

I. THE OPENING STATEMENT (1:1 – 2:14)

A. EYEWITNESS TESTIMONY IN DEFENSE OF:

1:1-2

- 1) The WORD of Life &
- 2) The Eternal Life revealed in HIM.

B. THREE-FOLD DECLARATION OF THE PURPOSE OF THIS DEPOSITION 1:3-5

- 1) **PURPOSE # 1:** The Possibility of Fellowship
- 2) **PURPOSE # 2:** The Possibility of Full Joy
- 3) **PURPOSE # 3:** The Proof of the Essential Nature of God as LIGHT

C. THE CHARGES

1:6-2:11

1) CHARGE # 1 (1:6-7)

The False Claim of Fellowship.

TEST: Light vs Darkness

2) CHARGE # 2 (1:8-2:2)

The False Claim of Sinlessness.

TEST: Confession vs Deception

DECLARATION OF PURPOSE # 4: The Possibility of Not Sinning 2:1a

PRESENTATION OF THE ADVOCATE & HIS CREDENTIALS. 2:1b-2

3) CHARGE # 3 (2:3-8)

The False Claim of Knowledge.

TEST: Keeping vs Breaking the Law

KNOWLEDGE: 1) "We know HIM" 2) "WE are in HIM"

(2:3, 6)

PRESENTATION OF THE LAWS
Old & New

THE ABSOLUTE STANDARD
OF REVELATION INVOKED

(2:7-8)

4) CHARGE # 4 (2:9-11)

The False Claim of Being in the Light.

TEST: Love vs Hate of Brothers

D. APPEAL TO THE JURY (Transition to the Main Body of the Trial)

2:12-14

1st THREE-FOLD APPEAL: Addressed to Hearers Based on Age & Experience

2nd THREE-FOLD APPEAL: Addressed to Hearers Based on Age & Experience

II. REVIEW OF THE FACTS (2:15-27)

DECREE/COMMANDMENT: "Love not the world"

2:15a

A. THE SPECIFICS OF THE CASE

2:15b-19

- 1) Nature of the Location ("world" = temporary) 2:15-17
- 2) Nature of the Time ("last hour" = immediate) 2:18b
- 3) Nature of the Antagonists ("antichrists" = temporary) 2:18-19

B. CLARIFICATION OF THE MAIN PREMISE

2:17b

Although the world & everything in it are temporary, Eternal Life IS available.

C. REMINDER TO HEARERS (Protagonists) OF THEIR SPECIAL KNOWLEDGE

2:20

The Holy One has anointed them to give them insight

DECLARATION OF PURPOSE # 5 2:21

(Reminding them that they have the ability to perceive the truth)

- D. THE BASIS FOR AWARD (THE CHARACTER OF THE PARTIES) 2:22-24**
 1) The character of the Antagonists—based on their active rejection—is exposed.
 2) The character of the Protagonists—based on continual association—is basis for award.
- E. PREMISE OF THE TRIAL REPEATED 2:25**
 The AWARD is the promised Eternal Life

DECLARATION OF PURPOSE # 6 2:26
 (Warning against the seduction of the Antagonists)

- F. HEARERS HAVE BEEN SPECIALLY EQUIPPED TO DETERMINE THE TRUTH 2:27**

III. REVEALATION OF THE EVIDENCE (2:28-3:17)

DECREE/COMMANDMENT: "Abide in Him"

2:28

- A. HE SHALL BE REVEALED 2:29-3:1**
 We can be confident at His coming (presence)

KNOWLEDGE: 1) "Born of HIM" 2) "WE are God's children"

- B. IT HAS NOT YET BEEN REVEALED... 3:2a**
 ...What we shall become [i.e., What does Eternal Life look like?]

- C. WHEN HE IS REVEALED... 3:2b-4**
 ...We shall be like Him & see Him as He is

DISCOURSE ON THE TRUE NATURE OF THE OFFENSE & THE OFFENDERS (3:4)

- D. HE WAS REVEALED... [according to their perception] 3:5-8a**
 1) To take away our sins
 2) In Him was no sin

DISCOURSE ON THE SOURCE OF THE OFFENSE & THE OFFENDERS (3:6-8a)

- F. THE SON OF GOD WAS REVEALED... 3:8b-9**
 ...To destroy the works of the adversary.

- G. IN THIS IS BEING REVEALED... 3:10-17**
 1) The children of God
 2) The children of the Adversary

DISCOURSE ON THE CONDUCT OF THE PROTAGONISTS & ANTAGONISTS (3:12-17)
 Seen as proof of the premise of Eternal Life.

KNOWLEDGE:
 1) "We have [already] passed from death to LIFE"
 2) "No murderer has Eternal LIFE"
 3) "Love: He laid down His LIFE for us"

IV. THE ASSESSMENT OF GUILT OR INNOCENCE (3:18-22)

(As reflected in the Conscience & Confidence of the Hearers/Protagonists)

DECREE/COMMANDMENT: "Love in deed & truth"

KNOWLEDGE:
 1) "We are of the Truth"
 2) "We can assure our hearts"

V. THE NAMING OF THE WITNESSES & THEIR TESTIMONIES 3:23-5:12

DECREE/COMMANDMENT: "Trust Jesus & Love one another"

3:22-24a
3:24b-4:6

A. THE FIRST WITNESS NAMED: THE SPIRIT

KNOWLEDGE: "He is abiding in us"

DISCOURSE ON THE TESTING PROCESS FOR ALL WITNESSES (4:1-6)

KNOWLEDGE: "The spirits of truth & error"

B. THE SECOND WITNESS NAMED: GOD

4:7-10

HIS character is expounded as the God of Love

[H.] EVIDENCE REVEALED: God's love is proven because HE gave HIS Son. (4:9)]

C. THE THIRD WITNESS NAMED: PROXIES FOR GOD

4:11-13

The unseen GOD will accept certain individuals as HIS proxies based on their character.



D. THE FIRST TESTIMONY: THE WRITER/SPEAKER

4:14-16

The writer gives his own personal eyewitness testimony

E. THE SECOND TESTIMONY: THE PROXIES

4:17-5:5

PROOFS OF ETERNAL LIFE BASED ON THE LIVES OF GOD'S PROXIES:

- 1) Love, caused by association with God, has resulted in confidence without (4:17-21) fear concerning the day of judgment (death).

CHARGE # 5 (4:20)

The False Claim of Loving God

Test: Love vs. Hate of Brothers

DECREE/COMMANDMENT: "Love your brother"

(4:21)

- 2) Loving God's children shows they have been born of GOD (5:1-2a)
- 3) Keeping God's commandments show they love GOD (5:2b-3)
- 4) Overcoming the world by Faith shows they are born of GOD (5:4-5)

F. THE THIRD TESTIMONY: THE SPIRIT, THE WATER, & THE BLOOD

5:6-8

G. THE FINAL TESTIMONY: GOD

5:9-12

CHARGE # 6 (5:10) [SUMMATION]

The Antagonists are condemned because there is no SPIRIT WITNESS in them.

Test: Trust vs. Unbelief

GOD says that HE >>has<< given us Eternal Life in His Son.

5:11-12

Since no one can refute this impeccable Source:

- 1) The testimony is vouched true
- 2) The protagonists are declared the victors, their premise declared true
- 3) The prize is awarded
- 4) The case is closed

VI. THE LISTING OF THE PRIZES AWARDED (5:13-21)

A. DECLARATION OF PURPOSE # 7: Assurance of Eternal Life & Trust 5:13

B. AWARDS = Eight things we KNOW 5:13-20

C. THE FINAL WARNING AGAINST IDOLS 5:21