

Sermon 1 John Chapter 1

“Let Me Jog Your Memory”

Introduction

We are beginning a series on the Letters of John.

There will be question and answer period following the service in the sanctuary.

Show Video

We see John's letters deal with deceivers (false Prophets) who deny Jesus as the Son of God. (Jesus was just a man, possibly a prophet but not God)

They were also written as an encouragement to Christians.

Background

The world for the Christian Church and for the Jewish religion had changed drastically from the days of the ministry of Jesus Christ.

Much of the empire had remained the same, Rome was still in power.

But the Romans had put down the Jewish Revolt. Destroyed the temple in Jerusalem in 70 AD. The Jewish faith had undergone significant changes because of the revolt and the Roman victory. John and other Christians had fled Jerusalem around 67 AD at the beginning of the revolt. John eventually settled in Ephesus.

This was also a time when the Christian church was becoming more gentile or Greek in nature and was separating from the Jewish religion. Christianity was becoming recognized as a new religion. Not viewed as a Jewish sect. The Faith had spread throughout the empire. There had been many persecutions. Also many Christians were beginning to conform to the surrounding world.

The Gospel of John and the letters First, Second and Third John were written in the late 1st century around 85 to 95 AD. The Gospel was written first, with the letters following. Often the letters refer to John's Gospel.

Written to gentile churches without throughout Asia

Many of the people would have been second or third generation Christians

These believers had not lived in Palestine

They had not seen Jesus Christ in the person

And possibly many of them were not alive when Jesus was alive

This is also a time when we see the birth of heresies that were to plague the church during the next century, an example would be Gnosticism.

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This was also a time when false teachers began to preach. Many of these false teachers were former members of the church. John wrote this letter to refute some early heresies, John prefers to say “lies”.

The first lie – Jesus was only a spirit, not flesh and blood. From this Jesus could not be the Messiah (God in the Flesh). Or Jesus was a man, the spirit Christ (God) entered him at his baptism (like a dove) and left Jesus (the man) right before the crucifixion.

The second lie – They denied the reality of sin.

You could have fellowship with God and still walk in darkness (sin).

Man has no natural tendency to sin.

The false teachers had not sinned (no need to confess)

Let’s look at 1 John Chapter 1 in detail.

1 John 1:1-10 (English Standard Version)

The Word of Life

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—

2 the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us—

John opens this letter by referring to his Gospel

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

2 He was in the beginning with God.

3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

4 In him was life, and the life was the light of men.

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John also emphasizes that he was an eyewitness to these events.

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He saw, heard, and touched Jesus. He also reminds his readers of the core of the Gospel message.

John immediately refutes the first lie mentioned.

Jesus was human (flesh and blood) and spirit (God) at the same time.

3 that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.

4 And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

John says that he gave them the “original” / “authentic” gospel message. The one he heard from Jesus himself. Then he describes Christian fellowship. With fellow believers, and with God / Jesus himself.

John 15:4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.

He is writing this to restore fellowship. Restore true fellowship of the listeners with God / Jesus.

Walking in the Light

5 This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

John is again referring to his gospel. Jesus is the light.

John 1:9 The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.

John 8:12 Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

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

He refutes the first part of the second lie.

It is impossible to have fellowship with God and continue in darkness. i.e. no change in your life.

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 cleanses us from all sin.

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

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John reminds his readers that Jesus has forgiven all of our sins, past present and future. He also reminds us that we will continue to sin. It is human nature to sin and make mistakes. That is the reason that we need fellowship with God and others as we attempt to remove sin from our lives. So, John has refuted the second part of the second lie.

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

John reminds his readers of the value of confession. It is a cleaning process, a restorative process, part of the life changing process of growing in Christ. Note it is between us and Christ.

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

Based on what John has said, the third part of the lie is an obvious lie.

In ten verses John countered the growing lies developing within the church.

We still encounter these lies today. Maybe re-worded.

Recap as a conclusion.