

WEEK 2: 1ST JOHN
1 JN 1:1
JESUS OF THE GOSPEL- Part 1

I. REVIEW

- A. Gnosticism - teaching that there was a “higher knowledge”; special enlightenment from the true superior God.**
- B. Dualism→ taught that there was two realms; a spiritual and physical .**
 - 1. completely separate; physical was evil, spiritual was good.**
 - 2. Physical Body a prison for the spirit in this life and would be freed at death.**
 - 3. Sins of the body did not matter as it had no effect on the spiritual.**
- C. Taught that Jesus was not God rather a created being**
- D. Spiritual Christ actually descended on Jesus at baptism but left before crucifixion**
- E. No physical resurrection.**
- F. Complete contradiction to the gospel that Jesus had taught His disciples.**

II. OVERVIEW

- A. John’s gospel had been written so that the world may believe that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing they may have eternal life. (Jn 20:31)**
- B. John’s letter was written to those that have believed in the name of the Son of God so that they may know for certain that they have eternal life.**
- C. Gives assurance to believers by describing true faith.**
- D. 1Jo 5:13 I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life.**
- E. Nine Tests, or essential truths of salvation:**
- F. Test 1: 1 JN 1:1-4 Right View of Jesus Christ**
 - 1. Wrong Jesus = wrong God**
- G. Test 2: 1JN 1:5-2:2 Confession of Sin**
 - 1. Christians confess sin initially and continuously.**
- H. Test 3: 1JN 2:3-6 Obedience to God’s Word**
 - 1. Christ changes our ways, changes the desires**
- I. Test 4: 1JN 2:7-11 Love for the Brethren**
 - 1. Love those God loves and Jesus died for**
- J. Test 5: 1JN 2:15-17 Rejecting the World System**
 - 1. In the world but not “of” the world any longer**
- K. Test 6: 1JN 2:18-27 Discernment of Truth**
 - 1. Holy Spirit is your teacher, your interpreter of truth**

L. Test 7: 1JN 2:28-3:10 Practices Righteousness

1. Not perfect, but direction of life is towards being like Christ

M. Test 8: 1JN 3:19-24 Confidence Before God

1. No longer afraid of God- He is your Father; in His family

N. Test 9: 1JN 5:14; 3:22 Answers to Prayer

1. God answers the prayers of His children

III. Gospel and the Epistle >Comparisons of Beginnings

A. **Gospel of John** written to know the way TO Christ

B. **1 John** written for Assurance that you are IN Christ

C. 1John 1:1 ¶ **That** which was **from the beginning**, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—

D. John 1:1 ¶ **In the beginning** was **the Word**, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

E. GOSPEL OF JOHN MAIN THEME→ PERSON AND DEITY OF JESUS CHRIST

1. John 1:1 ¶ **In the beginning** was the Word

2. **the Word** → “logos”

3. **Word** is referring to a “person”, →Jesus Christ

4. Particularly “logos” here refers to all that was in Jesus– all the thoughts, moral precepts, power of God

5. To know Jesus Christ was to know God– John 14:7 "If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you **know Him**, and have seen Him."

6. Joh 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, . . .

F. Gospel of John described Jesus as:

1. **Eternal** → **v1 In the beginning** was the Word; 2 **He was in the beginning with God**;

- a. Never a time that Jesus did not exist; **with God** in eternity past

2. **God** → **the Word was God**. Christ is God– all the fullness of God dwelt in Him

3. **Distinct part of the Trinity** → “**Word was with God**,”; God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit all existed “in the beginning”.

4. **Creator** → John 1:3 All things were made **through him**, and without him was not **any thing made that was made**.

- a. Jesus had the power of God to speak all things into existence

5. **Revealer** → John 1:4 **In him was life**, and the life was the light of men.
 - a. Jesus was the source of all life, Sustainer of all life; Revealer of truth, He defined truth
 - b. John 3:19 "This is the judgment, that the **Light has come into the world**, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil.

