

GOD'S MASTERWORK, VOLUME SEVEN  
THE FINAL WORD—A SURVEY OF HEBREWS—REVELATION  
1 JOHN: GOD'S LIFE ON DISPLAY  
A SURVEY OF 1 JOHN



### The Heart of the Matter

It's easy to forget that John, one of Jesus's original twelve disciples, was responsible for five books that found their way into the New Testament. Of course, his most famous work is the gospel of John. Next in popularity is his lengthy and intriguing book of prophecy, Revelation. Sandwiched between the two are three lesser-known letters that reveal the heart and soul of this tender man of God. In this study, we will look at the first of the three books . . . a five-chapter letter that appears to be simple and uncomplicated yet, in reality, is both profound and complex. In John's gospel, he declared the way of life through faith in God's Son. In the epistle of 1 John, he emphasized the *nature* of that life as possessed by God's children.



### Discovering the Way

#### 1. Some Overall Facts Worth Remembering

John's three letters were all written around the same time—a time when heresy threatened the early church. To address this problem, John's first letter focuses on four purposes, with an emphasis on practical application.

#### 2. An Overview of the Letter

Following John's four purposes for the letter, he encouraged believers to exhibit a joyful life, a clean life, a discerning life, and a confident life.



### Starting Your Journey

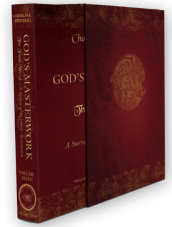
In an angry, dark world, the joyful Christian is a bright light. Let your light shine! In a sinful, lawless society, the clean Christian is a silent rebuke. Stay pure! In a whirlwind existence of deception and confusion, the discerning Christian is a calm refuge. Think straight! In an insecure, uncertain age, the confident Christian is a stabilizing force. Stand firm!



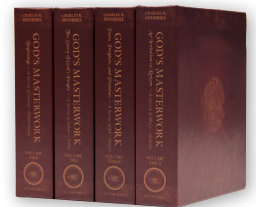
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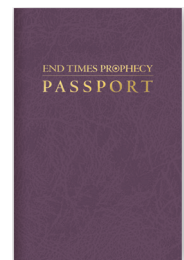
### Tools for Digging Deeper



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## FIRST JOHN

		Walking with the God of Light		Responding to the God of Love			
Prologue (1:1–4)		Living in the Light	Staying in the Light	Practicing the Righteousness and Love of God	Testing the Spirits	Loving Others as God Loved Us	Believing in Jesus
		CHAPTERS 1:5–2:11	CHAPTER 2:12–27	CHAPTERS 2:28–3:23	CHAPTERS 3:24–4:6	CHAPTER 4:7–21	CHAPTER 5
<b>Fellowship with God Produces a . . .</b>		Clean life	Discerning life	Loving life			Confident life
<b>Emphasis</b>		Light	Truth	Love			Knowledge
<b>Means</b>		Obeying	Perceiving	Sacrificing			Believing
<b>Christ</b>		Advocate (2:1)	Holy One (2:20)	Son of God (3:8)	Savior of the world (4:14)		
<b>Purposes</b>		That we may have fellowship and joy (1:3–4)	That we may not sin (2:1)	That we may not be deceived (2:26)	That we may know that we have eternal life (5:13)		
<b>Theme</b>		Living in fellowship with God, who is light and love					
<b>Key Verses</b>		1:5–7	4:10–16			5:11–13	
<b>Christ in 1 John</b>		Jesus is the Word of Life, who is God come in the flesh to bring eternal life to those who believe (1:1; 4:2; 5:20).					

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