

Light
Righteousness
Love

David C. Mills
General Epistles - I John
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Written by John, the book of I John piggybacks off of the gospel which was written to stimulate faith in its goal to establish confidence. Many agree that the Gospel and I, II, and III John were all written at about the same time. Some have titled it the “fellowship epistle”, others “the certainty of eternal life”. I believe however it might also be titled, “A righteous walk in God’s Love and Light”.

For the sake of this paper, I will vary from popular opinion and will be focusing on righteousness as the key word in I John. The righteousness of God shown through them that are born of him (v.2:29)

It can be summarized in 1 John 2:15, where we are instructed to “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”

John makes it clear that these things that are written unto us so that our joy may be full (v.1:4). His message that is declared is simple; God is light, there is no darkness in Him, if we say we have fellowship with Him and walk in darkness, we are liars.

In verses 1:5 through 2:24 we see the light of God’s children as we have instruction to walk in the light as well as a warning of the antichrist. While in verses 2:28 through 4:4 we see the righteousness of God’s children because of the love of the Father (v3:1) which is exhibited by our love and caring for our brother by His example (v3:11) and the testing of the spirits that we might believe only in Jesus.

Then finally in verses 4:6 through 5:19 the love of God's children is known by His love for us as well as our love for God, which is seen through faith. This is a faith that keeps his commandments and overcomes the world by believing in the Trinity and believing on Jesus for eternal life.

In conclusion we see John's final words again encouraging in the faith of God, trust in God and the truth of God. (v 5:13 – 5:20)

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