

1 John

Chapter One

Written by John, who also wrote the gospel of John. The letter was sent to the churches in the area of Ephesus. So to gain a good feel of what was going you could also read Ephesians. The letter's main purpose is to teach the assurance of eternal life and to combat false doctrine about such. Some taught that Salvation only came to the spiritual elite. John would write that true salvation comes by faith not by intellect.
GOD IS LIFE, GOD IS LIGHT, GOD IS LOVE = FELLOWSHIP

FAITH COMES BY HEARING: Read Chapter 1

SUMMARY: Verses 1 - 10

John's thought process in the first chapter leads us to believe that Jesus is more than some historical figure that walked the earth thousands of years ago. Take some time to ponder these truths.

1. Jesus has ALWAYS BEEN - meaning He is GOD. He was from the beginning.
2. Jesus was a man that was seen and touched - meaning GOD is human.
3. God wants to have FELLOWSHIP with you. He wants you to know Him and touch Him. He wants to know you and touch you. He doesn't exist so you can have a belief system. He exists to KNOW YOU and FELLOWSHIP with you.
4. It's in knowing God and walking in fellowship with Him you find JOY. Joy doesn't come just being religious. Joy comes in fellowship.
5. God doesn't just want you BELIEVING Truth. He wants you to practice Truth. He want's Truth to flow out of your life.
6. Don't ever let sin rob you of fellowship with God. His blood, His body (the Church) is how cleansing is realized. You can't run and hide when there is sin in your life. No matter how deep your sin, His faithfulness is bigger. He will, and can, and takes pleasure in forgiving you. He can cleanse you from ALL UNRIGHTEOUSNESS.
7. The blood of Jesus is more than just something done for you on the cross. The power of the work of Jesus' death is realized in fellowship.
8. Truth and sin should NOT coexist in your life. To say you live in truth and then continue in sin is to live deceived.
9. His Word should be at work in your life. His Word working in your life proves God is truth.
10. Anyone who walks with God cannot ignore their own sinfulness nor excuse it.

REFLECTION

1. What verse stuck out the most to you? Why so?
2. Why was it important to John to show Jesus always existed?
3. Can you explain a difference in religious believing and fellowship?
4. How does sin ruin fellowship?
5. Why is confession so important to 'walking in the light'?
6. Why do you think John emphasizes your PERSONAL WALK with God as being reflective of your fellowship with God?

APPLICATION

1. What can you do in your own personal life to enhance your fellowship with God and others?
2. Are there hidden sins in your life? Don't be afraid to confess them. He will forgive you.
3. How will you DECLARE the life of Jesus this week in your own personal walk?
4. The light of God in you should produce life in others. How can you better let the light of Jesus shine among your peers?

