

1 John

“that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ.” John 20:31

1 John was written with two main purposes in mind.

1. “That you might know that you have eternal life.”

1 John 5:13 1 John 5:1 Hebrews 2:14

2. Confront the error of the false teachers.

To fully understand 1 John we must understand the nature of the enemy the church faced at that time.

These teachers were the early forerunners of the Gnostics.

So what did they teach?

1.) They rejected the humanity of Christ (not Jesus).

They made a complete separation between Jesus and Christ
John 20:31 Acts 2:36

- a. Christ only seemed to have a physical body.
- b. Others taught that Christ’s spirit came upon Jesus, the man, at His baptism but left Him at or before the crucifixion. 1 John 4:2 1 John 1:1

2.) They taught that since the body was matter, it was evil.

- a. Some taught that the body should be treated harshly.
- b. Some taught that sin was only in the realm of the physical and separate from the spiritual.
- c. Therefore, salvation was not through faith in Christ but was escape from the body achieved through special “knowledge.”

So what!

1. If Jesus is not the Christ, He could not die for your sins.
2. If Jesus is not the Christ, He did not rise from the dead.
3. If Jesus is not the Christ, you are left to be your own savior.

To be Savior is a big assignment!

1. You must live a sinless life so you can die for your own sins.
2. You must have power over death, the ability to raise yourself.
3. You must be powerful enough to defeat Satan, death and hell.