



Lesson 3: 1 John

Studying 1 John gives us a deeper understanding of John's unwavering love for God's best of His Creation...MAN!

By the time John wrote this letter (late in life), he had seen it all. If John had not taken the time to write the Gospel according to John (His walk with Christ), the letters to the established churches in which he had been entrusted to oversee (the 3 letters), and the revealing of the future according to the Spirit of God (Revelation), our understanding of God's holiness, God's goodness, God's revealing of His Spirit, and God's love for the souls of His prized creation would be a confused mess...not knowing what God has in store for "those that love him and are called according to HIS PURPOSE."

To study John's letter will confirm us in the true faith and enable us to have a defense against anything that would seduce us.

We might be tempted....but because of our faith and the conscious will that sustains us by the Holy Spirit, the temptation can be thwarted.

At this point, it should be pointed out (pun) that if John had not listened, observed, and followed the Spirit of God living within Him, God would have used another messenger to reveal His Word. God's Plan will be completed one way or another. John was willing to give the best to the Master and therefore God used him in a mighty way.

1 John 1:1-4, "That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. **2** The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. **3** We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. **4** We write this to make our joy complete."

The aim in writing this gospel (good news) is found in these verses:

- 1. The Wish to Produce Fellowship with the Community and Fellowship with God (v.3)**

The pastor's aim must always be to bring people closer to one another and closer to God. The Christian message can be summed up as having two (2) great aims...love for one another and love for God.

*****Any message which encourages and leads to division is a false message.**

2. The Wish to Bring His People Joy (v.4)

After the understanding that it is the message of Christ that we are sinners....and that this knowledge must lead to true repentance, it is the pastor and the Lord's intent for the child of God to understand that he/she is forgiven. This is the message of joy.

3. The Ultimate Finish and John's Aim Is to Set Jesus Christ Before Them.

Keep the main thing the main thing....There is no salvation in any other. There is no greater aim than to win the heart's of the sinner to saving knowledge of Jesus.

What was and is John's Right to Speak...and the Authority in Knowing That What He Says is True?

His personal experience in being with Christ:

1. He says that he has heard Christ...

What people are interested in is not someone's opinions and views, but a word from the Lord.

There are preachers that first listen to God and then speak to men and women through preaching...and teaching.

There was an old Scottish preacher that his congregation said, "When he preaches, he often pauses as if listening for a voice."

True teachers are those who have a message from Jesus Christ because they have heard his voice.

2. He says that he has seen... And looked (gazed) at Christ.

John walked with Christ, dined with Christ, and watched him intently... As he performed miracle after miracle. Gazing or looking at Christ has a deeper meaning than just seeing Christ. It has the connotation that it is not a passing look...but a grasping of the significance of that person. This seeing and gazing (looking at Jesus) is to search the deep things that Jesus did...Thinking, contemplating, grasping, and knowing the full meaning of why a person is where he is. We cannot see Christ in the flesh as John did; but we can still see Him with the eye of faith.

3. He says that his hands actually touched Christ.

After Jesus rose from the dead, He appeared to the disciples and said, "Look at my hands and feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." Luke 24:39

John was adamant making sure that his congregations in which he pastored understood that Jesus came amongst with a body that had feelings...and was as we were. He was fully human.

John had three (3) great things to say about Christ in the first 4 verses.

1. *Jesus was “from the beginning.” In Him the eternal God personally entered our world.*
2. *Jesus’ entry into the world was a real entry....real humanity that God took upon Himself.*
3. *Through that action there came to men and women, boys and girls the word of life...the word which can change death into life and mere existence into real living.*

1 John 1:5, “This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.”

God is light...and in Him is no darkness.

What does this statement tell us?

- *God is splendor and glory...*
- *God is self-revealing...light is seen and God is seen....God wants man to take notice of Him. He wishes to be seen and to be known.*
- *God is pure and holy....the “light” reveals to us his white purity and stainless holiness (He is unstained from the forces of evil).*
- *God guides us...to say, He is the light...is to say that he lights the way on the path in which we must tread.*
- *In the presence of this light...God reveals Himself...the flaws and stains which are hidden in the shade are obvious in the light. Light reveals the imperfections in any piece of work or material.*
So, the imperfections of life are seen in the presence of God.

Darkness stands for the very opposite of the Christian life:

- *Darkness stands for the Christless life... “Christians are not in darkness, for they are children of the day.” (1 Thessalonians 5:4-5)*
- *The dark is hostile to light...dark and light are hostile enemies.*
- *The darkness stands for the ignorance of life, apart from Christ....darkness is the lostness of humanity without Christ.*
- *Darkness stands for the chaos of life without God. Without God’s light, the world is a chaos in which life has neither order or sense.*
- *Darkness stands for the immortality of the Christless life. “Because their deeds were evil, people loved the darkness rather than the light (John 3:19).*
- *Darkness is characteristically unfruitful. If growing things are deprived of the light, their growth is arrested (stunted...and*

finally dies)....the darkness is the atmosphere without Christ in which no fruit of the Spirit will ever grow.

- *Darkness is connected to hate and that which is unlovely.... To promote hatred, dark and weary shadows are its characteristic. Grotesque creatures house in dark places.*
- *The dark is the home of the enemies of Christ and final goal of those who will not accept HIM.... Persistent and rebellious sinners are those for whom the mist of darkness is reserved (2 Peter 2:9; Jude 13)*

DARKNESS IS THE LIFE WHICH IS SEPARATED FROM GOD!

1 John 1:6-10, “If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. ⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all⁸ sin.⁸ If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.”

As John sees it, there are two great tests of truth:

1. **Truth is the creator of fellowship.**

If men and women are really walking in the light, they have fellowship with one another. No church can be exclusive and still be the Church of Christ. Anything that destroys fellowship cannot be true.

2. **Those who really know the truth are each day more and more cleansed from sin by the blood of Jesus.**

“The blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.” It is a general principle...that every day the blood ought to be carrying out a cleansing process in the life of the individual Christian.

...Not only does it cleanse us from sin...but it is equipping us in holiness day by day.

TRUE RELIGION IS THE MEANS BY WHICH EVERY DAY WE COME CLOSER TO ONE ANOTHER AND CLOSER TO GOD.

3. **Those who say that they are not sinners...or who say they have no sin...is a liar...and the truth is not in Him. Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father unless He comes through me.” John 14:6**

Who is “the Word”? Who is “the Truth”? Who is “the Light?

JESUS!