

# I, II & III JOHN

FOR BEGINNERS

MIKE MAZZALONGO

## STUDENT WORKBOOK

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# I, II & III John for Beginners

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**Mike Mazzalongo**

This series will provide both a historical and theological overview as well as a textual study of these brief but powerful epistles which are a good source of apologetic material.



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# 1. Introduction to I John

Mike begins this study by listing 10 facts about the Apostle John and the heresy that prompted his writing of this epistle.

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Intro - Although short, the epistle of John provides great insight and a powerful message.

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## Background - John the Apostle

The Bible provides much information about John's life.

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### Ten Facts:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_

## Background on the First Epistle of John

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John's letters deal with the problem of \_\_\_\_\_

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The conflict between the gospel and Gnosticism came in the form of questions concerning Jesus' Identity.

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## I John - The Letter

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The first letter John writes is keyed to his personal witness of the living Jesus, not a spirit of "ghost"

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The Heretics' effect on the church was to cause doubt about Jesus' very existence as well as their salvation through Jesus alone.

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### **Outline - I John**

I. 1:1-4

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II. 1:5-2:29

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III. 3:1- 4:21

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IV. 5:1-12

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V. 5:13-21

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John's gospel told the story of the cross. \_\_\_\_\_

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John's first epistle encourages his readers to believe that story.

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## 2. Walking in the Light

John lists the first of four ways an individual can be assured of personal salvation. (I John 1:1-2:29)

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Intro – Review of background to the letter.

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Gnosticism \_\_\_\_\_

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John’s letter has two main objectives.

A. \_\_\_\_\_

B. \_\_\_\_\_

Today we look at one of three ways John’s readers could be certain of their salvation.

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### The Historical Jesus – 1:1-4

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John writes as one who “personally” knew Jesus.

Vs. 1 \_\_\_\_\_ John 1:1

Vs. 1 \_\_\_\_\_ John 1:1;4

Vs. 2 \_\_\_\_\_ John 1:4

Vs. 2 \_\_\_\_\_ John 10:28

Vs. 2 \_\_\_\_\_ John 1:1

Vs. 2 \_\_\_\_\_ John 1:4

These letters are given to establish the divine nature of Jesus. \_\_\_\_\_

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- He is \_\_\_\_\_

- He embodies \_\_\_\_\_

- He gives \_\_\_\_\_

- He is \_\_\_\_\_

- He is with \_\_\_\_\_

- He has been made \_\_\_\_\_

### **Certainty by Walking in the Light - 1:5-2:29**

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These people were becoming uncertain of their salvation.

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For the Jews as well as the Greeks, light represented what was true,  
good, pure and spiritual in nature. \_\_\_\_\_

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John mentions four areas where one's conduct determined if they were truly in fellowship with other Christians and God.

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**1. Personal** \_\_\_\_\_ **1:5; 2:6**

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A person who is walking in the light is a person who recognizes certain things about their own behavior:

- A. \_\_\_\_\_
- B. \_\_\_\_\_
- C. \_\_\_\_\_
- D. \_\_\_\_\_

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**2. Social** \_\_\_\_\_ **2:7-14**

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A person who loves their brother is one who is walking in the light.

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**3. Separation** \_\_\_\_\_ **2:15-17**

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This is John's direct response to the idea of "secret knowledge."

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**4. Adherence** \_\_\_\_\_ **2:18-27**

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Walking in the light is demonstrated by teaching the truth and facts of that truth are:  
He warns against false teachers.

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**Summary - 2:28:29**

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Paul gives them four ways to assure themselves that they are walking in light:

- A. \_\_\_\_\_
- B. \_\_\_\_\_
- C. \_\_\_\_\_
- D. \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. Abiding in Love

In this lesson, John explains how one can determine who truly belongs to the Lord, and adds two other ways Christians can be confident about their salvation. (I John 2:28-3:24)

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Intro - Gnostic teachers were teaching false doctrine. Paul refutes these ideas in two ways:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

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2. \_\_\_\_\_

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John teaches that Christians can be certain of their salvation by observing their \_\_\_\_\_

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He called this \_\_\_\_\_

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Behavior in this area of:

A. Personal \_\_\_\_\_

B. Social \_\_\_\_\_

C. Separation from \_\_\_\_\_

D. Adherence to \_\_\_\_\_

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## Knowing the Good from the Bad

John provides a foolproof method to help them discern the good from the bad (those not walking in the light).

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vs. 2:28

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vs. 3:1

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vs. 3:2

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vs. 3:4-6 – The keyword here is “practices”

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vs. 3:7-10

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## Abiding in Love - 3:11-4:21

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John explains a second way to be certain of their salvation.

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vs. 3:11-13 – John repeats the “bottom line” message of the Gospel. \_\_\_\_\_

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vs. 3:14-18 – You can’t claim to be a disciple of Jesus if you don’t love as He did. \_\_\_\_\_

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vs. 3:19-22 – There are wonderful benefits for those who love their brethren.

