

# INTRODUCTION TO 1, 2 & 3 John

**READ ALONG**

08/11-13 1, 2 & 3 John

**WHERE IS IT IN THE BIBLE?**

- 59. JAMES
- 60. 1 PETER
- 61. 2 PETER
- 62. **1 JOHN**
- 63. **2 JOHN**
- 64. **3 JOHN**
- 65. JUDE
- 66. REVELATION

**KEY VERSES**

**1 John 4:10** "Love consists in this: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins."

**1 John 5:13** "I have written these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life."

**2 John 6** "This is love: that we walk according to his commands. This is the command as you have heard it from the beginning: that you walk in love."

**KEY THEMES**

- **Believe Rightly** - Pursue truth instead of false teaching
- **Obey Rightly** - Avoid sin and live out your faith
- **Love Rightly** - Love the Lord and one another

**KEY THEMES**

- Daniel Akin, *Exalting Jesus in 1, 2, & 3 John*
- Sermons through 1-3 John by Daniel Akin available at DanielAkin.com

**BOOK BASICS**



**DATE**  
80-95 AD



**TYPE**  
Letters



**AUTHOR**  
John

Church tradition and many scholars confirm that John the apostle, the son of Zebedee and brother of James wrote 1, 2, & 3 John along with the Gospel of John and the book of Revelation. Many scholars believe 2 & 3 John were written after Revelation, making them the latest New Testament books composed.

It seems John meant for the letters to be read along with his other books and to be circulated among the churches. When he refers to "my little children" in 1 John and "the elect lady and her children" in 2 John, we can understand the references as analogies for local congregations of Christians. While 3 John was written to Gaius, a Christian man, giving him recommendations to welcome fellow believers and avoid false teachers, the principles connect to John's overall encouragement. The truths in these letters can encourage Christians today to have confidence in living out their faith and believing the truth.

While the Gospel of John tells us how we may have eternal life by believing in Jesus (John 20:31), the letters of John tell us how we may know we have eternal life by believing and living rightly in Jesus (1 John 5:13). Overall, John addresses emotional and doctrinal distress due to false teachers and lack of confidence in the faith. Christians today ought to heed the warnings and encouragement John offers for walking in Christian love and truth.

**BASIC STRUCTURE**

1

**Jesus, the Incarnate Word** (1:1-4)  
**Portrait of True Believers** (1-2)  
**Love God & One Another** (3)  
**Know Truth & Trust God** (4:1-5:12)  
**Worship the True God Alone** (5:13-21)

1 JOHN

2

**Love the Truth** (1-3)  
**Live & Look for the Truth** (4-11)  
**Long for the Truth** (12-13)

2 JOHN

3

**Praise for Walking in the Truth** (1-4)  
**Good vs. Evil Testimony** (5-12)  
**Pastoral Heart** (13-14)

3 JOHN