

LIVING RIGHT IN A WRONG WORLD: A STUDY IN 1 JOHN

LIVING RIGHT IN A WRONG WORLD

SELECTIONS FROM 1 JOHN



The Heart of the Matter

When the apostle John finally sat down to gather his thoughts and express his convictions on parchment, he was an old man. So much had changed since he had walked with Jesus as one of the original Twelve. Those simple yet powerful three-plus years John spent with Jesus were followed by six long and painful decades. Erosion had set into the life of the church. The newness of fresh faith had begun to wane, now that the church was in the hands of second- and third-generation Christians. A subtle, lethargic boredom had replaced the excitement modeled by those early followers of Jesus. The first thrill was over . . . the hot flame of devotion reduced to a flicker. In a setting like that, the subtle seeds of heresy are easily sown and quickly grown. Cults feed off complacent churches, where dynamic enthusiasm is replaced by ho-hum indifference. Tragically, that is *exactly* what was happening to the church in John's day—and that is precisely what led him to write this letter. He hoped to revive his younger readers to return to an authentic, contagious walk with Christ. His message was relevant then and remains vital today. Let's hear it and heed it!



Discovering the Way

1. Vital Statistics That Relate to the Letter: Writer and Date (Mark 3:13–17)

The writer of the letter is the apostle John, writing sometime in the AD 90s.

2. Vital Statistics That Relate to the Letter: Purpose of the Letter

John wrote the letter to ignite Christians with new zeal, expose false teachers, and reassure believers of eternal salvation.

3. Vital Statistics That Relate to the Letter: Theme and Structure (1 John 1:4; 2:1, 26; 5:13)

John declared why he wrote the letter, highlighted by the words “write,” “writing,” and “written.”



Starting Your Journey

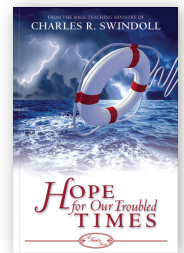
Four statements apply to our times. First, in an angry and dark world, the joyful Christian is a bright light. Second, in a lawless society, the clean Christian is a contagious witness. Third, in a deceptive culture, the discerning Christian is a convicting presence. And fourth, in a confused age, the confident Christian is a strong magnet.



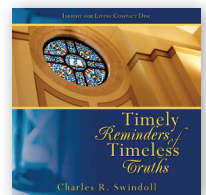
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LIVING RIGHT IN A WRONG WORLD SURVEY CHART OF 1 JOHN

Fellowship with God Produces . . .

	A JOYFUL LIFE “These things we write, so that our joy may be made complete” (1:4). <i>CHAPTER</i> <i>1</i>	A CLEAN LIFE “I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin” (2:1). <i>CHAPTER</i> <i>2:1–17</i>	A DISCERNING LIFE “These things I have written to you concerning those who are trying to deceive you” (2:26). <i>CHAPTERS</i> <i>2:18–4:6</i>	A CONFIDENT LIFE “These things I have written to you . . . so that you may know that you have eternal life” (5:13). <i>CHAPTERS</i> <i>4:7–5:21</i>
How?	By Walking (1:7)	By Obeying (2:3–5)	By Testing (4:1)	By Believing (5:10)
What?	Light	Love	Truth	Knowledge
Who?	Son of God (1:3, 7)	Advocate (2:1)	Holy One (2:20)	Propitiation (4:10) “Satisfaction”

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LIVING RIGHT IN A WRONG WORLD

A PROFOUND PREFACE

1 JOHN 1:1–4



The Heart of the Matter

A quick glance at the letter of 1 John can be misleading. It is not uncommon for the casual reader to think, *This is brief and the words seem simple and easy to read—after all, they were written by a man who was once a fisherman—this letter can't be all that complex.* Wrong! Ask any serious student of the Scriptures for an opinion of this letter and you will hear that it is one of the most challenging of all the New Testament letters. Furthermore, it doesn't get complicated later on—it is complicated from the very beginning. The first four verses, which serve as a preface to the letter, represent a grammatical knot. John may have been 90 years old and may have on the surface seemed like a simple-hearted follower of Jesus, but as we go deeper into the letter, we see that what he wrote was profound.



Discovering the Way

1. Three Important Word Pictures in the Letter (Selections from 1 John)

John described God as “life” (1 John 1:1–2), as “Light” (1:5), and as “love” (4:8, 16).

