

1 The First Epistle of
2 **J O H N**

- 3
4 1. John was the youngest disciple of Jesus. He was the only one of the apostles who
5 did not die a violent death but instead died as a very old man in the city of Ephesus
6 (Turkey).
7
8 2. John was the author of several books of the New Testament. I believe he wrote
9 them in the following order:
10 A. The Gospel of John
11 B. Revelation (following his exile on Patmos)
12 C. I, II and III John
13
14 3. John pastored the Christian church in Ephesus for decades, we believe - the church
15 that was founded by Paul.

16
17 Ephesus
18

- 19 ● Ephesus had been well evangelized since visited by Paul (Acts 19)
20 ● After several generations, the passion and fervor for Christ had been replaced by
1 orthodoxy. *Rev. 2:4 Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because*
22 *thou hast left thy first love.*
23 ● Persecution was not the enemy of Christians in Ephesus; heresy and spiritual
24 seduction were. Christianity was not in danger of being destroyed; it was in
25 danger of being CHANGED.
26 ● Gnosticism, the basic philosophy of the Roman Empire, was an evil threat to the
27 church in Ephesus.
28
29

30 Gnosticism took many forms. However, one primary principle ran through this
philosophy; matter or material was essentially evil; only the spirit was good. All the
material world was considered evil. Therefore Gnosticism despised the body. They
held that in the body was a spirit, like a seed in the dirty soil. The same principle is in
modern liberalism which maintains that there is a spark of good in everyone and that
each person is to develop that spark. (*Through the Bible - Zondervan - Volume 5 - p*
754)

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40

OUTLINE OF I JOHN

- I. God is Light - Chapters 1:1-2:2
 - A. Prologue Chapter 1:1-2
 - B. How We May Have Fellowship With God Chapters 1:3-2:2
 - 1. By Walking in the Light Chapter 1:2-7
 - 2. By Confessing Sin 1:8-10
 - 3. By the Advocacy of Christ Chapter 2:1,2
- II. God is Love Chapters 2:3-4:21
 - A. How we may Have Fellowship With Each Other Chapter 2:3-14
 - B. Love Not the World Chapter 2:15-28
 - C. Living as Christians 2:29-4:21
- III. God is Life Chapter 5
 - A. Victory Over The World Chapter 5:2-5
 - B. Assurance of Salvation Chapter 5:6-21

PROLOGUE - AN EYEWITNESS

1 John 1:1-2

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; [2] (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)

- 1. We don't know when "the beginning" was, but we know that God was in the beginning.
- 2. John is a powerful witness because he SAW Jesus, he HEARD Jesus and he TOUCHED Jesus.

THE NEED FOR WALKING IN GOD'S LIGHT

1 John 1:6-7

If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: [7] But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

1 The light of God's Word shows us exactly where we are.

2
3 **1 John 1:8-10**

4 **If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. [9]**
5 **If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us**
6 **from all unrighteousness. [10] If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a**
7 **liar, and his word is not in us.**

8
9 1. All of us have sinned

10
11 **Isaiah 53:6**

12 **All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and**
13 **the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.**

14
15 WE ARE NOT SINNERS BECAUSE WE SIN, BUT WE SIN BECAUSE WE ARE
16 SINNERS - BY BIRTH, BY NATURE.

17
18 2. The blood of Jesus covers all sin

19
20
21

ADVOCATE = a person who speaks for and supports another person
--

22
23 **CHRIST IS OUR ADVOCATE**

24
25 **1 John 2:1-2**

26 **My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man**
27 **sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: [2] And he is**
28 **the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole**
29 **world.**

30
31 **1 John 2:1-2 [The message]**

32 **I write this, dear children, to guide you out of sin. But if anyone does sin, we have**
33 **a Priest-Friend in the presence of the Father: Jesus Christ, righteous Jesus. [2]**
34 **When he served as a sacrifice for our sins, he solved the sin problem for good—not**
35 **only ours, but the whole world's.**

36
37 *The word "propitiate" means an atonement or an expiation - doing away with. It*
38 *means my sins have been paid for by the suffering of Another. Christ is my advocate,*
39 *interceding for me with Himself as the propitiation.*

1 KEEPING GOD’S COMMANDMENTS

2
3 **1 John 2:3-4**

4 **And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. [4] He**
5 **that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth**
6 **is not in him.**

7
8 1. If we say “we know God” yet do not obey His commandments, we are only kidding
9 ourselves for we don’t know Him at all.

