**The Epistle of 1st John**

Chapter 1

**The Incarnate Word**

1. Jesus: The True Word of Life We Have Seen (1-4)
2. God is Our Light (5-7)
3. We All are Sinners (8-10)

*Summary: John, in this first letter declares to the church that Jesus the Son of God Incarnate is real. He proclaims that as he and others have witnessed that Jesus came to save. He goes on to to proclaim God as light and that those who have sinned must repent and receive forgiveness.*

Chapter 2

**Love and Truth**

1. Jesus, Our Advocate (1-2)
2. We Must Obey (3-8)
3. You All Know the Truth: You are Forgiven (9-15)
4. Avoid the World, Expect Evil, a Sign of Last Days (16-29)

*Summary: Here, John applauds the church for their faith and knowledge of God, but warns them about the coming of the anti-Christ and evil in the world. He is clear that when say we are of the Light but do not love, we have sinned, and we are not being truthful. Also, he declares that Jesus is the Advocate for all who seek repentance; we are forgiven.*

Note: See the Gospel of John for parallels in the nature of Jesus as Light and Love in the role of the Son of God.

**Study Questions**

1. In these first chapters, John warns the church about sin and being truthful regarding our state of sin vs. salvation. What is an example of our denying our state today, when we declare ourselves Christians and yet behave differently?
2. A main theme in John's epistle is the nature of God as Light. Jesus referred to himself as the Light. Where was this, and how does Jesus’s “I” statement relate to what John is writing here?
3. As we have seen in Peter's letter, John talks about the last days. He mentions, as well, those who represent the antichrist. Is there a relationship or parallel between these persons that John mentions and false teachers that we see in other letters? If so, how would you explain it?

**Notes**

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