2. A Complicated Beginning of the Letter (1 John 1:1–4)

John began his letter with a statement of “beginning”—a device he used in his gospel, much like Moses used in the book of Genesis. John also underscored two significant terms: “fellowship” and “joy.”



Starting Your Journey

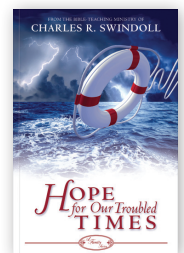
Our practical response, as we begin to dive into John's first letter, is to remember that what appears on the surface rarely represents what lies hidden beneath the surface; there is big stuff in this little letter.



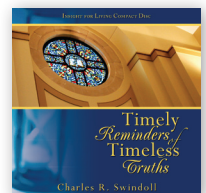
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LIVING RIGHT IN A WRONG WORLD
GOD'S LIGHT AND OUR BLIGHT
1 JOHN 1:5-10



The Heart of the Matter

Other biblical writings tell us a lot about what God *does*, but 1 John focuses on who God is. While other writers wrote of God's power, His work, His will, and His way, John went back again and again to who God is in His nature. In the opening sentence of this letter, John stated that God is *life*. God is the source of life, the One who originates life, who gives eternal life, and who made Himself known as "the Word of Life" (1 John 1:1). While exulting in the memory of having seen Jesus, heard Him, and touched Him, the aged apostle stated that it's this One whom "we proclaim to you" (1:3). All of that prompted John to announce the message he wanted his readers to know—that God is *light*. That descriptive term represents, vertically, the *truth* and the *purity* of God in heaven. And John also addressed a practical or horizontal dimension regarding God's *light*. It plays a crucial role in distinguishing genuine faith from counterfeit claims made by people on earth. As we shall discover, God's light penetrates behind the words we say and reveals if, in fact, truth and purity are realities within us.



Discovering the Way

1. God's Character Is Holy and Pure (1 John 1:5)

God is perfectly holy and pure, which is important, because without God's light, we'd never find permanent relief or release from our inner darkness.

2. Our Nature Is Dark and Depraved—Even though Many Claim Otherwise (1 John 1:6, 8, 10)

Those who ignore their sin are liars; those who claim no sin are self-deceived; those who believe in perpetual perfection make God a liar.

3. Our Hope Is Cleansing and Confessing—Even though Some Don't Realize (1 John 1:7, 9)

If we walk in the Light, we enjoy intimacy with others. If we confess our sins, God forgives us.



Starting Your Journey

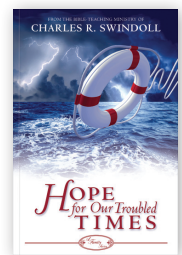
We begin each morning determined to walk all day in the Light and continue each day ever aware of our own sinful nature.



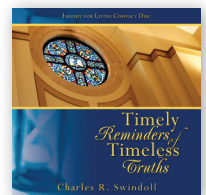
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LIVING RIGHT IN A WRONG WORLD
FAMILY RULES FOR “LITTLE CHILDREN”
1 JOHN 2:1–6



The Heart of the Matter

The letter of 1 John is for the family of God. It contains the kind of expressions and information commonly heard among family members behind closed doors. We get that impression from numerous references in these five chapters addressing “little children” and “children,” as well as “fathers,” “young men,” and “brothers.” In this letter, John passed along the same kind of sage advice we hear when gathered at the knee of a family patriarch. At the time he wrote, John had lived almost a century and had endured the blast of life’s harshest treatment. He had felt the brutal blows of persecution and bore the scars that proved it. He had also witnessed the fall of many who once walked closely with their Lord; he anguished over heresies that had sprung up in the lives of Christians he loved—people who were once actively engaged in churches where he had served. Because he had “seen it all,” this old gentleman was able to offer some elementary rules all of us would be wise to hear and obey.



Discovering the Way

1. A Fresh and Creative Way to View John’s Letter

John saw his readers, including us, as little children in need of wise warnings. The challenge for us is to see ourselves as John did and to listen carefully.

2. Six Elementary Rules to Live By (1 John 2:1–6)

Because John was speaking to “little children,” he kept his advice simple, offering six truths every child of God should heed.



