

John's Epistles – December 30 Fast Facts:

1. John, the Apostle was a prolific writer. He wrote the Gospel according to John, which contains one of my favorite passages, Chapter 14. He wrote the books of 1st, 2nd and 3rd John. He is also the author of the book of Revelation.
2. John was a fisherman, a member of the inner circle which also included his brothers, James and Peter. He had the title, which he alone used, the Disciple whom Jesus loved.
3. The book of 1st John expresses in full God's love for his children and encourages us to love one another as they live in the light (1st John 1:5-7).
4. The date of the book is difficult to date, but most place it around 85 or 95 AD.
5. For me, the date is not important, what is important is the content of the book.
6. Scholars say that the overall purpose of 1st John was to correct the wrong teaching in the early church, called "Gnosticism".
7. The book as we will see in numerous verses such as 2:1 9 (read this) was addressed to believers...then and now.
8. In verses 1-4 9 (read this) we have a prologue telling us that throughout the rest of the book, John will tell us that he has heard, seen and touched the Word of Life!
9. He said this because there were false teachers, then and now, that Jesus did not come physically. That his was not a normal body, or that he was an angel-that his body was an illusion.
10. John says, oh no! He had a personal experience with Jesus and based on that personal experience he tells us what he knows about Jesus.
He calls him the "Word of Life".
 - A. This life is eternal. He has always existed. He is co-equal and co-eternal with God the Father and the Holy Spirit, not mentioned here. He told Philip in John 14: "If you've seen Me, you've seen the Father".
 - B. This life has now appeared on Earth, in the incarnation which we celebrate at Christmas.
 - C. This letter is written to those who already believe, so they could be sure of who Jesus was and their salvation.
 - D. John ends his prologue with the fact that he is reaffirming these truths so that their joy could be made complete.
He quotes Jesus in the gospel John 14:6, "No one comes to the Father, but by Me". Beware of false teachers who tell you anything else. Our Gnostics today are those who teach that there are many ways to the Father and to Heaven.