

1st John # 01“Introduction, our Author and his Purpose”

Recovery is our access to intimate fellowship with the Lord; the gateway to divine power in our life or our license to serve Him.

Unbelievers are spiritually powerless being spiritually dead and there's only one thing a spiritually dead person can do for salvation, express faith alone in Christ alone; he can't make a good enough commitment; he can't make Jesus Lord and he can't go through any agonizing emotional activity that will save him, he must simply believe in TLJC to be saved.

So, what is the solution for us? We simply follow God's instructions and then recovery of the filling of the Holy Spirit provides the power to use faith in the spiritual life.

The Occasion: 1stJohn was basically written to dispute the philosophies of Gnosticism.

Zoroastrianism, founded by Zoroaster, an ancient Iranian spiritual leader whose teachings became the dominant religion in Ancient Persia known as Persian Dualism, states that the world is a battleground with two opposing systems such as good vs evil and matter vs spirit. *Gnosticism tried to marry Christian and pagan doctrines like Jesus' teaching on denying self as a true disciple with asceticism—man can only reach a high moral and spiritual place by practicing self-denial even self-mortification; then at the other end of the spectrum, Paul's teaching that we are free in Christ with antinomianism, freedom from any moral responsibility because our relationship with Jesus Christ is by grace.*

1stJohn is written to refute Cerinthian and Docetic Gnosticism.

Cerinthian Gnosticism is a heresy taught by Cerinthus that said the Christ came upon Jesus at His baptism and left him just before His crucifixion.

Orthodoxy is adherence to biblical principles and traditionalism is a heresy, having some truth mixed with false doctrine but Gnosticism is neither traditional or orthodox.

Are the tests in 1st John about our justification or whether or not we're walking in fellowship with God; are they tests of eternal life or tests of abundant life?

John is clearly writing to born-again people, those 'who believe' in 1stJohn 5:13 and a born-again believer cannot gain assurance of his salvation by considering his works.

So, 1st John became the background for dealing with the important subject of conflict between two systems of authority; the divine viewpoint of spiritual fellowship and the human viewpoint of carnal lack of fellowship.

John's intense passion was bridled, yet he still had it and it was under control and he was allowed to vent when acceptable or necessary.

So, John the mature believer adult showed the same intense passion in his writings but only against those who refused to believe in Jesus and especially those who actively taught false doctrine.

Mild temperament is not inconsistent with occasional righteous indignation.

The intensity of one's love toward TLJC is measured by the intensity of their hatred toward behavior that He frowns upon.