Starting Your Journey

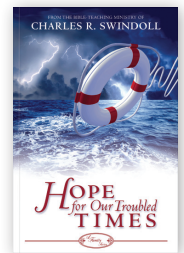
Little children often need reminders, so remember: don’t ever mess with stuff that gets you into trouble; when you foul up, remember you have Someone who is always in your corner; behave yourself because you’re a member of the family; no matter what you say, your actions tell the real truth; always remember your obedience reveals how much you respect your Father; and when you’re looking for a hero to follow—choose Jesus.



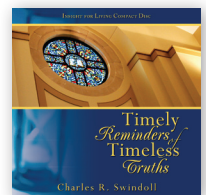
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THE BELIEVER'S BADGE

1 JOHN 2:7-11



The Heart of the Matter

The prayer of one aging saint, “Lord, keep me from becoming a bitter old man,” is worth remembering. How easy it is to let our age dictate our attitude as we grow older. Rather than becoming more mellow and gracious, some choose to get more stubborn and belligerent. Thankfully, that isn’t true of everyone — and certainly not of the apostle John! Though almost at the century mark, he continued to be known for his Christlike life and love. Not surprisingly, John developed the theme of love early in his letter. He had seen love on display throughout the years of his Master’s ministry, up to and beyond the night when John sat beside Jesus during the Last Supper. John vividly remembered and later recorded that “[Jesus] loved them to the end” (John 13:1). And so should we, Jesus’s followers, love others.



Discovering the Way

1. How Easy to Forget . . .

How easy it is to forget the extent of Jesus’s love and the proof of His love.

2. How Important to Remember . . . (1 John 2:7-11)

How important it is to remember that love is an ever-relevant command of Christ. Love reveals the darkness of hidden hatred and is expressed in how we treat one another.



Starting Your Journey

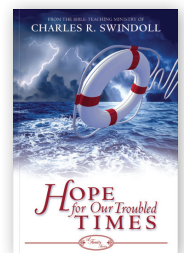
How valuable it is to acknowledge the benefits of abiding in the Light and the consequences of walking in the darkness.



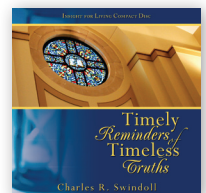
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LIVING RIGHT IN A WRONG WORLD
STRONG TALK ON THE COSMOS
1 JOHN 2:12–17



The Heart of the Matter

It's often best to go easy on others. When people are broken, beaten down, and feeling crushed beneath life's load, the last thing they need is a verbal rebuke. On those occasions, a gentle touch of compassion holds them together. Other times, it's necessary to lay aside the diplomacy and go for the jugular. Most of us can remember a time when the last thing we needed was sweet talk—what we needed was a swift kick in the pants. In the first two chapters, John was kind and gracious with his readers. Then, however, John got down to brass tacks. After readdressing his readers, he drove home a warning that is so strong, it's impossible to miss his point. It is remarkable how pertinent and penetrating his comments on the cosmos are to this day. To all Christians: this is no time to dream and drift—*listen up!*



Discovering the Way

1. A Review: Those to Whom This Is Written (1 John 2:12–14)

John reminds us that we are “little children” though some of us are older “fathers” and others of us are “young men.”

2. A Warning: To All Who Live in This Cosmos (1 John 2:15–16)

John presses us to heed his warning, but to do so we must first understand “the world” and its lusts and pride.



Starting Your Journey

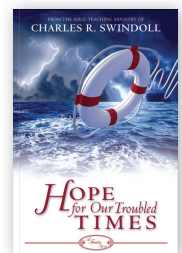
John concluded his warning with a contrast between the temporary and the eternal (1 John 2:17), prompting us to avoid the extremes of isolating ourselves or asserting ourselves and to live in the balance of disciplining ourselves.



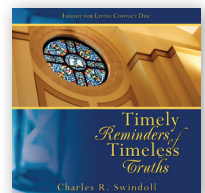
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LIVING RIGHT IN A WRONG WORLD
THE DISTURBING REALITIES OF OUR TIMES
1 JOHN 2:15–18



The Heart of the Matter

We pause from our verse-by-verse study in order to take a painfully honest inventory of our times. Not only will this enable us to see very realistically where we find ourselves, spiritually speaking, but it will help us understand how to interpret and apply the things John wrote in his letter. As we unpack these few lines of Scripture, we begin to see how clearly they describe the disturbing realities of our times, and hopefully we will discover how to navigate our way through the maze of humanism, skepticism, and postmodernism. While wading through the evidence of life as it really is these days, it becomes increasingly clear that our Adversary is having a twenty-first-century field day!



