

Let Me Introduce Myself

The books of John - Introduction

Introduction

1. There are two kinds of letter in the New Testament: general and personal. John's letters are a mixture of the two.
2. At this point, John is in his 80s.
3. The church was being affected by travelling Bible teachers.
4. People figured that "the elder" was different from the apostle.
5. It was inconceivable to some that John would not cite his own name and inherent authority in the struggle against false prophets.
6. John shows a number of contrasts:
 - Life and death.
 - Light and darkness.
 - Truth and lies.
 - Love and hate.
 - Righteousness and lawlessness.
 - Children of God and children of Satan.
 - Love of the Father and love of the world.
 - Christ and antichrist.
 - Heaven and hell.

7. 1 John was written to three groups of people:

- Little children,
- Young men, and
- Fathers.

8. Why did John write this letter? It seems the community has gone through a church split.

- We are to _____ in the _____.
- We are to _____ in _____.
- We are to _____ as _____ of the light.

9. There are two ways to examine John's reasons for writing:

List 1 – he wants his readers to be:

- Satisfied (1:4)
- Sinless (2:1)
- Safe (2:26), and
- Sure (5:13)

List 2 – he is writing:

- To promote harmony among them (1:3)
- To produce happiness (1:4)
- To protect holiness (2:1)
- To prevent heresy (2:26)
- To provide hope (5:13)

10. It's not easy to find a pattern in the way he's arranged his material.

11. The theme:

12. The sandwich framework:

- Life – 1:1-4 (positive)
- Light – 1:5 -2:11
- Lust, lies and lawlessness – 2:15 – 3:10 (negative)
- Love – 3:11 – 4:21 (positive)
- Life – 5:1-21 (positive)

13. John is the only person in the Bible to make the statement: God is love.

14. John also writes to counter the false teaching he knows is affecting them.

15. John points out that he had seen Jesus himself.

16. The Greeks believed salvation had nothing to do with what a person did inside their body.

17. We need to continue receiving His forgiveness.

Walk This Way

18. Walk in the light.

19. Walk in love.

20. Walk in life.