

(1 John 1:1-10)
“*Simple Truths*”

~LET'S PRAY~

NOTE TAKERS...

- I've titled todays message: **“What's Holding You Back?”**
➤ READ (1 John 1:10).

~AUTHOR & DATE~

1st John was written by the Apostle John.

- Around (AD 90-95).
- At this time... he was the last living Apostle...
➤ And eye witness of Jesus Christ... at nearly 90-years old.
- John was in his early twenties when he started following Jesus.

AND...

- It's believed... John spent the last years of his life...
➤ Overseeing the churches planted by Paul 40-years earlier.
- These churches were to be beacons of light (Matt. 5:13-16).

HOWEVER...

- There was a problem that crept into the church.
➤ Gnosticism.

GNOSTICISM...

- Separate the inner spiritual life...
➤ From the responsibility of external behavior!
 - You could live as you wanted as long as you “believed.”

GANG...

- The reason we still reference **Gnosticism** today...
➤ Is because this nonsense is still seen in the church.
- It goes like this... Don't judge me you don't know my heart!

~INTRO~

SO... JOHN'S AIM...

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- Was to anchor in the church with simple truths...
➤ So that... fellowship with God was maintained!

1st JOHN WAS WRITTEN TO:

- Deepen the spiritual life of the church.

THREE KEY TAKE AWAYS:

- 1) *Fullness of joy* (1:4)
- 2) *Freedom from sin* (2:1)
- 3) *Assurance of salvation* (5:13)

HERE'S A FEW THINGS WE CAN LEARN TODAY:

IDEA #1 – KNOWING THE RIGHT JESUS: (vv.1-4)

FIRST...

- We want to have a right understanding...
➤ By recognizing Jesus is eternally existent.
 - (Gen. 1:1) & (John 1:1)

(Rev. 22:13) Jesus says...

“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning, and the End, the First and the Last.”

1st JOHN...

- Gives us the right understanding so we're NOT deceived.
➤ (1 John 2:22-26).

SECIND... (v.2) GOES ON...

- With an eye-witness account of the humanity of Christ!
 - “*We have heard...*”
 - “*We have seen...*”
 - “*We have looked upon...*”
 - “*have handled... the Word of life.*”

JOHN underscored...

- The hypo-static union of Christ...
➤ Which is a fancy way of describing...

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- The deity & humanity of Christ as one!

THIRD... HE GIVES THE PURPOSE...

- For having a right understanding of who Jesus is (vv.3-4).

BY WAY OF APPLICATION:

- Fellowship = Is God's answer to loneliness of life.¹
- Joy = Is God's answer to hollowness of life.

(John 15:11) NKJV

“These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.”

IDEA #2 – CONDITIONS OF FELLOWSHIP: (vv.5-7)

How do we stay in fellowship with God!?!?

THERE'S ONLY TWO OPTIONS...

Option-A:

- Accept the conditions of fellowship God has given!

Option-B:

- Put on the fig leaf and hid like Adam & Eve did!

WHEN IT COMES TO SPIRITUAL MATTERS...

- Fear always repels mankind from God.
 - The enemy of our soul paints God to be something He's not.
- But the Father has extended His arms to us in Jesus.
 - And His condition of fellowship with us...
 - Is that we walk in the light (His truth in our life).

(v.5)

The message is... “From Him (Jesus)... to you...” (the church)...

- Which is... God is light & there's no darkness in Him.

¹ The Wiersbe Bible Commentary: New Testament PDF Version (p.962). Published by David C. Cook 2007.

SO WHEN THE BIBLE SAYS...

- “*God is light?*”

➤ There are two concepts we hold to:

#1) Light represents ***the truth of God*** seen in the word of God.

➤ (Ps. 43:3) = into God’s presence!

➤ (Ps. 119:130) = provides understanding to anyone who looks.

#2) Scripture links light ***with our conduct & behavior*** (actions).

➤ (Eph. 5:8-11) NKJV = direction as what to do.

➤ (Rom. 13:11-14) NKJV = directions as what NOT to do.

JOHN IS SAYING...

- Our response to the “*light*” (God’s word)...

➤ Should affects who we are as a person & how we live!

HERE’S WHY IT MATTERS:

(v.6) John confronts false professions!

- 1) We lie to others (v.6).
- 2) We lie to self (v.8).
- 3) We lie to God (v.10).

“Hey I’m a Christian”...

- BUT... I’m living in opposition...

➤ To what the Bible says!

THIS IS (v.6) “*we lie*” = Literally speak deliberate falsehoods.

WE TRY TO MAKE OURSELVES BETTER...

- Then what we really are!

➤ We pick up the fig leaves & hide behind them.

○ It’s a mask (a deliberate falsehood).

Meanwhile God is calling out and saying come to Me!

God wants fellowship with us personally!

- He doesn’t want us to be afraid of Him.

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- But He's called us to be honest...
 - And to live a life that is consistent with His word.

IDEA #3 – RE-NEWING FELLOWSHIP WHEN I BLOW IT: (vv.8-10)

(v.8)

THE GREEK WORD FOR...

- Sin = (*Ham-mar-te-A*)
 - Meaning to miss or wander from the path of right.

GOD KNOWS YOU'RE A SINNER...

- So the idea is NOT to become sinless.

BUT...

- To change directions when His word...
 - Shows us we're off course!
- Sin interrupts OUR fellowship with God...
 - But cannot change OUR relationship with Him.

(vv.9-10)

WE CAN FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD...

- Or we can have a hard heart toward Him.

In fellowship we learn truth & walking it out.

- With a hard heart we advance from:
 - (v.6) Lying to others...
 - (v.8) Lying to self...
 - (v.10) Lying to God!

(v.9)

YET... GOD JUST WANTS US TO...

- Confess = Agree with Him & turn away from wandering.
- Forgive = God unties the knots.
- Cleanse = To free from guilt & purify!

(Hot-wheels story / 6-yrs / & hospital)

~ IN CLOSING ~

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IF YOU DON'T HAVE A RELATIONSHIP...

- With Jesus Christ please come forward to visit with a pastor.