Discovering the Way

1. A Review: Analyzing “the World” (1 John 2:15–17)

The “world” in John’s letter refers to the organized system of our culture that is headed by Satan, is antithetical to God, and is hostile to Christ and His Word.

2. An Explanation: Defining “Many Antichrists” (1 John 2:18)

The demonically powerful world leader is yet to come, but before his arrival many pseudo-Christes will come into the world and demonstrate a spirit opposed to Christ.

3. An Inventory: Understanding Our Times

If we are to be modern-day sons and daughters of Issachar, then we must realize that there are three troubling changes that have taken place in our culture, and we must understand ten disturbing realities.



Starting Your Journey

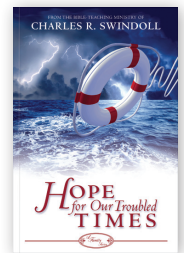
How do we survive these troubled times? We must learn discernment because it will keep us from being deceived, duped, and disillusioned. We must also be dedicated to a godly path because it will enable us to make hard decisions.



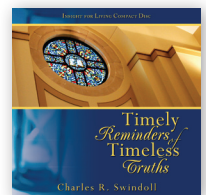
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DEALING WITH DECEIVERS

1 JOHN 2:18–27



The Heart of the Matter

If you are a follower of Christ, are you embarrassed to speak His name or afraid to defend His cause in public? Do you believe that no spiritual battles are worth fighting or that the world is a friend who will help you know God better? These searching questions often surface a philosophical tug-of-war within. As we answer them for ourselves, we must acknowledge that a battle is raging. Most people have trouble seeing where the battle lines are drawn. However, it is the same conflict John wrote of in his first letter—it is the battle between truth and error, between orthodoxy and heresy.



Discovering the Way

1. Declaring a Conflict Many Would Deny

A war is on—an invisible war—though many would deny it. It is the war to destroy human souls, and the opening salvo and earliest tactic of this war was deception.

2. Announcing and Exposing Heresy (1 John 2:18–27)

Deceivers hate exposure. They'd rather operate in the dark, where they can spread the toxic fumes of heresy undetected. But lest we fall victim, we must understand the differences between deceivers and genuine believers (2:18–21), explain the nature and results of heresy (2:22–23), and claim the safeguards against deceivers (24–27).



Starting Your Journey

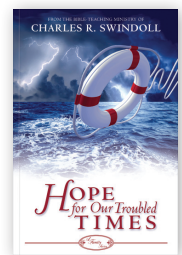
We don't have to be defeated by deception. We can walk in triumph, if we renew our commitment to the Word of God, stand firm in our convictions, and stay focused on Christ.



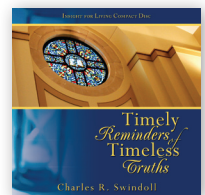
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LIVING RIGHT IN A WRONG WORLD
OUR LORD'S RETURN: WHAT THEN?
1 JOHN 2:28–3:3



The Heart of the Matter

The doctrine of the return of Jesus Christ is no recent fad. It is part of the body of truth taught not only by Jesus Himself but also by His apostles. Paul was especially fond of the subject and often wrote of it in his letters. He used four terms to describe it: *parousia* (Christ's presence), *phanerosis* (His appearing), *epiphaneia* (His epiphany), and *apokalupsis* (His revelation). John used those first two terms in the section of 1 John we're looking at today. In fact, John used the phrase "when [Christ] appears" twice in these five verses (2:28; 3:2). It is clear that John was urging all of us, his readers, to think and plan ahead—to realize that the Lord's return is an inescapable reality which we can face with assurance, not shame. We are to be filled with anticipation, knowing that "we will see Him just as He is." What a grand hope!



Discovering the Way

1. Paul's Explanation of What's Ahead (1 Thessalonians 4:13–18)

Paul explained that the coming of Christ is an actual reality, with a known order of events, leading to a comforting truth.

2. John's Analysis of Christ's Appearing (1 John 2:28–3:3)

John analyzed the coming of Christ by giving us an important command (abide), a reassuring reminder (confidence), an outburst of wonder (love), a glorious promise (likeness), and a fixed hope (purity).



