



## "Dear Children,"

1 John 1-5

Sunday | October 8th, 2017 | Pastor Patrick Bowler

### CONSULT THE SCRIPTURES

1 John 1-5

(Other passages consulted: Matt. 4:18-22, 17:1-9, Mark 9:38-41, Lk. 9:51-56, Jn. 19:26-27, 21:18-23, 20:30:31)

### CONSULT THE SCHOLARS

[I. Howard Marshall] "Anybody, therefore, who wishes to hear the Word of God is invited to read the Epistles of John. They form an excellent starting place for the student who wants an introduction to the theology of the New Testament. In the New English Bible the First Epistle is given the heading 'Recall the Fundamentals.' It is an apt title, for the Epistle, and indeed all three, are concerned with the very fundamentals of Christian belief and life. The reader who grasps the message of these letters will have a sound basis in Christian doctrine, ready to be filled out by further study elsewhere in the New Testament. In particular, he will have a good starting point for study of the Gospel of John; although the Gospel was probably written before the Epistles and forms the foundation for what they teach, it is probably easier in some ways for the reader to grasp John's message by beginning with the Epistles."<sup>1</sup>

"Martin Luther wrote of 1st John: 'I have never read a book written in simpler words than this one, and yet the words are inexpressible.'<sup>2</sup>

### DISCUSS

1. From Scripture, what are some of the things we learn of John the Apostle, the author of 1 John? How might this help us better understand his first epistle?
2. Prior to reading 1 John 1-5, Pastor Patrick said, "I want you to see an old man, writing to those he loved about the One he loved the most." As a group, read all of 1 John, one chapter at a time, and make general observations. What stands out? What questions pop up?
3. What immediate applications can be made in light of a reading of 1 John?

Notes:

<sup>1</sup>I. Howard Marshall, *The New International Commentary of the New Testament: The Epistles of John* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1984), p. 1, 2.

<sup>2</sup>*Ibid.* p. xi.