

1 John 1:1-10  
“Simple Truths”

AS YOU SETTLE IN...

- Let's turn to the book of 1<sup>st</sup> John...
  - And follow along as I read (1 John 1:1-10).

NOTE TAKERS...

- We begin a new study series today...
  - In a message I've titled:

**“Simple Truths”**

SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE WORLD...

- Truth has been under attack.
  - In fact... In (Gen. 3:1) the Bible records the serpent...
    - Called into question God's very word...
      - By saying, “*Has God indeed said...*”
- Trying to raise the insecurity of doubt in Eve's mind!
  - And truth remains a hot topic in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century!

BUT AS WE LEARN WHAT THE HOLY SPIRIT...

- Shares thru the Apostle John...
  - We'll come to realize there's... a definitive...
    - Right & wrong way to live as a Christian!

AND THIS IS WHAT...

- 1<sup>st</sup> John provides to Christians in all times...
  - **“Simple Truths”**
    - OR an intensely practical letter!

**~ STUDY ~**

NOW LETS CONSIDER A LITTLE BACKGROUND...

- As we begin!

**Author & Date:**

CHURCH HISTORY CREDITS...

- The Apostle John as the author of this epistle.

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- And at this POINT in-time... he was the last living...
  - Eye witness of Jesus Christ!
- a) He was the youngest Apostle at 15-yrs old.
- b) He was part of the inner circle (Peter, James, & John).
- c) And John spent the last years of his life in Ephesus...  
overseeing the surrounding church plants by the Apostle Paul.
- d) Predominately the book is dated between (AD 80-95).

**Cultural Setting:**

- a) Asia Minor was the region (separated Europe & Asia)
- b) And Ephesus was the intellectual center of that region.
- c) It was a melting pot of all types of philosophies, religions, & superstitions!

**Background of Book:**

- a) Paul had established these churches some 40-years earlier (AD 49-52)
- b) The churches were to be beacon of light ([Matt. 5:13-16](#))
- c) So the problem was the trends of the day began to penetrate the thinking of the church from within & without.
- d) And partial truths began leading people astray.
- e) Gnosticism was the heretical trend of that day!

THE IMPLICATIONS OF GNOSTICISM...

- Tried to separate the inner spiritual stuff...
  - From the responsibility of external... moral & ethical... behavior!

GANG WE'VE HEARD THIS...

- Non-sense too!
  - It goes like this... Don't judge me you don't know my heart!

THERE WAS ALL TYPES OF TOXINS...

- Distorting the claims of Christ!

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IN OUR DAY WE SEE THE SAME DANGERS...

- There's the word faith movement – Benny Hinn.
- Those that deny the complete atonement on the cross – Joyce Myers.
- Seeker friendly churches, which make people feel good (no sin).
- Mormon & Christianity are compatible – Joel Olstein
- People stating no difference between Muslims & Christianity – Obama

AND OUR AREA OF THE COUNTRY...

- We find this COEXIST philosophy...
  - Stating all religions are equal.
  - It's NOT true!!!

NOW... JOHN'S BASIC AIM...

- Was to give the church a necessary affirmation of...
  - Simple truths about the Christian faith!
  - So, that their fellowship with God would be maintained!

MARTIN LUTHER...

*“It's not Christ walking on the sea, but His ordinary walk that we are called... to imitate.”*

A TRUE BELIEVER IN JESUS CHRIST...

- Acknowledges their relationship with Him...
  - They submit to His word...
  - They enjoy other Christians...
  - And they don't continue in a life contrary to His word!

SO... 1<sup>st</sup> JOHN WAS WRITTEN TO:

- Deepen the spiritual life of the church.
  - And guard against the watering down of Biblical truths!

WHEN THIS HAPPENS...

- When the word of God is taught & applied...
  - 1) The sheep are healthy
  - 2) And the sheep grow to maturity!
- They become unstoppable.

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NOW AS WE LOOK AT... (v.1)

- “From the beginning...”
  - We want to have a right understanding by recognizing that Jesus is eternally existent (Gen. 1:1) (John 1:1)...
  - And in (Rev. 22:13) Jesus says...
  - *“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last.”*
- Again! Point being... Christ is eternally existent!

GNOSTICISM TRIED...

- To knock this down & portray a different Jesus.
  - Today Mormons do the same thing!

1<sup>ST</sup> JOHN GIVES US...

- The right understanding so we’re NOT deceived!

OK... (v.2)... JOHN THEN GOES ON TO PRONOUNCE...

- The literal **humanity of Christ!**
  - “We have heard...”
  - “We have seen...”
  - “We have looked upon...”
  - “have handled...”

GNOSTICISM TRIED TO...

- Convince people that Jesus was only a spirit & not real.
  - John says... NOT so!!!

TURN TO (John 1:14).

- (Heb. 1:1-3)

GANG...

- Here’s our response when were in...
  - Close relationship with Jesus
  - (Luke 24:32)

(v.3)

JOHN UNDERSCORES THE HYPOSTATIC UNION...

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- Of Christ... which is just a fancy way of describing...
  - The deity & humanity of Christ.

AND NOW HE GIVES THE PURPOSE...

- **Remember...** this is a practical letter...
  - Underscoring simple truths!
- The purpose is for fellowship with...
  - Each other & with God.

FELLOWSHIP!

- This is NOT a social relationship.
  - It's an... All-In / Mutual / Joint Participation /
    - In each other's lives!

TURN TO...

(Acts 2:41-43)

- Those that gladly received His word
  - Were baptized.

THEN IT DESCRIBES HOW THEY LIVED...

- They “continued steadfastly”
  - (dedicated / devoted / whole heartedly / committed)
    - In the words of scripture
    - In fellowship
    - In breaking bread (Love feast – communion)
    - And in prayers.

**~ AND WE CLOSE TONIGHT ~**

WITH THE FIRST STATED PURPOSE...

- Of (1<sup>st</sup> John).

LOOK AT (v.4)

JESUS SAID IN... (John 15:11)...

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

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MARTIN LLOYD-JONES (1899 –1981)

*“There is only one thing that can give true joy... The Lord Jesus Christ. He satisfies my mind; He satisfies my emotions; He satisfies my every desire. Joy in other words, is the response and the reaction of the soul to a knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.”*

IF YOU DON'T HAVE A RELATIONSHIP...

- With Jesus Christ please visit with the pastors after service.
  - If you have questions about Jesus or the Bible...
    - Come forward and ask the pastors questions.