

1 John 1-2
FAIRVIEW TEXAS CHURCH OF GOD
June 2, 2007

Last week, we discussed the early origins of the Christian Church and the Fairview Church and the relationships to the earlier Israelite holy day of Shavuot.

Within the first century, we find that the early Christian Church was already having challenges. 1 John was written around 85-90 AD – probably from Ephesus.

Halley's Bible Handbook: "According to long received tradition, John made Jerusalem his headquarters, caring for Jesus' mother till her death, and, after the destruction of Jerusalem, made his residence at Ephesus, which by the close of the apostolic generation had become the Geographic and Numerical Center of Christian Population. Here John lived to great age, and wrote his gospel, his Three Epistles and Book of Revelation."

The Expositor's Bible Commentary: "While Paul's epistles fairly bristle with historical allusions that we can readily identify from other sources, those of John contain no references to known persons or places."

John's purpose in writing was to expose the heresy of the false teachers.

Notice there is no dedication or salutation such as is found in other epistles. This indicates it was probably a circular letter – John wrote it to be shared with all churches.

The Expositor's Bible Commentary: "The knowledge that God is righteous is tested by whether one lives righteously as befits one born of God. The knowledge that God is love is tested by whether one loves fellow believers even as one loves God."

It is clear from the internal evidence of 1 John that a developing schism within the Christian community led to its writing. The difficulty had already reached a point where some members, including teachers, had separated themselves from the others and were in the process of setting up their own community. Although the breach was complete, the dissidents continued to keep in touch with the rest of the membership and were actively trying to entice them to join the new group. ... 1 John was written as a response to this crisis ..."

The main heresy being taught was Gnosticism = intuitive knowledge of spiritual manners.

1 John 1

- 1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life--
- 2 the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us--

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- 3 that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.
 - John is stating his authority to address the issues at hand
- 4 And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.
 - Reference: John 1 introduction similarities
- 5 This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light (*phos = manifestation*) and in Him is no darkness (*scotia = ignorance (of divine truth)*) at all.
- 6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.
- 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 Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.
 - John sets the stage = he is talking about a “way of life”
- 8 ¶ If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.
 - Reference: Isaiah 53 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.
 - Reference: Romans 3 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
 - Again, John is setting the tone for the epistle = he is addressing a sinful way of life – not the occasional sin

Chapter 2

- 1 ¶ My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.
 - John could have said “when” instead of “if”
- 2 And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.
- 3 ¶ Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.
- 4 He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.
 - His commandments = the Torah!
- 5 But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him.
- 6 He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.
- 7 ¶ Brethren, I write no new (*kainos*) commandment to you, but an old commandment which you have had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which you heard from the beginning.

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- 8 Again, a new (*new form – not a new commandment*) commandment I write to you, which thing is true in Him and in you, because the darkness (*scotia = ignorance (of divine truth)*) is passing away, and the true light is already shining.
 - John 13 34 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another."
 - Reference: Matthew 5:17 "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill."
 - Christ came to give us the true meaning of the old commandments – not to change them
 - The commandment was new in form – it had a new standard – the standard set by Jesus and His life's example
 - 1 Corinthians 5 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.
 - Paul pointed out that Christ's life made all things new – the old covenant and the scriptures had been filled with new meaning – everything had changed
- 9 He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is in darkness until now.
- John was addressing those at that time and now who treat others unkindly because they do not believe the same as they believe
- 10 He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him.
- 11 But he who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.
- 12 ¶ I write to you, little children, Because your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake.
- 13 I write to you, fathers, Because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, Because you have overcome the wicked one. I write to you, little children, Because you have known the Father.
- 14 I have written to you, fathers, Because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, Because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, And you have overcome the wicked one.
 - John says he is writing to the old and the young
 - He tells why he is writing = to encourage them and to warn them
- 15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.
 - Keep your priorities straight – don't lose focus
- 16 For all that is in the world--the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life--is not of the Father but is of the world.
- 17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.
- 18 ¶ Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour.

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- 19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us.
 - Those teaching apostasies were once part of their congregation
 - Does that sound familiar?
- 20 ¶ But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things.
- 21 I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and that no lie is of the truth.
- 22 Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son.
- 23 Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who acknowledges the Son has the Father also.
 - Gnostics were teaching that Jesus was not the Christ
 - Reference: John's introduction which stresses his personal contact with Jesus and his conviction that He is the Christ
- 24 Therefore let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father.
- 25 And this is the promise that He has promised us--eternal life.
- 26 These things I have written to you concerning those who try to deceive you.
- 27 But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.
- 28 ¶ And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.
- 29 If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him.