Starting Your Journey

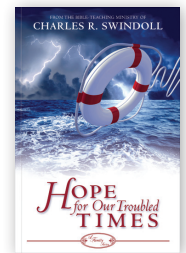
Anticipating the imminent return of Christ is an effective motivator to abide in Christ and keep your life free of sin.



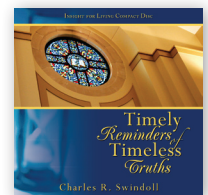
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LIVING RIGHT IN A WRONG WORLD
THAT NASTY THREE-LETTER WORD
1 JOHN 3:4-10



The Heart of the Matter

Of the many things we could name that cause Christians grief and heartache, nothing can compare to *sin*. We are assured that at salvation God removed the curse of sin from us, “as far as the east is from the west” (Psalm 103:12). What a *glorious* truth! And yet—sin never really went away. Sin invades our thoughts, degrades our motives, and weakens—even ruins—our relationships. Sin infects our attitudes, damages our marriages, and discolors our reputations as it prompts us to think what we shouldn’t think, say what we shouldn’t say, and head toward dangerous destinations where we shouldn’t go. Amazingly, even though Christians know all of this and even though we have the Holy Spirit permanently living within us to restrain us from acting out—we often go right ahead and sin. So, does this mean we are not really born again? Let’s find out!



Discovering the Way

1. Sin: An Ever-Present Reality (Selected Scriptures from Romans 5 and 7)
Christ died to forgive our sins and to give us newness of life, but the old sin nature continues to live within us as well.

2. Analyzing Sin and the Christian (1 John 3:4-9)

John concluded that the practice of sin is a continual, habitual lifestyle, the nature of sin is lawlessness, and the origin of sin is the Devil.



Starting Your Journey

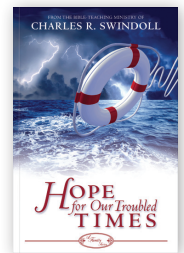
God’s seed (1 John 3:9), the Holy Spirit, is within every Christian though we remain sinners. However, God loves sinners even though the Devil seeks to confuse lost sinners into thinking they are saved and Christian sinners into thinking they are lost.



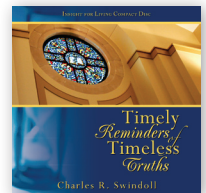
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Committed to Excellence in Communicating Biblical Truth and Its Application

LIVING RIGHT IN A WRONG WORLD

LOVE AND HATE: WHERE ARE YOU?

1 JOHN 3:11–18



The Heart of the Matter

Stop and read these eight verses. Let the words say what they actually say — don't sugarcoat them or try to explain away their blunt, abrupt message. Talk about straight talk! If you allow the impact of this single paragraph to unload its full weight on you, it will make you groan and squirm. You may even lose some sleep. To put it in one brief sentence, John was saying: *lack of love is murderous*. It is not simply unfortunate or unpleasant; it is not just disappointing and regrettable. There's no middle ground; it's either love or hate. And if you opt for hate instead of love, you are a murderer. Does that shock you? Seem too strong? Look, it's right there in 1 John 3:15. Today, we'll look at the age-old tragic account of Cain and Abel, the first offspring of the very first couple, Adam and Eve. The mixture of hate and jealousy that resulted in a terrible crime stands as a strong contrast to love — certainly to the kind of self-sacrificial love demonstrated by the One who laid down His life for us.



Discovering the Way

1. Familiar Message (1 John 3:11)

John reminded his readers of Jesus's command: "love one another."

2. Tragic Story (1 John 3:12–13)

John reminded his readers of the first murder.

3. Shocking Contrasts (1 John 3:14–15)

John contrasted for his readers love and hate.

4. Genuine Examples (1 John 3:16–18)

John reminded his readers of Christ's love and admonished them to love.



Starting Your Journey

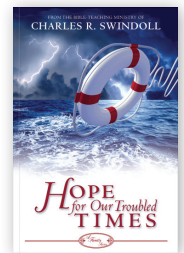
So, where are you? Ask God to help you focus on a need in one person's life and then do something about it.



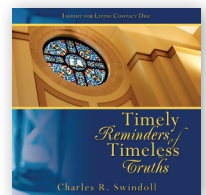
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LIVING RIGHT IN A WRONG WORLD
YOU AND YOUR CONSCIENCE
1 JOHN 3:19–24



The Heart of the Matter

Who hasn't battled a guilty conscience? On the other hand, who hasn't felt the reassurance of a clear conscience? When we do something wrong, this silent voice within—like the warning light on the dashboard of our car—gives off signals we find virtually impossible to ignore. Even when we try hard to convince ourselves that everything is okay, if our conscience doesn't agree, it will not let us rest. You'll be pleased to know that as far back as the first century, John addressed this struggle. He offered all of us some advice that is not only helpful, it is inspired by God.



