

Bible Study – Outline

I JOHN

Authentic Christianity

Author John
Date Written Approx. 85 – 90 AD from Ephesus
Audience: Sent as a letter to several Gentile churches

Major Theme(s)

Truth
Righteousness
Love

I JOHN

THE BASIS FOR AUTHENTIC CHRISTIANITY		
Introduction – John establishes his authority		1:1-4
Walking in the light, Loving one another	GOD IS LIGHT	1:5-2:14
Avoid the love of the world, the spirit of antichrist		2:15-2:27
THE BEHAVIOUR OF AUTHENTIC CHRISTIANITY		
Practicing truth, righteousness, and love	GOD IS LOVE	2:28-5:3
Victory over the world	GOD IS LIFE	5:4-5
Assurance of salvation		5:6-13
Confidence in prayer		5:14-17
Victory over habitual sin		5:18-21
Have Christ's attitude – The responsibilities of Christian living		4:1-11
Our Lord will return		
Glorify Christ's name		4:12-19
Look for Christ's return - The requirements of Christian leadership		5:1-6
Depend on Christ's grace - The realization of Christian victory		5:7-14

Key Scriptures

I John 1:1-4

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. ² The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. ³ We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. ⁴ We write this to make our joy complete.

I John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

I John 2:4

Whoever says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person.

I John 3:3-4

All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.⁴ Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness.

I John 3:9

No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in them; they cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God.

I John 3:16

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.

I John 4:4

You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

I John 4:18-21

There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

¹⁹ We love because he first loved us. ²⁰ Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen.²¹ And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

I John 5:12

Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

I John 5:13-15

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. ¹⁴ This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. ¹⁵ And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.

I John 5:18-20

We know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin; the One who was born of God keeps them safe, and the evil one cannot harm them. ¹⁹We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one. ²⁰We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true by being in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.

I John 5:21

Dear children, keep yourselves from idols.

The Three “We know”s - 5:18-20

1. Those born of God do not continue in sin.
2. We are the children of God
3. The Son of God has come and given us understanding

Discussion Questions

1. Who is the “Word of Life”?
2. What are the 6 examples of “truth” given in I John?
1:6, 1:8, 2:20, 3:18, 4:6, 5:6
3. What is the hope John is referring to in I John 3:3?
4. What is your idol? 5:21
5. What is the kind of love we are to have as described in this book?
6. What are the three marks of authentic Christianity

Resources Used

Adventuring Through the Bible by Ray Stedman
Life Application Bible (NIV) - Zondervan and Tyndale House.
Be Real - Warren Wiersbe
The MacArthur Bible Commentary - John MacArthur
www.biblestudytools.com
www.biblegateway.com