

First John: Purpose of Letter

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Why First John?

1. The results that it promises:
2. The truths that it declares:
3. The evidences of knowing Him that it gives:
 - a. Live right (2:3-4)
 - b. Love right (2:10)
 - c. Believe right (3:23)

Background of the Book... Letter

1. Who wrote it? John – eye-witness
2. When? Likely late in the first century (80-90AD)
3. To Whom was it written? True believers
4. Why was it written?

“I have written these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.” (1 John 5:13)

- a. For assurance of truth, of salvation...
- b. To address false teachers - Gnosticism-ish
- c. Tests allow us to be confident in salvation.
- d. Tests allow us to identify false teachers/false teaching

5. What did John write?

- a. Key Words:
- b. Connections to the Gospel of John
A.E. Brooke proposes 51 parallel references...

6. How did John write?

- a. Black & White – only two positions
- b. Cyclical

Structure of Series:

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|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Purpose of Letter | 1:1-4; 2:1a; 2:12-14; 5:13 |
| 2. Theology of Sin | 1:5-2:2, 3:4-17 |
| 3. Assurance of Fellowship | 2:3-11, 3:18-24 |
| 4. Enemies of God | 2:15-27, 4:1-6 |
| 5. Love of Brothers | 2:28-3:3, 4:7-21 |
| 6. Exclusivity of Christ | 5:1-12 |
| 7. Certainties | 5:13-21 |

Conclusion of Letter: 5 Certainties:

That we have eternal life
That we can have confidence in prayer
That we have victory over sin
That we belong to God
That Jesus is God!

Clearly a study worth our time and attention!