

I John – “Stay the course..”

Author

Apostle John - 1:1 - That which was from the beginning, **which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes.**

Audience

Christian audience: My dear children (2:1, 12, 13, 18 28, 3:7, 18, 4:4,), Dear friends (1:7, 3:2, 21, 4:1, 11,) 3:1 - **How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God.**

Date

85 - 95 A.D. Generally believed to be written after the Gospel of John and before Revelation. According to church tradition John died around 100 A.D. Indications of advanced age (my dear children) suggest book written near end of first century.

Purpose - To encourage believers to hold on to the foundations of their faith
Hold on to the faith against false teaching, in this case primarily gnosticism.
Gnosticism - Spirit is entirely good and matter is entirely evil.

1. Man’s body is matter, therefore evil.
2. Salvation is achieved by special knowledge.
3. Christ’s true humanity was denied. **4:2-3 Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God.**
4. Since the body is evil it is to be treated harshly.
5. Get your party on, my body made me do it! **3:4-6 Everyone who sins breaks the law, in fact, sin is lawlessness. But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in Him is no sin.**

2:3 - **We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands.**

Text of the morning - 1 John 3:23 - **And this is his command: To believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. 3:23**

The author should sound familiar

The purpose should be consistent

The command is eternal