

1 John – Introduction to the book

Intro. Scripture reading: We study it because it is God's word for "all scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." 2 Tim. 3:16-17. We must be people of the book. Acts 6 the leaders chose servants so they could give themselves to prayer and the ministry of the word. Compassion and social activity cannot take the place of the word of God. This word is to be studied and proclaimed, not for us to be theologians but to be like Jesus. The word of God preps us for the work of God. The Word reveals the fullness of Christ and his great love for us.

- I. **The author** – John. One of Jesus' closest disciples along with Peter and James. He was at the transfiguration, garden of Gethsemane, and at the cross. He and his brother were known as the sons of thunder, probably because in Luke 9 they are ready to call fire down from heaven on a community. Later known as the apostle of love. Some estimate he may have been a 100 when he wrote this. He is an old man now and writes like a dad or grandfather. The book is written in easy Greek grammar but difficult in style
- II. **The style:** it is circular repeating and broadening the information as he writes as well as deeper. Circles of truth and light.
- III. **Why did he write it?**
 - a. Jn 1:4 – to make our joy complete
 - b. Jn 2:1 – to make our holiness consistent
 - c. Jn 5:13 – to make our assurance confident
 - d. To protect the church from false teachers
- IV. **The false teachers**
 - a. Gnostics – basic belief that the spirit is good but matter is bad. The result was denying the incarnation and deity of Christ.
 - b. Two thoughts prevalent – Cerinthian which says Jesus was born human but did not become divine till his baptism and lost divinity before the cross. Docetic says he just appeared to be human,

didn't leave footprints in the sand and you could do whatever you wanted in the body as long as your spirit was in tune with God.

- V. **John provides three test of life** – doctrinal – true belief, moral – true obedience, relational – true love. Listen for the repetition of words like light, truth, love, remain or abide, walk, know. What you believe, contrary to the world, really does make a difference. My children, love one another.

Conclusion: I have chosen something from each chapter for you to listen to and consider as we close today.

1 John 1:7 2:1-2 3:19-20 4:9-10 5:13