

1 John – Introduction -- 2

Sermon 2 in the 1 John Series

Review – 5 Deadly Errors in 1 John

1. Claiming to be a Christian while living (walking) in darkness.
2. The teaching of sinless perfection
3. Wrong views on the person and work of Christ
4. A hard heart that refuses to love our brothers and sisters
5. Living a life of continuous sin – with no Holy Spirit conviction

I. Exposition 1:1-4

v. 1 – “That which was from the beginning” -- sounds similar to John 1:1 “In the beginning was the Word”. And John does talk of Christ as eternal in this epistle – **2:13, 14**.

1 John 1:1 is referencing the beginning of the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ.

John is an eyewitness of Christ’s ministry “we” (talking about the apostles) -- **Luke 1:2** – “Just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word delivered them to us.”

Matthew 13:16-17 – (Jesus – talking to his disciples) -- ¹⁶ But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. ¹⁷ For truly, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.

V. 2 -- The Word of Life.

The focus here in this epistle is on life. In the gospel of John the focus is on Word.

FF Bruce says – “John’s gospel speaks of the **incarnation** of the Eternal Word.
This epistle speaks of the **manifestation** of the Eternal Life.”

Stephen S. Smalley “By speaking of eternal life as “existing with the Father”, John is not only referring to the exalted content of the apostolic proclamation, but also making a high Christological affirmation by alluding to the pre-existence of Christ...Indeed the Christological reference is almost certainly primary.”

V. 3 -- What they (the apostles) have heard and witnessed is the message that they declare to us.

We now find the subject of this first long sentence “we declare”; we report; we proclaim.

And we join in fellowship – with them -- and with one another – as brothers and sisters in the Lord – with God as our Father and with His co-equal and co-eternal -- Son Jesus Christ.

V. 4 – The majority of texts say “our” joy may be full”.

2 John 4 – I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.”

II. Positive Truths Proclaimed in 1 John

1. Jesus is fully human – 4:2
2. Jesus Christ is the True God – 5:20
3. Jesus is the long-promised Messiah – 2:22 (Christ is Greek for Messiah).
4. He died to make atonement for His people – 1:7; 2:2 (not universalism or a universal atonement)
5. We live by His on-going ministry
 - 1) He intercedes for us -- 2:1
 - 2) He confers knowledge to us – 2:20
 - 3) He destroys the works of the Devil – 3:8
 - 4) He defines love for us -- 3:16
 - 5) He gives us the Holy Spirit – 3:24

III. Three Predominate Themes Concerning God in 1 John

A. God is Life -- 1:1

5:11-12

Our God is “The Living God”.

Fellowship is also included in “life” – fellowship with God and with one another 1:3-7

B. God is Love – 4:8

Who do we love and what do we love? 2:15-17

C. God is Light – 1:5

Light comes from the sun – but the sun isn’t necessary for light.

Revelation 21:23 -- And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. (ESV)

2:9-11 – Here is the transition from “light” to “know”.

The word “Light” does not appear again – but “know” takes precedence.