]: “To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands.

A pair of glasses with a dark frame and light-colored lenses is resting on a textured, light-colored surface. The text is overlaid on the image.

## Revelation 2:2

---

“I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false.

A pair of glasses with a dark frame and light-colored lenses is positioned on a textured, light-colored surface. The text is overlaid on the image.

## Revelation 2:3

---

**“You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary.**

## Revelation 2:4-5

---

**“Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.**

## Revelation 2:6-7

---

“But you have this in your favor: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.”





## Tools for epistles:

---

- ❖ Read it like a letter in one sitting.
- ❖ Remember that it is someone else's mail.
- ❖ Look for the occasion.

A pair of glasses with a dark frame and light-colored lenses is resting on a textured, light-colored surface. The background has a mottled, grainy appearance. The text is overlaid on the image.

## Secessionists:

---

- ❖ Believed in God ...
- ❖ Did not believe that Jesus Christ came in the flesh and died for our salvation
- ❖ Possibly led by Cerinthus

# What will we learn?

---

- ❖ We believe the truth.
- ❖ The truth empowers us to have fellowship with God and with each other.
- ❖ Truth + fellowship = joy

A pair of glasses with a dark frame and light-colored lenses is positioned at the top of the image. The background is a textured, light-colored surface, possibly a book cover or a piece of paper. The text is overlaid on this background.

## 1 John 1:1

---

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched — this we proclaim concerning the Word of life.

A pair of glasses with a dark frame and clear lenses is positioned on a textured, light-colored surface. The text is overlaid on the image.

## John 1:1

---

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

A pair of glasses with a dark frame and clear lenses is resting on a light-colored, textured surface that resembles sand or fine-grained stone. The glasses are positioned horizontally, with the bridge of the nose in the center. The text is overlaid on the image.

# Genesis 1:1

---

In the beginning God created  
the heavens and the earth.

A pair of glasses with a dark frame and light-colored lenses is resting on a textured, brownish surface. The text is overlaid on the image.

## 1 John 1:1

---

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched — this we proclaim concerning the Word of life.

## John 11:25-26

---

Jesus said to her [Martha], “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?”



A pair of glasses with a dark frame and clear lenses is positioned horizontally across the upper half of the image. The background is a textured, light-colored surface, possibly a book cover or a piece of paper, with a subtle pattern. The text is overlaid on the image.

## John 14:6

---

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

A pair of glasses with a dark frame and light-colored lenses is positioned horizontally across the top half of the image. The background is a textured, light-colored surface, possibly sand or a coarse fabric, with some faint, darker patterns. The text is overlaid on the image.

## 1 John 1:2

---

The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us.

A pair of glasses with a dark frame and light-colored lenses is resting on a textured, light-colored surface. The text is overlaid on the image.

## 2 Peter 1:16

---

For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty.

A pair of glasses with a dark frame and clear lenses is positioned at the top of the image, resting on a light-colored, textured surface that resembles sand or a coarse fabric. The text is overlaid on this background.

## John Stott:

---

“Having heard, seen and touched the Lord Jesus, he now testifies to him. Having received a commission, he proclaims the gospel with authority.”

A pair of glasses with a textured, possibly leather or wood, frame is shown resting on a light-colored, textured surface. The glasses are positioned horizontally across the upper half of the image. The text is overlaid on the image.

**John Stott:**

---

**“For the Christian message is neither a philosophical speculation, nor a tentative suggestion, nor a modest contribution to religious thought, but a confident affirmation by those whose experience and commission have qualified them to make it.”**

A pair of glasses with a dark frame and clear lenses is positioned at the top of the image, resting on a textured, light-colored surface. The text is overlaid on the image.

## 1 John 1:3

---

We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.

A pair of glasses with a dark frame and clear lenses is resting on a light-colored, textured surface. The text is overlaid on the image.

## Karen Jones:

---

“The English word ‘fellowship’ might connote little more than coffee and donuts after church, or the large room in the church building where potluck dinners are held.

A pair of glasses with a dark frame and clear lenses is resting on a light-colored, textured surface, possibly a book cover or a piece of paper. The glasses are positioned in the upper half of the image, with the lenses facing the viewer. The background has a mottled, grainy appearance.

## Karen Jones:

---

“But the Greek word translated ‘fellowship’ (koinoinia) means having not only a close relationship but also an association based on common interests and purposes.”



A pair of glasses with a dark frame and light-colored lenses is positioned horizontally across the center of the image. The background is a textured, light-colored surface with a subtle, repeating pattern of the number '9'. The text '1 John 1:4' is written in a white, serif font with a black outline, centered over the bridge of the glasses. A thin red horizontal line is drawn below the text.

1 John 1:4

We write this to make our joy complete.

A pair of glasses with a dark frame and clear lenses is positioned horizontally across the top half of the image. The background is a textured, light-colored surface, possibly wood or stone, with a grainy, stippled appearance. The word "Joy:" is written in a white, serif font with a black outline, centered between the two lenses. A thin red horizontal line is drawn below the word "Joy:".

## Joy:

- ❖ Psalm 16:11
- ❖ Luke 1:14; 2:10; 10:17; 24:41
- ❖ John 15:11; 16:22-24; 17:13
- ❖ Romans 14:17
- ❖ 3 John 4

A pair of glasses with a dark frame and clear lenses is resting on a light-colored, textured surface that resembles sand or fine-grained stone. The glasses are positioned horizontally across the upper half of the image. The text is overlaid on the image, with the title 'Psalm 16:11' centered above a red horizontal line, and the main text below it.

## Psalm 16:11

---

You make known to me the path of life;  
you will fill me with joy in your presence,  
with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

A pair of glasses with a dark frame and clear lenses is resting on a light-colored, textured surface. The text is overlaid on the image.

## John 15:11

---

[Jesus]: “I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.”

A pair of glasses with a dark frame and clear lenses is positioned on a textured, light-colored surface. The text is overlaid on the image.

## John 16:24

---

[Jesus]: “Ask and you will receive,  
and your joy will be complete.”

A pair of glasses with a dark frame and clear lenses is positioned on a textured, light-colored surface. The text is overlaid on the image.

## Romans 14:17

---

For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit

# What have we learned?

---

- ❖ We believe the truth.
- ❖ The truth empowers us to have fellowship with God and with each other.
- ❖ Truth + fellowship = joy







# Are you being called?

---

- ❖ To receive Christ
- ❖ To become a member of Melbourne Community Church
- ❖ To pray / to receive prayer
- ❖ To affirm or reaffirm a commitment
- ❖ To receive the Lord's Supper

# Two text boxes

---

❖ Xxxxxx

❖ Xxxxxx

❖ Xxxxxx

❖ Xxxxxx

❖ Xxxxxx