

“VOICE OF JOHN” SERIES

(Gospel of John, 1st John, 2nd John, 3rd John, Revelation)

JUST LIKE LIFE AND LOVE ITSELF, JESUS IS THE VERY BEGINNING AND ENDING OF YOUR INTENDED STORY

study #8:

John Shows What’s Wrong with the “Jesus-is-Over” Movement

— covering **1st John** —

ACTION 1. The apostle John wrote **1st John** as a “teaching guide” for churches to study and to use as they were fighting a terrible wave of “Bad Teaching” sweeping through their communities. Read these 3 big “claims” of the Bad Teaching sweeping through Asia Minor’s churches, and then afterwards discuss: which of these 3 bad claims do you think is most shocking and probably motivated John the most to pick up his pen and write **1st John** as a “teaching guide”?

- Jesus’ job of paying-for-sins means he eliminated even the TOPIC of sin so that “sin-&-righteousness” are technically OVER and are no longer even things for us to be concerned about.
- Jesus is more like an Angel than actual-God (he was “a” Christ... not “the” Christ), and now that Jesus’ limited role is complete, his “sonship” is OVER and it is time to move on to “bigger things of The Father”
- we find the Christ-following community to be literally “hate-worthy” and OVER because of how its values slow down the focus of us making an awesome dent for ourselves in society

ACTION 2. Read **1st John 1:5—2:2** and then discuss: which one of the 3 Bad Teaching claims above do you think this passage especially addresses, and what opposite-idea does John teach instead?

ACTION 3. Read **1st John 2:7-11** and also **2:15-19** and then discuss: which one of the 3 Bad Teaching claims do you think this passage especially addresses, and what opposite-idea does John teach instead?

ACTION 4. Read **1st John 2:22-27** and also **5:10-12** and then discuss: which one of the 3 Bad Teaching claims above do you think this passage especially addresses, and what opposite-idea does John teach instead?

ACTION 5. John the apostle wrote this letter in a certain “style” or “format” so that different chunks of it could be deeply-discussed and chewed-on by a congregation together at different times. If you were to read this book over and over you would even begin to notice it is easily “memorize-able” with simple words, and see where “mini-teachings” in it actually start-&-end. Together as a group read **1st John 4:7-11** and then discuss: which is your favorite verse or point in this passage and why?

EXTRA... FOR THOSE MOTIVATED, DEVOTED, & WITH SOME SELF-COMMAND:

GOLD CHALLENGE ...read ahead (& maybe journal about) for next study: **2nd John + 3rd John**

PENGUIN CHALLENGE ... read **GC** + Torah-Law during series: **Leviticus 1-15** (A System to Build Devout-ness)