Discovering the Way

1. Some Introductory Issues

This is a difficult section of Scripture, so we must remember the immediate context (1 John 3:11–18) and understand the key terms “truth” and “heart.”

2. When Our Conscience “Condemns” Us (1 John 3:19–20)

Our conscience often condemns us in our weakness, but never forget that God is greater than our conscience.

3. When Our Conscience “Does Not Condemn” Us (1 John 3:21–24)

When our conscience doesn't condemn us, we reap three great benefits: confidence toward God, answers to prayer, and reassurance from the Spirit.



Starting Your Journey

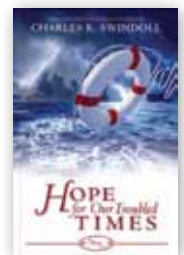
Let's put this all together by looking at three perspectives. First, when your conscience accuses you, look back and ask why? Second, when your heart affirms you, look around and see why. And third, when the Spirit assures you, look within and know why.



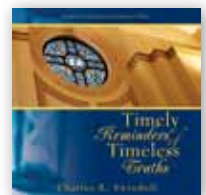
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LIVING RIGHT IN A WRONG WORLD
DISTINGUISHING TRUTH FROM ERROR
1 JOHN 4:1-6



The Heart of the Matter

Cults and false religions abound in this generation. Thousands of “churches” exist that are led by deceptive but convincing individuals whose knowledge of sound doctrine and biblical truth is dubious and often even dangerous. To exacerbate the problem, our postmodern times are marked by such an extreme emphasis on tolerance and pluralism that anyone who takes a stand against false teaching is labeled “bigoted” and “judgmental.” The proliferation of religious error should not surprise us, because the Adversary fuels its fire. Paul clearly warned that “even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light” (2 Corinthians 11:14). Therefore, it’s easy to see how up-to-date John’s command is today: “test the spirits” (1 John 4:1).



Discovering the Way

1. What’s Happening in the Name of “Religion”?

The quick answer to this question is just what was predicted so long ago.

2. Two Serious Commands We Must Obey (1 John 4:1)

John warned us not to believe everything we hear but to test what we hear to see whether or not it is of God.

3. Why and How Our Obedience Is Important (1 John 4:1-3)

Obedience is important because many false teachers are in the world, and we know they are false if they don’t confess Jesus as God incarnate.

4. Two Contrasting Groups of Followers (1 John 4:4-6)

Those who are from God have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, but those who are from the world speak as the world speaks.



Starting Your Journey

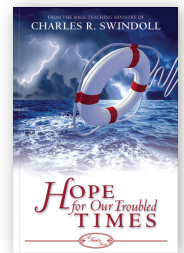
The essential principles we need to remember: when searching for the truth, listen carefully to the one teaching and look closely at those who are following.



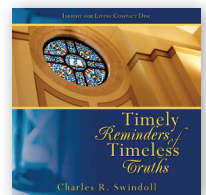
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THE SUPREME SIGNIFICANCE OF LOVE
1 JOHN 4:7-21



The Heart of the Matter

Of all the things John learned from Jesus during those years he walked alongside Him as one of the disciples, love was paramount. John's gospel mentions love much more than those of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. When John recalled the Savior's final words to His disciples in the Upper Room, he remembered how often Jesus both spoke of love and demonstrated it. The power of Jesus's love transformed John's life. We should not be surprised, then, that when the apostle came to the end of his life and wrote a letter to the church, his major theme was to love one another. He underscored it repeatedly. As we examine today's section, we return to the same subject for the third time in this letter. (See also 1 John 2:7-10 and 3:11-18.)



Discovering the Way

1. Repeated Command: "Love One Another" (1 John 4:7-12)

John gave three reasons why we should obey the command of love. First is a theological reason (4:7-10). Second is a reciprocal reason (4:11). And third is a practical reason (4:12).

2. Divine Enablement: "God Abides in Him" (1 John 4:13-16)

If we love one another, then the Lord abides in us through the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit, and His love abides within us.

