

I John 1:1-10
Introducing John's First Epistle

Introduction:

The apostle John was not merely an Apostle, he was also a Pastor. He had the heart and mind of a pastor. He knew his responsibility was pastoral. He wanted not only to guard the sheep from wolves but also to feed the sheep. John wanted to refute the false teachers, but also to reassure the genuine believers. It seems that this is the twofold work of the pastor to fortify his people against the assaults of false teachers and secondly to reassure them that they possessed eternal life in Christ.

I. Christian Assurance

A. The dominant theme in I John

1. Author – John the apostle
2. Date – A.D. 90-95

B. Why was John written?

1. I John 5:13
2. Key word – “know” 36 times
3. Purpose – to lead believers to a deeper understanding of faith and a greater confidence in that which they already possessed. –Heb. 10:21-22

II. The Statement of Assurance

A. Other statement of assurance – I John 2:5,13,20,21; 3:2,14,19,24; 4:4,13; 5:2; 18-20

B. Tests of Genuine Faith:

1. Moral test – 1:8,10 (1:6)
2. Social test – I John 4:20
3. Theological – I John 4:2.3

III. The Historical Faith of Assurance

A. Characteristics about Gnosticism:

1. The Supremacy of the intellect – 1:5
2. The Radical distinction between spirit and matter- I Cor. 6:9-13
Turn To: I John 4:1-3; II John1:7 (I John 1:1-3)

B. A New Commandment

1. Jesus upper room command – John 13:34
2. How much do we love one another? – 2:10,11; 3:10,11
3. Christian love is not merely with words – I John 3:16-18; 4:7-12

Conclusion:

1. *The Old Gospel-*
2. *Assurance – The certainty of our faith in Christ*
3. *Christian Ethic – I John1:5*
4. *Love – (Francis Schaeffer – “There may be right doctrine, but without love it will be but a bitter orthodoxy” – John 13:35*