

Correspondence Bible Study

Lesson #49 – 1, 2 & 3 John and Jude

PRAYER: God of love, show me how to love others as You have loved me through Jesus, Your Son. Show me how to love Christ enough so that it really makes a difference in my life. Please give me opportunities to share Your love and prompt me to take advantage of doors You open. In the name of Jesus, who is the Light of the world. Amen.

Notes on 1, 2 & 3 John: It is accepted by all that the author of these short letters is John, the Apostle. References in the Gospel say that his mother Salome was a sister of Mary, Jesus' mother. That would make him a cousin of Christ. The Gospel of John tells us that Jesus and John were very close. The dates for these letters were probably between 85-95 A.D. The style and imagery of the epistles are similar in many ways to John's Gospel.

Already, toward the end of the first century, heresies had threatened the early church. John is writing against those who denied the unity of the human and divine natures of Christ. One view believed that the divine nature of Jesus joined the human nature at His baptism and left before He died on the cross. Such a view destroys the person and work of our Savior. John warns his readers and us against false prophets who would lead us astray. He makes it very clear that in the flesh and blood, Christ is the eternal Lord. The two natures were forever united at His conception.

Favorite Verse from 1 John:

Questions on 1 John:

1. Compare 1 John 1:1-7 to the Gospel of John 1:1-14. Write down some similarities.
2. 1 John 1:8-10 – What comfort do you find in these words?
3. Throughout these letters, John addresses the readers as his children. What do you think he means by that phrase?
4. Chapter 2:26 – John states why he is writing the letter. From the rest of the letter, how were others trying to lead these Christians astray?
5. Chapter 4:1-2 – How are we to test the spirits? How could we tell if they were false spirits?
6. 1 John – What are some insights on God's love that you gained?

Favorite verse from 2 John:

Questions on 2 John

1. Why do you think John wrote this short letter? (see especially vv. 10-11)

Favorite verse from 3 John:

Question from 3 John:

1. How is Gaius given as the good example to follow:

Notes on Jude:

As best as can be determined, the author was a half-brother of Jesus and a full brother to James, who became the leader of the Church in Jerusalem, sons of Joseph and Mary. Much of this letter is similar to 2 Peter. The date of writing could have been anywhere from 65-80 A.D. The heresy Jude warns the readers about would be similar to the one John mentions in his letters. The readers would need to be familiar with the Old Testament. Jude also quotes some apocryphal writings that the readers would have been familiar with. (Epochs of Enoch)

Favorite verse from Jude:

Questions on Jude:

1. List the Old Testament references. Why do you think he used so many?

2. Jude vv. 3, 17-23 – What does Jude call on the Christians to do?

Your questions on 1, 2, & 3 John and Jude...

Read Revelations