

Series: Family Fellowship
"Why First John?" #1
Selected Text
4-8-18 PM

Let me share some Background-

1. John, the beloved disciple, a fisherman who met the Lord and followed as an apostle in an inner circle of 3- He and his brother James, were known as the sons of thunder.
2. John wrote 5 N.T. books- Gospel of John, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, and the Book of Revelation.
3. There is a difference between John and 1 John- In John he writes that they might believe. In 1 John he is writing to those that believe and shows them how they can have assurance of salvation. Some entitle the book, "Fundamental tests of Genuine Fellowship," or "Basic Christianity."
4. It was characteristic of John to put key verses in his writings that unlock the meaning and themes of the book. These key verses are identified by the phrase, "These things I write."

TT: Tonight we examine 4 Themes found in 1 John that unlock John's purpose in writing the book.

I. Joy [1 John 1:4].

John writes to give joy in the heart of the believer. Are you happy in the Lord? Do you enjoy being a Christian? Is your joy full?

What produces our joy? Not external circumstances. The gospel produces eternal life [vs. 1-3] and fellowship in eternal life produces Joy [v. 4]. This is why problems or people can't rob our joy.

Pastor, why do bad things happen to good people?

1. There are no good people, only those in Christ and those without Christ.
2. Rom 8:28
3. We were never promised the absence of problems but his presence in the midst of the problems. Is he in the midst?
4. How we handle problems tests the genuineness of our faith [1 Pet.1:7]. If we can't practice the faith we claim to possess, we may not have a faith to practice.

II. Sin [1 John 2:1-2].

John is writing to prevent sin in the life of the believer. We do sin after we are saved, but John tells us how to sin less, and less.

We will answer the question, “Why Christians will not habitually sin?” when get to this passage.

We continually are to confess sin we commit after salvation because it has no power over us anymore. Neither do we have a license to sin because of the forgiveness that is available.

“Advocate” means “helper” or “lawyer for the defense.” Though we are accused by Satan, the blood applied declares our acquittal.

III. False Teaching [1 John 2:20-21, 26-27].

John wrote to protect the saints from those who would want to seduce them. Gnostics denied the humanity of Jesus (see 1:1).

We have many false teachers and teachings going around today, that if not grounded, one could be shaken in what they believe. We have the Holy One, the Anointed One, who guards us from error and teaches us truth. But we must learn the truth.

“Abide in Him” In light of so many deceivers, we are to walk in the truth, be faithful, and know sound doctrine.

IV. Salvation Assurance [1 John 5:13].

John wants his readers to know they are saved and have assurance of that salvation. The Gospel of John gives the avenue of salvation, while 1 John gives the assurance of salvation.

People lack assurance for two reasons- they have not been truly born again, or they may not know what the Bible says about Biblical salvation, the Divine work.

“These things I have written unto you” [v.13a]. The whole book is full of reasons we can know we are saved. They are written to first century Christian and to Christians in the whole church age.

Remember why they needed assurance [1 John 2:19]. They were probably shaken in their faith because of the departure of false brethren.

“Believe of the name of the Son of God” [v. 13b]. Belief that changes the heart and carries with it commitment, obedience, trust, and conviction. True faith starts in the head, goes to the heart, and comes out the hands.

“That you may know you have eternal life” [v.13c]. This refers to quality and quantity of life, but also to a person [5:11-12, 20; John 17:3].

Next week- Jesus the Incarnate Word [1:1-4],