

1 John Chapter 1.

John writes this first epistle of his to an audience that never had the privilege of seeing or hearing Jesus during His three year ministry. We're not told who it was addressed to but we can assume that whoever it was, they were not domiciled in Israel. They were believers; this was not a gospel message, rather a message of instruction and encouragement.

Chapter 1.

V1. John starts his epistle by saying, 'trust me, I'm a disciple'. He was there throughout Jesus's ministry, he was one of the disciples closest to Jesus, one of the three to whom Jesus revealed His true nature in the transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-9). He's telling us, not what he's heard or what other believers told him but what he knows and experienced for himself, first hand. Then we get the subject matter of this letter, the Word of Life. What is the Word of Life? More importantly, who is the Word of Life? Who did John call 'the Word' in the first chapter of his Gospel? Why does John call Jesus, 'The Word.'? None of the other Apostles use this title.

V2. John really gushes about the appearance of Jesus. He was a very lucky guy, in the right place at the right time. But it was clearly no coincidence, John, like each of the Disciples was chosen. John felt very special, he describes himself as, the one whom Jesus loved. John realised that Jesus opened up to him, so that he can see for himself, the reality of eternal life. Have you had that same transforming realisation that eternal life with God is within your reach, all you have to do is believe and accept it?

V3. Let's read verse 3. I'm looking for a single word that encapsulates verse 3. How about family? Fellowship with us (who's us?) and by extension, with God and His Son, Jesus.

V4. The purpose of this epistle. Who's the 'we' in we write?

V5. John nicknames Jesus as 'The Word', he also calls Him, The Light. Again, John emphasises these titles in his gospel more than any of the other gospel writers. John 1:5, John 8:12, John 9:5, John 12:35-37.

V6. Don't pretend to be a Christian.

V7. The sign of a good Christian.

V8. Have you ever come across anyone who boasted that he/she has no sin? Why would anyone even think that?

V9. The antidote. Don't paper over sin, deal with it. Confess, but who to? Forgiveness and cleansing.

V10. Why does Jesus get made out to be a liar if we claim never to have sinned?