

The Epistles of John

Segment 1

Sept – Oct 2021

Lesson 1

Introduction and Overview

Prior to the first class, read the text of 1 John and note the following as you read:

1. What does the text indicate about the audience's circumstances?
2. Why is the epistle written?
3. List the most commonly used words or phrases in the book.
4. List the contrasts made throughout the epistle.
5. Write out a brief outline of the book

Lesson 2

1 John 1:1 - 2:2

Textual Questions:

1. List the ways John describes the physical contact that he had with the Word of Life (Christ):
2. How did John want the audience to have fellowship with the apostles?
3. What was the message that John had heard from Christ?
4. What are the tests regarding our fellowship with God as described in vs. 6 and 7?
5. What does the text say Jesus has done for our sins?
6. Define propitiation.
7. What does the text say is our responsibility(ies) toward sin?

Thought Questions

8. From the first four verses, what can we learn about the apostles' mission and what made them qualified for such a mission?
9. What can we learn from this text about what is needed to have fellowship with God?

Lesson 3

1 John 2:3-14

Textual Questions:

1. According to vv. 3-6, how important is keeping his commandments?

2. What is the "old commandment"? (see 3:11 and 2 John 5)

3. How is "the darkness" passing away?

4. If I'm walking in the light, what is my attitude towards my brother?

5. Who are the three different groups John addresses in vv. 12-14? Why did he write to each?

Thought Questions:

6. Consider the test described in 2:3. Can I truly know Christ without keeping his commandments? Explain why or why not.

7. Explain the last part of verse 11.

Lesson 4

1 John 2:15-27

Questions:

1. What is the "world" spoken of in 1 John 2:15?

2. What three things does the world offer?

3. In what way is the "world passing away"?
4. Who or what is the "antichrist"?

5. Who are those who "went out from us"?

6. What is the "anointing from the Holy One"?

7. In this context, who is a "liar"?

8. What is to "abide in us"?

9. How can we "abide in the Son and in the Father"?

10. What does the "anointing" teach us?

Lesson 5

1 John 2:28-3:9

Questions:

1. How can we gain confidence at his coming?

2. What are the characteristics of those born of God compared to those who are not?

3. What is expected of us for the world not to know us?

4. What is the meaning behind 1 John 3:3?

5. What is the meaning of lawlessness in 1 John 3:4?

6. in 1 John 3:6 why do those who sin do not know Christ?

7. Based on the passage what are characteristics of the righteous?

Lesson 6

1 John 3:10-23

Questions:

1. What are the characteristics of the two groups mentioned in vs 10?

2. Why is the message that they had heard from the beginning important in this passage? Compare to I John 2:7.

3. Why shouldn't we be surprised if the world hates us? If we are surprised what could that be an indication of? Read John 15:18-25.

4. What was the purpose of John using Cain in this passage?

5. Why does John refer to those who hate their brother as a murderer in vs 15?

6. What are three things that John mentions that we should do to show love to our brethren?

7. What does it look like to lay our life down for our brothers?

8. How will we know that our heart will condemn us based on vs 20?

9. What is expected from us to receive from him what is asked?

10. What makes up the Spirit that God has given us?

Lesson 7

1 John 3:24 – 4:11

Questions:

1. What does John mean when he says “by this we know”? How does that apply to us today? (vs. 24)?

2. Why was the warning necessary in 4:1? How does this apply to us today?

3. What is the purpose behind the statement in vs 4?
4. What does the spirit of the Antichrist look like?

5. What is the importance of the contrast between those that speak from the world and those that know God?

6. In vs. 7 we again see the commandment “to love another” why is this important?

7. Why is it that if God loves us that we should love one another?

8. What does it mean when John says Christ is the propitiation of our sins?

Lesson 8

1 John 4:12 – 5:5

Textual Questions:

1. What is the test of God abiding in us (4:12)?

2. What must a person confess for God to abide in him or her?

3. How is love perfected among us (4:17)?

4. What should we have in the Day of Judgment (4:17)?

5. Why do we love God (4:19)?

6. What commandment do we have from God?

7. How do we show love for the children of God?

8. What is the victory that has overcome the world (5:4)?

Thought Question

9. From this text, explain why I should love my brother.

Lesson 9

1 John 5:6-13

Questions:

1. What are the three that testify?

2. What is the Spirit equated with in verse 6?

3. Who has God's testimony in himself?

4. What is the testimony of God?

5. How would you contrast the witness of men with the witness of God?

6. What does the Son have to do with us having eternal life?

7. How could one make God a liar?

Thought Question

8. Give consideration to the meaning of 5:6-7 and be prepared to discuss in class.

Lesson 10

1 John 5:14-21

Questions:

1. Where does the confidence we have in him come from?
2. What is required of us in order for God to hear when we ask of him?
3. What does it mean by committing a sin not leading to death?
4. Who shouldn't we pray for when it comes to sin?
5. How do we know that we are from God?
6. Why is there a warning of being in the power of the evil one?
7. What is the acknowledgement that is being given in vs 20?
8. What are some examples of idols that we should keep ourselves from based on this book?

Lesson 11

Review of 1 John

Questions:

1. Describe the circumstances the brethren receiving this epistle were facing at this time.

2. What was the purpose of John writing this book?

3. Does walking in the light mean we never sin? Explain your answer.

4. What were the three L-words representing the big ideas in this book?

5. How would you describe "the world" as John presents it in this book?

6. List at least 3 test statements given in this book.

7. Give consideration to what this book means to you personally. Write down a few thoughts and be prepared to discuss in class if you choose.