

NEW THRU 30 HISTORY

History: 1, 2, and 3 John

Author: The apostle John.

When were the 1, 2, and 3 John written, where were they composed and were they written to?: All three letters were written in the early 90s AD to churches in the area of Ephesus, with the exception of 3 John, which is addressed to an individual named Gaius.

Purpose of the Books: During the final two decades of the first century, a heretical group arose in the church that denied the incarnation of Jesus and that claimed that its members were without sin. 1 John contains John's response to the group and its beliefs, 2 John warns the churches against accepting missionaries from this group that are coming and corrupting them, and 3 John encourages a man named Gaius to continue to support John's own missionaries who are traveling to churches and combating the false teaching.

Interesting notes about 1, 2 and 3 John:

There are many similarities between these letters and John's Gospel, such as his contrast between light and darkness, truth and error, and love and hate. The vocabulary and style is also very similar.

Main Takeaways from 1, 2, and 3 John:

- There are many versions of Jesus that are not the real thing. We must be careful about what we believe, otherwise we could end up believing in a Jesus that is nothing more than the creation of someone's imagination, rather than the one that can save us and fill us with life.
- Those who claim to know Christ must strive to live as he did.
- Because God is love and has lavished his love on us, we should now love one another. If we lack love for those around us, it might be an indication that we do not truly know the God of love.
- Those who claim to be without sin are fooling themselves and are being robbed of one of the greatest benefits of Jesus' death on the cross. On the basis of Jesus' sacrifice, if we confess our sin, God is faithful to forgive us and cleanse us of the sin we have committed. If we insist on claiming that we are without sin, this benefit cannot be ours.