

1st John!

God uses 1st John to reveal “assurance of salvation” and how we can experience it.

KEY EMPHASIS of 1 John is on the reality of experiencing true fellowship with the risen Christ. From John’s writings it is evident that he had learned much about being close to Jesus. Five different tests are considered for our own “assurance of salvation.”

KEY VERSE is 1 John 5:13: “These things I have written to you, who believe in the name of the Son of God, in order that you may know that you have eternal life.” These five tests are specifically found in 2:3 (obedience), in 2:19 (perseverance), in 3:7 (purity), in 4:7 (love), and in 5:4 (faith). If we cannot look at our lives and see these five tests manifested in some form, we will have no assurance of our position in Christ!

KEY REASONS for the study of this book: 1) to be convinced and assured of our walk with God, 2) to test the validity of a true relationship with Christ, 3) to receive practical instruction to help us discern between godliness and worldliness.

KEY PASSAGES built around the overview divisions to help us see the “flow” of the book. How does each section relate to the passage cited?

Reality stated. . .eyewitnesses (1:1); primary purpose (1:4); God is light (1:5-10).

Reality tested. . .

obedience (2:3) because of our advocate (2:1, 2).

perseverance (2:19) because we are anointed (2:20).

purity (3:7) because we are born of God (3:9, 10).

love (4:7) because He first loved us (4:19).

faith (5:4) because we believe (5:5).