10
11 **1 John 2:9-11**

12 **He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until**
13 **now. [10] He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion**
14 **of stumbling in him. [11] But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh**
15 **in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded**
16 **his eyes.**

17
18 1. God gives us no “out” on this. If we have something against another person, there
19 is something wrong with our faith and testimony.

20
21 WHAT ABOUT OUR AFFECTIONS?

22
23 **1 John 2:15-17**

24 **Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the**
25 **world, the love of the Father is not in him. [16] For all that is in the world, the lust**
26 **of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is**
27 **of the world. [17] And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that**
28 **doeth the will of God abideth for ever.**

29
30 1. John is not referring to the physical world, which is truly extraordinarily beautiful.
31 He speaks of *the world system*. He speaks of a world that is often either openly hostile
32 to God or attempts to just ignore Him, resulting in disastrous actions.

33
34 IS CHRIST DIVINE?

35
36 **1 John 2:22-23**

37 **Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that**
38 **denieth the Father and the Son. [23] Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not**
39 **the Father: (but) he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also.**

1. Pretty strong language! John refers here to the coming satanic masterpiece, the Antichrist, who will deny the Christ of God.

CHAPTER TWO

1 John 3:1-2

Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. [2] Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

1. A preacher could go on for days just on these two verses alone.

* “We shall be like him....for we shall see him as he is....” What joys await us in God’s celestial city.

1 John 3:16

Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

How interesting that John 3:16 tells of God’s love for us, so great that He sent His only begotten Son for us.

1 John 3:17

But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?

1. Love is not just a sentiment, a warm fuzzy, so to speak. Real love is manifest in the way we live and show that love to others.

1 John 3:23

And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment.

1. Our response to each other is a clear signal of our discipleship.

CHAPTER FOUR

WARNING AGAINST FALSE TEACHERS AND HERESY

1 **1 John 4:1**

2 **Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God:**
3 **because many false prophets are gone out into the world.**

4
5 **1 John 4:1 [The Message]**

6 **My dear friends, don't believe everything you hear. Carefully weigh and examine**
7 **what people tell you. Not everyone who talks about God comes from God. There are**
8 **a lot of lying preachers loose in the world.**

9
10 1. A generation ago, the world laughed at the supernatural. Now it worship (indeed
11 grovels) at the feet of it. Look even at Hollywood with its movies having to do with
12 demons and spirits and the dead.

13
14 2. There is a renewed manifestation of demonism in the world. Don't be taken in by
15 every miracle you see. And don't be taken in by every "gospel" program you see on
16 television either.

17
18 **1 John 4:2**

19 **Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ**
20 **is come in the flesh is of God:**

21
22 1. There is the great test....is the ministry, the minister and the message preached
23 spotlighting Jesus?

24
25 2. We are headed quickly toward the world religious system, headed by the false
26 prophet. Jesus warned of deception in the last days.

27
28 **FEAR**

29
30 **1 John 4:18**

31 **There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath**
32 **torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.**

33
34 1. In preaching in close to 15% of our AG churches in America, I have noticed a
35 commonality among non-successful congregations: **FEAR.**

36
37 Fear - of new ideas, of people, of strong leadership other than their own, of the past,
38 of the future, of failure, of themselves - and on and on it goes. That fear is NOT from
39 God but is truly a manifestation of Satan.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40

CHAPTER 5
VICTORY AND ASSURANCE

Here is God's salvation "contract" to each of us:

1 John 5:1

Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.

1 John 5:1 [The Message]

Every person who believes that Jesus is, in fact, the Messiah, is God-begotten. If we love the One who conceives the child, we'll surely love the child who was conceived.

1. Emotion is wonderful but it fluctuates. God's Word and promise does NOT fluctuate. If I believe in Jesus...I am saved!

1 John 5:6-8

Jesus—the Divine Christ! He experienced a life-giving birth and a death-killing death. Not only birth from the womb, but baptismal birth of his ministry and sacrificial death. And all the while the Spirit is confirming the truth, the reality of God's presence at Jesus' baptism and crucifixion, bringing those occasions alive for us. [7] A triple testimony: [8] the Spirit, the Baptism, the Crucifixion. And the three in perfect agreement.

My friend, it's God's Word that gives you assurance of faith.

1 John 5:11-12

And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. [12] He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

1. Today many will say that a person can be saved without Jesus. That is NOT what the Word says.

1 John 5:21

Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.

An idol is anything or anyone that comes between you and God.