

OAK RIDGE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

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Wednesday Bible Study

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The Books to – 1, 2, 3 John

Introduction:

The heart of God yearns for the fellowship of His people. We hear men speak of how we ought to have fellowship with God, and rightly so. But do we ever think that the Lord yearns and longs for our fellowship? In Amos 3:3 we read, “How can two walk together unless they have an appointment.”

See my friends, we who are believers in the Lord Jesus Christ have an appointment with God and God has an appointment with us. God always keeps His appointments. We are the ones who do not keep the appointment with God. This truth is all through the Bible. God wants our fellowship. This is in my opinion, the heartbeat of the Epistles of John. In chapter 1:3-4, “Truly our fellowship (partnership) is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.” Thus, I thought it would do us good this year of 2022 to begin this study in the Epistles of John; especially given our world situation. We need some fellowship, joy, and love to invade our spaces this year and beyond.

The Epistle of John was written approximately twenty-five years after Paul had written his prison Epistles. According to the Historian Clement, it was after John had returned from the Isle of Patmos, where he had written the Book of Revelation, that he wrote the Epistle of John. He had been set at liberty from his slavery by the Romans and had gone to Ephesus. While in Ephesus, the aged John wrote this precious letter.

One of the reasons for the writing of this Epistle was that John might warn against a heresy which had sprung in the early church. It was called the Gnostic heresy. The Gnostics denied the incarnation. They did not believe that God could be manifest in human flesh. They said that matter is evil and it was unthinkable to them that a holy God could take the form of a man.

In his answer to the Gnostics, John declares empathically that there can be no spiritual life, no fellowship or relationship with God apart from the Incarnate Word of God.

This, then, is the emphasis of this Epistle. Here we have the truth concerning the Incarnate Word and the blessed privilege of our fellowship with Him.

Key Themes to discover in 1, 2, 3 John:

Word (Logos)	false teaching	testing the spirits	fellowship
Incarnation	Truth	not sinning	God’s witnesses
light and darkness	brotherly love	assurance of eternal life	who is the Antichrist?

Outline – 1, 2, 3, John

- I. **The Way of Life: 1 John 1: 1 – 10**
 - A. **From the Beginning: 1 John 1: 1 – 4**
 - B. **God is Light: 1 John 1: 5**
 - C. **The Walk in the Light: 1 John 1: 6 – 10**
- II. **The New Relationship: 1 John 2: 1 – 29**
 - A. **The Advocate: 1 John 2: 1 – 6**
 - B. **A New Commandment: 1 John 2: 7 – 17**
 - C. **Abide in Him: 1 John 2: 18 – 29**
- III. **Truth and Love: 1 John 3: 1 – 4: 21**
 - A. **See What Love: 1 John 3: 1 – 18**
 - B. **Test the Spirits: 1 John 3: 19 – 4:6**
 - C. **Love Is an Event: 1 John 4: 7 -21**
- IV. **Discipleship: 1 John 5: 1 – 21**
 - A. **Not Burdensome: 1 John 5: 1 – 12**
 - B. **Keep Away from Idols: 1 John 5: 13 – 21**
- V. **Christians in the World: 2 John 1 – 13**
 - A. **The Elect Lady: 2 John 1 – 3**
 - B. **Tough Love: 2 John 4 – 13**
- VI. **The Family of God: 3 John 1 – 14**
 - A. **No Greater Joy: 3 John 1 – 8**
 - B. **A Question of Leadership: 3 John 9 – 14**

It is my sincere prayer that we all are encouraged, as well as, enlighten by this extraordinary letter of John, the Beloved disciple.