3. Perfect Love: "Love Is Perfected with Us" (1 John 4:17-21)

If we love one another, then God's love is perfected in us, providing an unshrinking confidence, an absence of fear, and the ability to love others.



Starting Your Journey

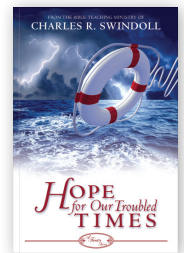
Our love for God is validated by our love for our brothers and sisters in God's family. So, this week think of someone who has meant a lot to you, contact this person, and tell him or her, "I love you."



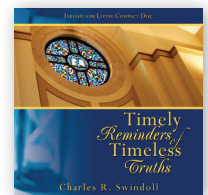
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LIVING RIGHT IN A WRONG WORLD
BELIEVERS, OVERCOMERS, WITNESSES
1 JOHN 5:1-12



The Heart of the Matter

God's people are identified throughout the Bible by various titles. Among them are Christians, disciples, followers, saints, sheep, salt, light, ambassadors for Christ, members of the body, a royal priesthood, aliens and strangers, servants of Christ, and the people of God—just to name a few. Like a diamond being turned under a bright light, each designation reveals yet another facet of our character, role, position, and/or privilege. Near the end of John's letter, he introduced two additional titles: "believer" and "overcomer." And he made readers aware of "three that testify" in full agreement regarding God's Son (1 John 5:8). All of this deepens our understanding of what it means to be a child of God in His forever family. As we arrive at the last two verses in this section, we come to one of the clearest statements of the gospel found in all the Word of God.



Discovering the Way

1. What Does "Believer" Mean? (1 John 5:1-3)

A believer is one who is committed to Jesus Christ.

2. Why Is Being an "Overcomer" Important? (1 John 5:4-5)

Being an overcomer changes our perspective regarding opposition and affliction.

3. Who Are the "Witnesses" That Are in Agreement? (1 John 5:6-10)

The witnesses are the water, the blood, and the Spirit.

4. How Can I Have the Assurance of "Eternal Life"? (1 John 5:11-12)

Assurance of eternal life comes as a gift from God in the person of Jesus Christ.



Starting Your Journey

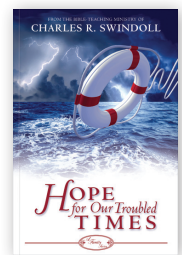
Do you have the Son? Then you have eternal life. If you do not, then you must believe.



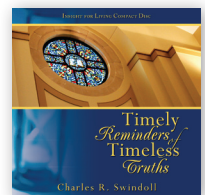
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ABSOLUTE ASSURANCE

1 JOHN 5:13–21



The Heart of the Matter

Isn't it great to know something *for sure*? For example, to know that you are loved . . . to know that your physician found nothing suspicious following a thorough examination . . . to know that your son or daughter has now safely arrived back home following those long months in combat . . . or to know that you passed your final exams, having finished the academic requirements, and will soon receive your diploma at the commencement service. On the other hand, isn't it difficult to *not* know something *for sure*? Such as not knowing if the surgery removed all of the malignant cells . . . not knowing that your spouse is faithful . . . not knowing why your teenage daughter failed to return home last night . . . not knowing if you have enough fuel to make it to the next gas station . . . or not knowing where your wallet and keys are. It is very interesting that when John came to the end of his letter, he underscored the things every believer can know with *absolute assurance*.



Discovering the Way

1. The Reasons John Wrote with Such Passion

John was specific as to why he wrote his gospel (John 20:31) and his first letter (1 John 5:13).

2. The Things We Can Know with Complete Certainty (1 John 5:13–20)

John said we can know for certain that we have eternal life (5:13). We can pray and receive answers from God (5:14–17) about our spiritual life and supernatural deliverance (5:18), about our security and the world's predicament (5:19), and about Christ's identity and our position in Him (5:20).



Starting Your Journey

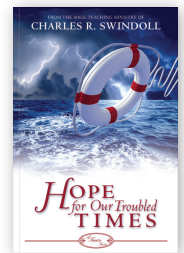
John ended his letter with a warning we must always remember (1 John 5:21): we must keep a keen eye on anything that might take the place of God in our lives—anything that we might hold on to too tightly.



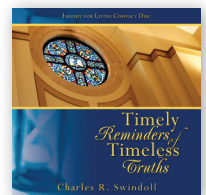
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