

INTRODUCTION:

- 1) TODAY WE WILL BE LOOKING AT 1, 2, AND 3 JOHN, LETTERS ABOUT FALSE TEACHING

THINGS WE WILL LOOK AT IN THIS LESSON:

- 1) 1JOHN
- 2) 2 JOHN
- 3) 3 JOHN

PART 1 – 1 JOHN:

Q 1) WHAT FIVE BOOKS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT WERE WRITTEN BY JOHN?

FIGURE 1)

| Similar verses in 1 John and the Gospel of John point back to one author for both books. | | | |
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| 1 John | Verse | Verse | John |
| 1:1 | "That which was from the beginning, . . . the Word of life." | "In the beginning was the Word . . . The Word became flesh." | 1:1, 14 |
| 1:4 | "We write this to make our joy complete." | "Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete." | 16:24 |
| 1:6–7 | "If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, . . ." | "This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil." | 3:19 |
| 2:7 | "Dear friends, I am not writing you a new command but an old one." | "A new command I give you: . . . As I have loved you, so you must love one another." | 13:34–35 |
| 3:8 | "He who does what is sinful is of the devil." | "You belong to your father, the devil." | 8:44 |
| 3:14 | "We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers." | "Whoever hears my word and believes . . . has crossed over from death to life." | 5:24 |
| 4:6 | "We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us." | "He who belongs to God hears what God says." | 8:47 |
| 4:9 | "This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world." | "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son." | 1:14, 18; 3:16 |
| 5:9 | "We accept man's testimony, but God's testimony is greater . . . about his Son." | "And the Father who sent me has himself testified concerning me." | 5:37 |
| 5:12 | "He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life." | "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life." | 3:36 |

Q 2) WHEN DID JOHN WRITE 1, 2, AND 3 JOHN?

Q 3) WHAT DOES IT MEAN THAT 1 JOHN WAS ONE OF THE GENERAL EPISTLES?

FIGURE 2)

| First John teaches the truth in contrast to the five errors of Gnosticism. | |
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| False Teachings of the Gnostics | Truth in 1 John |
| 1. The spirit is good, and the body is bad. | "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" (1:1). The Word became flesh but remained sinless. Therefore, the body itself is not sinful or bad. |
| 2. Salvation comes through secret knowledge, not the gospel. | "I am writing these things to you about those who are trying to lead you astray. As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you" (2:26–27). "He who has the Son of God has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life" (5:12). |
| 3. Jesus was only a man. The divine Spirit of Christ joined Him at His baptism. The Spirit left Him before He died. | "Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world" (4:2–3). Notice that John stated "Jesus Christ" as one name (1:3; 2:1; 3:23; 4:2; 5:6, 20). In contrast, the Gnostics separated Jesus from the Christ. |
| 4. The body should be treated harshly, since it is evil. | "If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?" (3:17). |
| 5. Sinning with the body is not wrong, since only the spirit matters. | "Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. He who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous. He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work" (3:7–8). |

OUTLINE OF 1 JOHN...

- I. Introduction: We Are Sure That the Word Became Flesh, 1:1–4
- II. Children of God Fellowship with Him in the Light, 1:5–2:28
 - A. Principles of fellowship with God (1:5–2:2)
 - B. Evidence of fellowship with God (2:3–28)
- III. Children of God Know the Truth, 2:29–4:6
 - A. Characteristics of God's children (2:29–3:18)
 - B. Confidence of God's children (3:19–24)
 - C. The Spirit and God's children (4:1–6)
- IV. Children of God Love as God Loves, 4:7–5:3
 - A. The source of love (4:7–16)
 - B. The evidence of love (4:17–5:3)
- V. Children of God Have Assurance from Him, 5:4–20
 - A. About life now and forever (5:4–12)
 - B. About prayer and faith (5:13–20)
- VI. Conclusion, 5:21

OUTLINE TWO OF 1 JOHN...

- I. John Wrote to Complete Our Joy through Fellowship with God (1 John 1:5–2:28)
- II. John Wrote to Emphasize What God's Children Know (1 John 2:29–4:6)
- III. John Wrote to Remind Us to Love One Another (1 John 4:7–5:3)
- IV. John Wrote to Give Us Assurance from God (1 John 5:4–20)

PART 2 – 2 JOHN:

FIGURE 3)

| Similar Verses in 2 John, 1 John, and John | | | | | |
|--|---|--------|---|----------------|--|
| 2 John | | 1 John | | Gospel of John | |
| 5 | Dear lady, I am not writing you a new command. | 2:7 | Dear friends, I am not writing you a new command but an old one. | 13:34–35 | "A new command I give you: Love one another." |
| 6 | This is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands. | 5:3 | This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not [a burden]. | 14:23 | "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching." |
| 7 | Many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist. | 4:3 | Every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist. | 8:42 | "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God." |
| 12 | I hope to visit you and talk with you face to face, so that our joy may be complete. | 1:4 | We write this to make our joy complete. | 16:24 | "Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete." |

OUTLINE OF 2 JOHN...

- I. Greeting, 1–3
 - A. To the chosen lady (1)
 - B. Because of the truth (2–3 [11 times])
- II. Praise for Truth, 4
- III. Command to Love, 5–6
- IV. Warning about False Teachers, 7–11
 - A. Discern false teachers (7)
 - B. Beware, lest they deceive you (8–9)
 - C. Refuse to have them in your home (10–11)
- V. Closing, 12–13

PART 3 – 3 JOHN:

FIGURE 4)

| Similar verses in 3 John and 2 John point back to the same author. | | | |
|---|---|---------------|---|
| 3 John | | 2 John | |
| 1 | The elder, To my dear friend Gaius | 1 | The elder, To the chosen lady and her children |
| 1 | whom I love in the truth. | 1 | whom I love in the truth |
| 4 | I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth. | 4 | It has given me great joy to find some of your children walking in the truth |
| 13–14 | I have much to write you, but I do not want to do so with pen and ink. I hope to see you soon, and we will talk face to face. | 12 | I have much to write to you, but I do not want to use paper and ink. Instead, I hope to visit you and talk with you face to face. |

OUTLINE OF 3 JOHN...

- I. Greeting, 1–2
- II. Gaius: A Faithful Man, 3–8
- III. Diotrephes: A Proud Man, 9–11
- IV. Demetrius: A Good Man, 12
- V. Conclusion, 13–14

HOMework FOR THE WEEK:

Read the three letters of John.

