

1, 2, 3 JOHN AND JUDE

Course: 634b

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COURSE SYLLABUS AND SCHEDULE

Thursdays, September 10 – December 10, 2026

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF THE STUDENT

- A. Read the assigned passage twice before class.
- B. Read it once more in a second translation if you are able.
- C. Write the one paper described further down in this syllabus.

THE THIRTEEN CLASSES **SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

- A. Class One — Thursday, September 10 — Why these four letters, and why now.
 - a. Introduction to 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, and Jude.
- B. Class Two — Thursday, September 17 — The Word of life and the God who is light.
 - a. 1 John 1:1-10.
- C. Class Three — Thursday, September 24 — Our Advocate, and the test of obedience.
 - a. 1 John 2:1-11.
- D. Class Four — Thursday, October 1 — Love not the world; many antichrists.
 - a. 1 John 2:12-29.
- E. Class Five — Thursday, October 8 — Children of God, children of the devil.
 - a. 1 John 3:1-12.
- F. Class Six — Thursday, October 15 — Love in deed and in truth.
 - a. 1 John 3:13-24.
- G. Class Seven — Thursday, October 22 — Test the spirits; God is love.
 - a. 1 John 4:1-12.
- H. Class Eight — Thursday, October 29 — Perfect love, and the faith that overcomes.
 - a. 1 John 4:13-5:5.
- I. Class Nine — Thursday, November 5 — That you may know.
 - a. 1 John 5:6-21.
- J. Class Ten — Thursday, November 12 — The doctrine of Christ, and the Diotrephes problem.
 - a. 2 John 1-13; 3 John 1-14.
- K. Class Eleven — Thursday, November 19 — Contend earnestly for the faith.
 - a. Jude 1-16.
- L. Thursday, November 26 — NO CLASS. Thanksgiving.
- M. Thursday, December 3 — NO CLASS.
- N. Class Twelve — Thursday, December 10 — But you, beloved.
 - a. Jude 17-25.

THE COURSE ASSIGNMENT — ANSWERING A SINCERE NEIGHBOR

- A. One assignment for the term. One short paper, due Thursday, December 10.
- B. 4 to 5 pages, typed and double spaced.
- C. Email a copy by December 10.

WHAT THE PAPER MUST DO

- A. Pick one topic from the five listed below.
- B. Write it as an answer to a sincere neighbor, not as a lecture to a seminar.
 - a. Assume he is honest, wrong, and worth your time.
 - b. Assume he has a Bible open in front of him.
- C. The paper has four parts.
 - a. State the error fairly, in the words a man who holds it would recognize.
 - b. Show what one or more of these four letters actually says.
 - c. Answer the error from Scripture, not from your feelings and not from what somebody told you.
 - d. Close by naming what you would ask the man to do next.
- D. Use at least three sources, besides the Bible.
 - a. At least two from faithful brethren.
 - b. You may use one source that disagrees with us, quoted honestly.
 - c. Class notes count as one source. They do not count as three.
- E. Quote Scripture in full.
- F. This is short on purpose. A man at your door will not give you fifteen pages.

THE FIVE TOPICS

- A. One. "Once I am saved I can never be lost." — 1 John 2:19; Jude 5; 2 John 8.
- B. Two. "I am saved by faith only." — 1 John 2:3-6; 3:7-10; 5:1-3.
- C. Three. "Doctrine does not matter so long as we love one another." — 2 John 4-11.
- D. Four. "The Spirit told me, and I know what I heard." — 1 John 4:1-6; 2:20-27; Jude 3.
- E. Five. "God is love. He would never send anyone to hell." — 1 John 4:8; Jude 5-7, 14-15.

FORM AND MECHANICS

- A. Typed, double-spaced, twelve-point, one-inch margins.
- B. 4 to 5 pages
- C. Your name, the course, and the date at the top. No title page.
- D. King James Version unless your argument turns on another translation. If it does, say why.
- E. Footnotes on the page, not endnotes, and a Works Cited list at the end.
 - a. Author. Title. Publisher, year, page.