

LIVING RIGHT IN A WRONG WORLD: A STUDY IN 1 JOHN

LIVING RIGHT IN A WRONG WORLD

SELECTIONS FROM 1 JOHN



The Heart of the Matter

When the apostle John finally sat down to gather his thoughts and express his convictions on parchment, he was an old man. So much had changed since he had walked with Jesus as one of the original Twelve. Those simple yet powerful three-plus years John spent with Jesus were followed by six long and painful decades. Erosion had set into the life of the church. The newness of fresh faith had begun to wane, now that the church was in the hands of second- and third-generation Christians. A subtle, lethargic boredom had replaced the excitement modeled by those early followers of Jesus. The first thrill was over . . . the hot flame of devotion reduced to a flicker. In a setting like that, the subtle seeds of heresy are easily sown and quickly grown. Cults feed off complacent churches, where dynamic enthusiasm is replaced by ho-hum indifference. Tragically, that is *exactly* what was happening to the church in John's day—and that is precisely what led him to write this letter. He hoped to revive his younger readers to return to an authentic, contagious walk with Christ. His message was relevant then and remains vital today. Let's hear it and heed it!



Discovering the Way

1. Vital Statistics That Relate to the Letter: Writer and Date (Mark 3:13–17)

The writer of the letter is the apostle John, writing sometime in the AD 90s.

2. Vital Statistics That Relate to the Letter: Purpose of the Letter

John wrote the letter to ignite Christians with new zeal, expose false teachers, and reassure believers of eternal salvation.

3. Vital Statistics That Relate to the Letter: Theme and Structure (1 John 1:4; 2:1, 26; 5:13)

John declared why he wrote the letter, highlighted by the words “write,” “writing,” and “written.”



Starting Your Journey

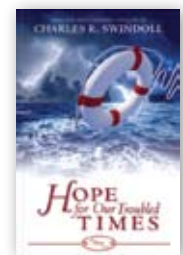
Four statements apply to our times. First, in an angry and dark world, the joyful Christian is a bright light. Second, in a lawless society, the clean Christian is a contagious witness. Third, in a deceptive culture, the discerning Christian is a convicting presence. And fourth, in a confused age, the confident Christian is a strong magnet.



Tools for Digging Deeper



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LIVING RIGHT IN A WRONG WORLD SURVEY CHART OF 1 JOHN

Fellowship with God Produces . . .

	A JOYFUL LIFE "These things we write, so that our joy may be made complete" (1:4). CHAPTER 1	A CLEAN LIFE "I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin" (2:1). CHAPTER 2:1-17	A DISCERNING LIFE "These things I have written to you concerning those who are trying to deceive you" (2:26). CHAPTERS 2:18-4:6	A CONFIDENT LIFE "These things I have written to you . . . so that you may know that you have eternal life" (5:13). CHAPTERS 4:7-5:21
How?	By Walking (1:7)	By Obeying (2:3-5)	By Testing (4:1)	By Believing (5:10)
What?	Light	Love	Truth	Knowledge
Who?	Son of God (1:3, 7)	Advocate (2:1)	Holy One (2:20)	Propitiation (4:10) "Satisfaction"

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