**THE**

**FIRST EPISTLE OF ST. JOHN THE**

**APOSTLE**

*The same vein of divine love and charity towards our neighbor, which runs throughout the Gospel written by* the beloved disciple *and Evangelist,* ST. JOHN, *is found also in his Epistles. He confirms the two principal mysteries of our faith: The mystery of the Trinity, and the mystery of the incarnation of Jesus Christ the son of God. The sublimity and excellence of the evangelical doctrine he declares:* And this commandment we have from God, that he, who loveth God, love also his brother (chap. 4:21); *and again:* For this is the charity of God, that we keep his commandments; and his commandments are not heavy (chap. 5:3). *He shews how to distinguish the children of God from those of the devil: marks out those who should be called Antichrists: describes the turpitude and gravity of sin. Finally, he shews how the sinner may hope for pardon. It was written, according to Baronius’ account, sixty-six years after our Lord’s Ascension.*

**CHAPTER 1**

*He declares what he has seen and heard of Christ, (who is life eternal,) to the end that we may have fellowship with God, and all good through him: yet so if we confess our sins.*

**1** That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the word of life:

**2** For the life was manifested; and we have seen and do bear witness, and declare unto you the life eternal, which was with the Father, and hath appeared to us:

**3** That which we have seen and have heard, we declare unto you, that you also may have fellowship with us, and our fellowship may be with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

**4** And these things we write to you, that you may rejoice, and your joy may be full.

**5** And this is the declaration which we have heard from him, and declare unto you: That God is light, and in him there is no darkness.

**6** If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth.

**7** But if we walk in the light, as he also is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

**8** If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**9** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all iniquity.

**10** If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.