

STUDY PACK 1

INTRODUCTION

“First John has been called the sanctum sanctorum of the New Testament, taking the believer across the threshold into the _____.”

~~ Lehman Strauss, *The Epistles of John*, p. 22 ~~

I. I JOHN

- A. I John is called an epistle but it does not have the _____.
- B. Tradition says that John wrote his epistles after the Gospel of John, and after the book of Revelation, and after his imprisonment on the Isle of Patmos. The dates of I, II, III John are around _____.
- C. The title *The First Epistle of John*, has always been part of the epistle and is of divine origin.
- D. The theme of I John is found in 5:13.
- E. The use of words in I John.
 - 1. The word Father appears 13 times.
 - 2. Believers are called _____ 8 times.
 - 3. The word sin appears 28 times.
 - 4. Forms of the word _____ appear 39 times.
 - 5. The word world appears 23 times.
 - 6. Forms of the word love are used 51 times.
 - 8. Commandment or commandments is used 14 times.
- F. The purpose of I John.
- G. John was designed to combat the Gnostic heresy (and heresy in general).

II. II JOHN

- A. The author is “the elder” traditionally ascribed to John. John was the last surviving apostle.
- B. The epistle was addressed to the “elect lady.” These are two primary ideas about the identity of the “elect lady”:
 - 1. John is addressing a particular lady and her ministry from a church she had ministered in.
 - 2. A second opinion is that the phrase “elect lady” refers to a _____ – the Bride of Christ.
- C. The theme is a warning about _____. “The unique contribution of this short epistle to the canon is in its description of the attitudes and actions a Christian should manifest toward false teachers.” Robert Gromacki, *New Testament Survey*, p. 319.

III. III JOHN

- A. Traditionally the author has always been recognized as John the Apostle.
- B. The epistle is addressed to Gaius. It also refers to Diotrephes and Demetrius. All three appear to be members of the same local church.
- C. The purpose of the book encourages good behavior in the local church and discourages bad behavior. Note the phrases “_____”, “_____”, and “hath not seen God.”
- D. Identity of Gaius.

Paul had at least three companions named Gaius; Acts 20:4; 1 Corinthians 1:14; Romans 16:23. Nothing in Scripture or church history identified this Gaius identifies this Gaius.

IV. JUDE

- A. There are seven men named Jude in the New Testament.
 - 1. An ancestor of Jesus, Luke 3:30.
 - 2. The traitor among the apostles, Mark 3:19.
 - 3. Thaddaeus, of the 12 apostles.
 - 4. A rebel from Galilee.

5. A native of Damascus.
 6. An emissary of the church at Jerusalem.
 7. The brother of James, tradition says that this is the author of Jude and that he is the half-brother of Jesus.
- B. The book is very similar to _____.
- C. The book is addressed to the brethren.
- D. The purpose of the book is clearly a warning against _____ and _____.

V. CANONICITY

I John was recognized as canonical very quickly. There was opposition to 2 John, 3 John and Jude because of their brevity. However, all were quoted by early Christian leaders and recognized as canonical by the Council of Carthage, A.D. 397.