



I John – October 8, 2017

Pastor Shannon Chapman

Purpose of 1 John

1. Combat false teachers who were beginning to infiltrate the churches
2. Address the attitude towards sin and the necessity of love for other Christians
3. As a pastor, John writes to strengthen the Christians in their faith
4. So that our joy may be complete

Major Heresy in the Roman World

- Gnosticism comes from a Greek word that means knowledge.

Gnosticism is based on TWO primary thoughts:

1. The way of salvation was through secret, superior knowledge granted to the initiated.

2. It considers all matter to be evil but the Spirit to be good.

Any teaching that denies the incarnation of Jesus – that is he was God in human flesh – and his substitutionary atonement is false teaching.

- John refers to these teachers as having the spirit of the anti-Christ.
- *I John 4:1-3*

Pastoral Themes to the book of 1 John

God is Light

I John 1:5-10, This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

Foundation: God is Light

Application: Walk in the Light

Clarification: Don't claim to be without sin

God is Love

I John 4:7-12, Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

- The character of God is rooted in love!

God is Life

I John 5:1-21

Jesus is the Christ, the foundation of everything!

God's words are more important than people's words.

Conclusion

In our dark world, God brings light; in our cold world, God brings the warmth of love; in our lost and dying world, God brings eternal life.