

Doctrine for New Christians

Using First John as a Departure Point

First John Chapter One

- 1:1-3 The historical reality of Christ and the Bible
- 1:3-4 The purpose of the Bible (why the Bible was written)
- 1:5-6 The purity and holiness of God
- 1:6 Hypocrisy: True vs. false religious experience
- 1:7; 9-10; 2:1-2 How Christians are to deal with sins after conversion

First John Chapter Two

- 2:1 The present mediatorial work of Christ (i.e., what Christ is doing now)
- 2:2 Propitiation: the nature of the Atonement
- 2:3-4 The test of a Christian's love for God
- 2:9-11; 3:14-15 Hatred as the antithesis of God's character and plan (what hatred does to a person)
- 2:15-17 The Christian's attitude towards the world
- 2:19 How to view those who "fall away"
- 2:22-23 The necessity of believing in the full, divine Sonship of Christ
- 2:28; 3:2-3 The power and purpose of a proper understanding of prophecy (the purifying effect of the Blessed Hope)

First John Chapter Three

- 3:1; 3:12-13 Why Christians are misunderstood and persecuted by the world
- 3:5-10 The security and sanctification of the believer
- 3:16-18 Actions versus intentions: the necessity of putting faith and love into action
- 3:19-21 The benefits of a healthy conscience
- 3:22 How to ensure answered prayer
- 3:24 Abiding in Christ and He in us

First John Chapter Four

- 4:1 Discernment: what it is and why we need it
- 4:5-6 The "hearing" ear
- 4:7-21 The doctrine of "love"

First John Chapter Five

- 5:1 The doctrine of the New Birth
- 5:3 The Carpenter's light yoke
- 5:4-5 The power of a life of faith. How faith operates in the life of a believer
- 5:9-10 The peril of unbelief; what unbelief believes; the inability of sitting on the fence
- 5:13, 18 The doctrine of Assurance; the Security of the Believer
- 5:19 The Christian life as a warfare
- 5:21 Spiritual idolatry

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