- G. **Gospel of John** - multiple miracles to demonstrate the Divine nature of Jesus Christ and His humanity as He lived and breathed.
 1. Gospel of John completely contradicted all the teaching of the Gnostic false teachers
 2. **Jesus was God who took on the form of Man**

- H. **EPISTLE 1st JOHN**→ 1 ¶ **That which was from the beginning**, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—

- I. 1John 1:1 ¶ **That which was** from the beginning,
 1. First word is **That which was** (ESV) or **What was** (NASB)—
 - a. Broader term than word “who”
 - b. **Includes not only the person Jesus Christ, but also the Word, message of Christ which was from the beginning**
 2. **Jesus Christ is the gospel**→ Jesus was and is, the “Word of Life”
 3. Salvation completely based upon the Man and God, Jesus Christ

- J. Jesus Christ was God **from the beginning**,
 1. Jesus was the “Word” the “Logos” – the power, mind and heart of God come to earth
 2. Jn 1:1 explained Him in eternity past→ Jesus was the Triune God come to bring truth of God to mankind

- K. **Gospel was also from the beginning**→ did not begin with John the Baptist
 1. Jesus and the gospel, **from the beginning**. in eternity past, as God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit **planned to create man and to redeem them through the sacrifice of a living God, Jesus Christ Himself.**
 2. **That which was from the beginning, was revealed in the NT but also in OT**
 - a. Isa 11:1 ¶ There shall come forth a **shoot from the stump of Jesse**, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. 2 And the **Spirit of the LORD** [Yaweh] shall rest upon **Him**, the **Spirit of wisdom** and understanding, the **Spirit of counsel** and might, the **Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.**
 - (1) **Triune God is referred to here:** Spirit of the LORD (God the Father), Him (God the Son, Jesus Christ) and Spirit of wisdom (God the Holy Spirit)
 - b. Mic 5:2 But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, **from you shall come forth for Me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.**
 3. **All of what Jesus was or would be existed or planned from the beginning**

IV. **That which was from the beginning, . . . concerning the word of life**

A. **which we have heard,**

1. **“we”** refers to himself and the apostles who were taught by Jesus Christ
2. John said , **we have heard** Jesus speak– He taught us!

B. **which we have seen with our eyes** → **Not just speaking, but they saw Jesus**

C. **which we looked upon**

1. **Looked--** *theaomai theh-ah'-om-ahee* → not just seeing something . . . contemplate
2. **walking with Christ and watching His life**
3. **He did not fully understand at the time all that Jesus was teaching** them about sharing His life with mankind.
4. But in hearing and gazing at Christ, the **Holy Spirit gave revelation to him to understand that true abundant life was in Christ**
5. John 10:10 . . . **I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.**

D. **have touched with our hands**

1. **touched** →handle, feel; also metaphorically mentally to seek after tokens of a person
2. John touched Jesus, His flesh as Jesus was a Man
3. Also embraced, believed all what Christ taught and lived out

E. **John spoke of his own PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE of the man Jesus Christ and the message He preached**

1. Heard it, looked at Him, touched Him; saw the miracles
2. **False teachers never knew, never heard, never saw or touched Jesus Christ!**
3. **He was NOT a spirit or myth →HUMAN with a message of salvation from God**

F. **John said, “I knew Jesus Christ”**

1. Later, 1 Jn 2:13, he explains that those who believe on Jesus will, **“know Him that was from the beginning.”**

G. **John writes about the man Jesus because he could not stop talking about Him**

H. John responded along with Peter, **Ac 4:19 But Peter and John answered them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, 20 for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard."**

I. John in his gospel (Jn 19:35), watching the crucifixion of Christ and the spear being thrust into His side bringing blood and water pouring out, explains, **John 19:35 He who saw it has borne witness— his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth— that you also may believe.**

- J. John bore witness, Jesus Christ was all a man, was All God —> “I saw Him!”
- K. John spoke of the “Words of Life” all his days in order that others would hear and believe in Him too!

V. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- A. Why is the “humanity” of Christ so important?
- B. Can I have the wrong view of Christ and be saved? Why or why not?
- C. How does 1st John give assurance to the believer?
- D. How does Luke 10:16 fit with John’s urgency for believers to know the correct Jesus Christ?