A. \_\_\_\_\_

B. \_\_\_\_\_

C. \_\_\_\_\_

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vs. 3:23-24 – They’ve been seduced in their thinking \_\_\_\_\_

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True spirituality is the result of two basic things:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

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2. \_\_\_\_\_

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## Summary

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Today's section has included a "transitional passage."

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John describes a second way to know that they are saved.

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## 4. Abiding in Faith

John closes out his first letter with a final way to be confident in salvation and adds a warning about the Antichrist. (I John 4:1-5:21)

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Intro – John highlights the differences between good and evil and a sure-fire way to know the difference.

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Love, according to John, is the defining characteristic of the Christian.

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In the final chapters, John will explain the third of three ways that a person can be certain that they belong to God.

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### **Certainty by Continued Faithfulness – 4:1-5:12**

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Review outline \_\_\_\_\_

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The third way to be assured of salvation \_\_\_\_\_

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vs. 4:16-6 – “Spirit” in this section refers to teachers. \_\_\_\_\_

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vs. 4:7-14 – John repeats his earlier comments about love as a factor to determine both the true teacher or true disciple. \_\_\_\_\_

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vs. 4:15-21 – True teaching will produce genuine Christian love. \_\_\_\_\_

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vs. 5:1-4 – John continues to repeat and build on this idea of abiding in faith as a way to be certain of teachers and self. \_\_\_\_\_

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Obedience to Jesus’ word demonstrates three important things:

A. \_\_\_\_\_

B. \_\_\_\_\_

C. \_\_\_\_\_

vs. 5:5-12 – John makes one last challenge to the false teachers. \_\_\_\_\_

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## Summary

Once his arguments are established, John closes his letter concerning this subject.

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vs. 5:13-15 – He ends this letter in much the same way he ends his gospel. \_\_\_\_\_

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vs. 5:16-17 – Jesus, in His ministry, mentioned the “...sin that leads to death.” \_\_\_\_\_

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vs. 5:18-21 – John finished with four basic things all Christians should know:

A. Christians are not \_\_\_\_\_

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B. Christians know \_\_\_\_\_

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C. Christians proclaim \_\_\_\_\_

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D. Worship of \_\_\_\_\_

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John ends with a warning. \_\_\_\_\_

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**The same holds true today.**

## 5. John's Cover Letter

This epistle serves as a cover letter for the epistle (I John) that the Apostle has sent to a particular church having problems with false teachers and teachings. (II John)

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### Intro - Review of I John

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Gnosticism \_\_\_\_\_

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Hedonism \_\_\_\_\_

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Changing the gospel \_\_\_\_\_

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Confidence in salvation:

1. Certainty by \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Certainty by \_\_\_\_\_

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3. Certainty by \_\_\_\_\_

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Incarnation \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**The “Cover” Letter**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Outline - II John**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

1. \_\_\_\_\_ vs. 1-3
2. \_\_\_\_\_ vs. 4-6
3. \_\_\_\_\_ vs. 7-11
4. \_\_\_\_\_ vs. 12-13

**Text - II John**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**1. Salvation - vs.1-3**

vs. 1-2 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

vs. 3 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

John asks for three things that only God can offer:

A. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

B. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

C. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**2. Commendation - vs.4-6**

vs. 4 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

vs. 5 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

vs. 6 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### 3. Warning - vs.7-11

vs. 7 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 24:23-24 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

vs. 8-9 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

vs. 10-11 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

John warns the brethren not to allow false teachers the opportunity to set up a base for teaching others in their homes. (Matthew 10:11)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### 4. Conclusion - vs. 12-13

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Lessons

1. Doctrine \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Doctrine \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Doctrine \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## 6. Life in the Early Church

John gives us a view of the inner workings of a first-century church as he mediates a dispute among three men over the issue of hospitality and its role in the life of the early church. (III John)

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**Intro - III John gives us insight into the early workings of the church.**

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### Outline - Text II John

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#### 1. Introduction - vs .1

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#### 2. Blessing - vs. 2-4

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vs. 2

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vs. 3

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Walking in truth means that this cycle of response is our ongoing exercise that becomes the substance of our daily life of faith. \_\_\_\_\_

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vs. 4 \_\_\_\_\_

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### **3. Encouraging Workers for Truth - vs. 5-8**

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vs. 5-6 \_\_\_\_\_

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vs. 7-8 \_\_\_\_\_

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### **4. Reproving the Opponents of Truth - vs. 9-11**

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vs. 9 – John deals with the main issue \_\_\_\_\_

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vs. 10 – John review Diotrephes' behavior \_\_\_\_\_

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vs. 11 \_\_\_\_\_

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**5. Commending the Witness for Truth - vs. 12**

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**6. Conclusion - vs. 13-14**

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**Summary**

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## Lessons

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1. Teaching \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Those who teacher the truth \_\_\_\_\_

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3. Those who teach must also \_\_\_\_\_

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4. Hospitality is \_\_\_\_\_

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