

A Tour Through the Divine Library
(1John)

I. General Introduction to 1John

-Title and Recipients: ‘First of John’; written to churches in Asia Minor/Christians at various stages of spiritual growth: children (2:1, 12, 13, 18, 28; 3:7, 18; 4:4; 5:21); young men (2:13, 14); fathers (2:13, 14); beloved (2:7; 3:2, 21; 4:1, 7, 11)

-Author and Date: ‘you’ (readers, 4:4); ‘they’ (false teachers, 4:5); ‘we’ (apostles, 4:6); from external and internal evidence, written by the apostle John between AD 90 and 95

-Purpose: fullness of joy (1:4); holiness (2:1); refute false teaching (2:26); strengthen assurance [5:13; tests of life: righteous living (2:3-6, 15-17, 29 3:9, 24 5:18); love for other believers (2:11 3:14, 16-19 4:8 5:1); continuance in the apostolic word (4:6); belief that Jesus is the Christ, the incarnate Son (4:2, 15)]

-Structure:

II. General Overview of 1 John

III. Prominent Themes in 1 John

-Character of God: faithful (1:9), righteous (1:9), light (1:5), love (2:5; 3:1; 4:8-10, 12, 16, 19), promise-keeper (2:25), truthful (1:10; 5:10); Fellowship with God; Sin; Light; Darkness; the World; the New Birth; Belief in the Truth; Obedience to the Truth; Eternal Life; Love; Satan; the Person and Work of Christ; Abiding in Christ; Faith in Christ; Prayer; the HS; others

IV. Christ in 1 John

-Incarnation; Identity; Humanity; Deity; Death; Blood; Intercessory Ministry; Faith in Christ; Coming of Christ; Mission of Christ

V. Practical Lessons in 1 John

1) Stability comes by adherence to the apostolic doctrine (4:6).

2) Assurance of one’s acceptance with God is both possible and desirable (5:13).

3) In the biblical gospel, God propitiates Himself (4:10; see Rom. 3:25).