

# 1,2,3 John

## Breakdown

- 1, 2 & 3 John were written by the apostle John, who also wrote the Gospel of John and Revelation. As one of Jesus' disciples, he was able to give first-hand testimony of the ministry of Jesus and how it impacts everyone even in our modern times.
- John's first letter was written to the church as a whole but his second and third letters were written to individuals.
- All three of John's letters were written sometime between 85-95 A.D.

## Main Points

- As the early church began, the only Scriptures they had for the basis of their Christian faith was the Old Testament. Since Jesus came to fulfill the Law and the Prophets, the church began to grow as the apostles talked about the things Jesus did to fulfill the Old Testament. The problem is that Jewish leaders outside the church were promoting false teachings about the meaning of the Scriptures and the ministry of Jesus. The apostles set about documenting their testimony of the ministry of Jesus through letters.
- According to Biblical history, John was the longest surviving apostle, which means his letters were some of the last written. In order to help identify false teachers (1 John 2:18-26), John wrote specifically about "*the message we heard from Jesus*" (1 John 1:5).

## Did you know?

- John began his first letter by explaining why he could testify about Jesus' ministry. What reason did John give?
- John said that some people deceive themselves – "*the truth is not in them*" – when they say that they are living without what?
- John specifically addressed his first letter to three different age groups. What were the three groups of people John talked about?
- John said that we can see which people are children of God and which are children of the devil. How did John say we would be able to see the difference?
- John said there are three witnesses that all agree that Jesus is indeed the Son of God. What are the three witnesses?
- John said we should watch out for deceivers who are in the world. How did he say we would be able to tell who the deceivers are?
- John wrote his third letter to a dear friend of his. Who was the friend?

## Further Thought

- John wrote about the importance of love: God's love for us, our love for God, and our love for one another. John even said that love is how the world will know we are children of God. What can we do to love one another so that the world sees God's love in us?
- John said that we are lying if we say we have fellowship with God, but we continue to live in spiritual darkness. Instead, we should be living in the light as God is in the light. How can we live more in the light so that we always have fellowship with God?