

Basics in Salvation: Summary of 1st John

Intro: John's first letter is a "straight shooting" evaluation of what it takes to be in fellowship with Christ. This afternoon, we try to summarize as well as deal with some the challenges of interpreting its content.

1. The Doctrinal Test

- A. Have a Biblical view of Christ – 1:1-4
- B. Have a Biblical view of sin – 1:5-2:2
- C. So called "antichrists" deny the faith – 2:18-27
- D. We must "try the spirits" to see if they are from God – 4:1-8
- E. Christian certainties because of Christ – 5:13-21

2. The Moral Test

- A. Obedience is a must – 2:3-6
- B. Hold to Biblical view of love – 2:7-17; 4:7-21
- C. The love that God hates – 2:12-17
- D. Hope in the Lord's return motivates striving for purity – 2:28-3:3
- E. Love **and** righteousness are required – 3:4-24 (Incompatibility with sin)

3. Some Challenges

- A. Unlike Paul, who often emphasizes man's failure to meet divine standard.
- B. But people often overlook Paul's more demanding side.
- C. John is very "black and white".
 - 1. Light vs. Dark – 1:5, 7; 2:8-11
 - 2. Truth vs. Lies - 2:21-22; 4:1
 - 3. Children of God vs. Children of the Devil – 3:10
- D. Understanding of challenges, may be seen by grasping the central problems handled in all the different letters: Paul, handling "law" controversies; Peter, dealing with suffering; John, dealing with immorality related to people denying the deity of Christ.

Conclusion: The challenging "straight shooting" nature of John's First Letter should not discourage us. Though pushing us to devoted obedience, the letter is also filled with great hope for the true disciple.