

A Study of the General Epistles

(NT Survey Lesson 206-- 1 John 1)

Introduction: The theme of John's first epistle is stated by John himself in 5:12: "These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, in order that you may know that you have eternal life". In the first chapter John tells us how we may find that assurance by giving us the conditions of fellowship with God.

Lesson aim: To understand and apply the conditions of fellowship with God.

Christ, the grounds of fellowship--1 Jn. 1:1-4

1. In the first verse John describes Jesus in a way similar to his prologue in the Gospel of John. How does John describe Him in v. 1?
2. What does John say about "the life" in v. 2?
3. With whom did the eye-witnesses of Christ have fellowship? (v. 3)
Those who hear the apostle's message may have fellowship with whom? (v. 3)
4. Why, then, does John say he writes this letter?

Walking in the light, the condition of fellowship--1 Jn. 1:5-10

1. What is the message the witnesses of Jesus heard from Him? (v. 5)
What does it mean "God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all"?
2. If we "walk in darkness" can we have fellowship with God? What does John say about us if we "walk in the darkness"?
3. If we "walk in the light" will we be without sin? What will we need to keep our fellowship with God? How is this provided for us?
4. What does John say about those who say they have no sin? About those who say they have not sinned?

5. What must we do to be forgiven and cleansed from all unrighteousness?
What does this mean?