**1 John: Sinful people can have fellowship with a perfect God**

**OUTLINE OF 1 JOHN**

**I. Prologue: The Call to Fellowship (1:1-4)**

**II. Preamble: Living in Fellowship with God (1:5-2:11)**

**III. Purpose: Resist the Antichrists (2:12-27)**

**IV. Body: The Life that Leads to Boldness Before Christ’s Judgment Seat (2:28-4:19)**

**V. Conclusion: Learning How to Live Obediently (4:20-5:17)**

**VI. Epilogue: Christian Certainties (5:18-21)**

**Introduction**

**The Text**

**1 John 1:1-4: Prologue; The Call to Fellowship**

**1. 1 John 1:1-2 – The historical reality of the message about life**

* **Beginning = of the good news proclamation (The ministry of Jesus?)**
* **The false teachers weren’t around, but the apostles were**
* **It’s all based on the incarnate Christ and His historical reality**
* **If Jesus isn’t the Christ…**
* **Not surprising that the Life-giver would bring the message about life**
* **John 1:18 – Jesus explains God to us**

**2. 1 John 1:3 – The purpose of John’s writing: Fellowship**

* **The reason for the purpose statements**
  + **Accidents or on purpose?**
  + **The need in John**
  + **The need in 1 John: What he knew**
* **The Gospel of John = How to possess eternal life**
* **Sinful man can have eternal life**
* **1 John = How to experience eternal life**
* **Sinful man can enjoy fellowship with a perfect God**
* **The message of the false teachers puts assurance in question**
* **The necessity of assurance to growth**
* **Two approaches to 1 John: Tests of life or tests of fellowship?**

**3. 1 John 1:4 – The second purpose of John’s writing: Joy**

