

LIVING RIGHT IN A WRONG WORLD  
A PROFOUND PREFACE  
1 JOHN 1:1-4



### The Heart of the Matter

A quick glance at the letter of 1 John can be misleading. It is not uncommon for the casual reader to think, *This is brief and the words seem simple and easy to read—after all, they were written by a man who was once a fisherman—this letter can't be all that complex.* Wrong! Ask any serious student of the Scriptures for an opinion of this letter and you will hear that it is one of the most challenging of all the New Testament letters. Furthermore, it doesn't get complicated later on—it is complicated from the very beginning. The first four verses, which serve as a preface to the letter, represent a grammatical knot. John may have been 90 years old and may have on the surface seemed like a simple-hearted follower of Jesus, but as we go deeper into the letter, we see that what he wrote was profound.



### Discovering the Way

#### 1. Three Important Word Pictures in the Letter (Selections from 1 John)

John described God as “life” (1 John 1:1–2), as “Light” (1:5), and as “love” (4:8, 16).

#### 2. A Complicated Beginning of the Letter (1 John 1:1–4)

John began his letter with a statement of “beginning”—a device he used in his gospel, much like Moses used in the book of Genesis. John also underscored two significant terms: “fellowship” and “joy.”



### Starting Your Journey

Our practical response, as we begin to dive into John's first letter, is to remember that what appears on the surface rarely represents what lies hidden beneath the surface; there is big stuff in this little letter.



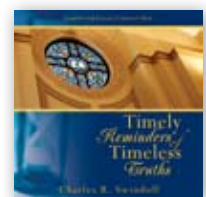
### Tools for Digging Deeper



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