

**1 John 1:1-4**  
**Prologue:**  
**We Have Seen**  
**the Word of Life**

# Prayer Before Reading Scripture

Shine within our hearts, loving Master, the pure light of Your divine knowledge and open the eyes of our minds that we may comprehend the message of Your Gospel. Instill in us also reverence for Your blessed commandments, so that having conquered all sinful desires, we may pursue a spiritual life, thinking and doing all those things that are pleasing to You. For You, Christ our God, are the light of our souls and bodies, and to You we give glory together with Your Father who is without beginning and Your all holy, good, and life giving Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

# Objectives of the Class

- To behold in our hearts the glory of Christ
- To participate more deeply in life in the Spirit
- To become more conformed to His image
- To pray for and encourage one another

# Course Resources

- Orthodox Study Bible (NKJV)
- Book: *Universal Truth: the Catholic Epistles of James, Peter, Jude, and John*, Fr. Lawrence Farley
- <https://theColburns.us>
  - click on Classes, then on 1 John

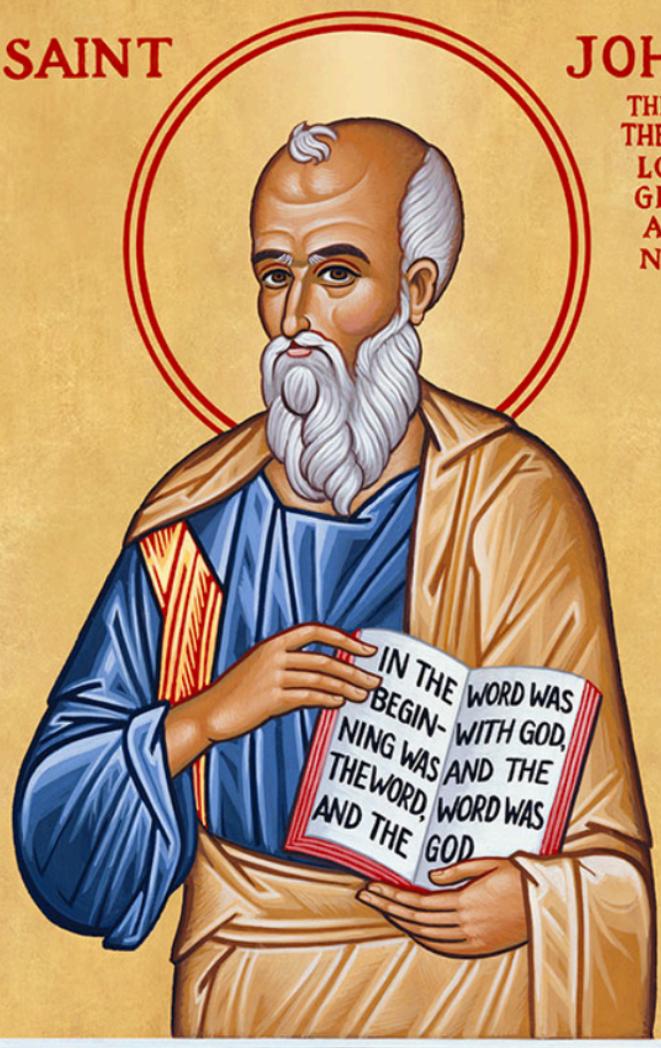
# **Introduction**

- 1. Who wrote 1 John?**
- 2. When was it written?**
- 3. To whom was it written?**
- 4. Why was it written?**
- 5. What are the literary features?**

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JOHN

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# Absolute Contrasts in 1 John

**Life** • **Death**

**Light** • **Darkness**

**Truth** • **Lies**

**Love** • **Hate**

**Righteousness** • **Lawlessness**

**Children of God** • **Children of Satan**

**Love for the Father** • **Love for the World**

# The Two Hemispheres of Existence

**The Word (Logos)**



**Darkness**  
**Hatred**  
**Death**  
**Children of Satan**

**The World**

# Three Stages of Spiritual Maturity

## Little Children

- **Forgiven (2.12)**
- **Know the Father (2.13)**

## Young Men

- **Overcame the wicked one (2.13)**
- **Strong (2.14)**
- **The Word of God abides in them (2.14)**

## Fathers

- **Know Him Who is from the beginning (2.13, 14)**

# **Why did St John write this letter?**

- 1. So we will have fellowship with the Father, the Son, and other Christians (1.3)**
- 2. So our joy may be full (1.4)**
- 3. So we not sin (2.1)**
- 4. So we can know we have eternal life and will continue to believe in the name of the Son of God (5.13)**



THE TOUCHING OF THOMAS



## 1 John 1:1

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life—

## **1 John 1:2**

**the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us—**

## 1 John 1:3

that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship *is* with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

## **1 John 1:4**

**And these things we write to you that our joy may be full.**

**Questions?**  
**Comments?**