

GOD IS

Int.

1. Aim: A brief look at the great themes and statements of I John and some implications.
2. 1 John is a look into the heart of an early disciple. What made John tick? What kept him going? What were his deep-rooted convictions?
3. Note: The book was written late in his life. He had seen various strong persecutions rise against his faith.
4. Why do you still hold on to faith in God? Answer:

Discussion

I. GOD IS REAL: 1:1-4

v. 1 "That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, [asv = that which we beheld] and our hands have handled, of the Word of life;"

A. Unlike mystical religions, John knew a Divine Being as REAL.¹

1. "We have heard"-
2. "We have seen with our eyes"
3. "Which we have looked upon"- asv = "that which we beheld"
4. "And our hands have handled"

B. Each of these verbs - heard, seen, beheld and handled are rising and sharpening our concept ²

1. Hearing is the lowest in the scale - no personal contact, may be from a distance
2. Seeing may be involuntary - eyes could be averted from that which is seen

3. The word "beheld" [looked upon] indicates conscious and wilful participation; it denotes more than mere seeing - it suggests a steady and penetrating gaze designed to hold the object in view until all its characteristics are noted
4. The word handled suggests the most tangible, intimate, and definite evidence which John offered. This means physical contact.
5. The three senses - hearing, seeing and touching - were utilized by the apostle to obtain evidence of the reality of the Word of life about which he testifies here.
6. The Lord was not a mere influence, but a living, vibrant, tangible personality whose voice John has heard, whose body he had seen, and whom he had touched with his own hands.

C. The Reality is what draws us into: v. 3 & 4 "That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full."

1. "Fellowship" - a wonderful commonality and partnership
2. "Joy" - excitement. 1 Pet.1:8
3. Reality produces "hope" to "see Him as He is" - 3:2

D. God is real

II. GOD IS LIGHT. 1:5-10

- A. His reality is an inviting light to compel us to come out of the darkness of sin and unbelief.
- B. His reality is so perfect in character that it reveals weakness and inferiority in all else.
 - 1. In Him is no darkness at all. 1:5,6³
 - a. Darkness is a figure of ignorance, superstition and sin
 - b. Light represents truth, purity, and goodness
 - c. God is contrasted with the heathen deities the worship of which promoted immorality, ungodliness, and gross sin.
 - d. The devil and his agents are styled "the rulers of the darkness of this world"
Eph. 6:12
 - 2. To desire fellowship with Him, is to desire a higher, purer level of moral character. There is no darkness in Him !
 - 3. One cannot intend to live sinfully and expect to maintain a partnership with a perfect, holy being as God.
- C. His light exposes the dark spots of sin in our lives.
 - 1. Exposure is uncomfortable if you really want to continue in sin.
 - 2. Exposure is satisfying if you really want to clean an object and bring out its potential beauty.
 - 3. One cannot have fellowship with the true God without sharing God's love of excellence and righteousness. 2:6
- D. God is Light

III. GOD IS ETERNAL. 2:13,14,15-17

- A. To John, eternity made temporary pleasures of sin less important.
 - 1. Like Moses, he believed the value of something should be weighed by its lasting consequences. Heb.11:24-27
 - 2. The promise - 2:25 - eternal life - was an exciting and real concept because God is real and eternal. "And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life."

- B. Fellowship with an eternal being assured John of a far better existence. 5:11-13

IV. GOD IS TRUE. 2:27; 5:6

- A. To John there is absolute "truth". Jno.17:17
 - 1. Unlike the false gods and religions that teach that truth is relative, or that it is the servant of each man's personal preferences, John believed that there were things that were:
 - a. Absolutely "true".
 - (1) "the truth" - 1 Jn. 1:6,8; 2:4,8,21;
 - (2) 1 Jn. 3:19; 5:20
 - b. Absolutely "false" or "a lie".
 - c. "false prophets" - 4:1,6
 - 2. Anything that denies God's word "makes Him a liar".

- B. God is insulted when men say there is no absolute truth because God is True.

V. GOD IS PURE. 3:3

- A. "And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure."
- B. Purity means unmixed, of singular quality, undefiled, clean, innocent, modest
- C. Those who know God as real, know that His excellence is like a fire, burning out the impurities of our lives.
- D. Those who really entertain "hope" of seeing Him, know they must lay aside the old leaven of sin. Because God is Pure !!!

VI. GOD IS RIGHTEOUS. 3:7

- A. "Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous."
- B. His righteous character demands that anyone who would have fellowship or be His partner must practice righteousness.
 - 1. Righteousness is doing right, right doing - living right
 - 2. Again, absolutes in right and wrong.
 - 3. Right is an inherent part of righteous.
- C. The standards that are right for us are those that come from the God who cannot lie. He has absolute values, not a shifting and uncertain situation ethics.
- D. God is righteous

VII. GOD IS LOVE - 4:8

"He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love."

- A. Love is that commitment to the good of another.
 - 1. God is love because love originates with Him
 - 2. He "so loved the world that He gave... Jno.3:16
 - 3. His love of those in His "fellowship" demands a love that is pure and true on my part. 2:9
- B. All those who love God shall partake of this nature of God to love our fellow man
 - 1. 1 John 5:20
 - 2. Love is willing to sacrifice for those in need.
- C. The example was set when we needed forgiveness and He gave sacrificially His Son.
- D. 1 Jn. 4:19 "We love him, because he first loved us."

VIII. GOD IS IN CHRIST. 2:22-24

- A. There is no fellowship with God without knowing and believing in Jesus. 1Jn. 2:22-24
 - 1. Judaism does not accept the Son.
 - 2. Islam does not accept the Son.
 - 3. Hinduism does not accept the Son.
 - 4. Buddhism does not accept Jesus as the Son of God.
- B. Faith in God is not the same as "fellowship" with Him. This is established "through Jesus" - Jno.14:6
- C. Those who reject Jesus are not "of God". 4:2-3
- D. "we might live through Him (Jesus). 4:9,10,14,15
- E. "He who does not believe God has made Him a liar" - 5:10

Conclusion:

1. God is so great and He is offering so much.
 - a. God is real
 - b. God is light
 - c. God is eternal
 - d. God is true
 - e. God is pure
 - f. God is righteous
 - g. God is Love
 - h. God is in Christ
 2. You can have fellowship and joy in Christ Jesus, His Son.
 3. What an opportunity. It's true, its right.
 4. Don't you want to be a part of this?
 5. It begins by hearing God's testimony concerning His Son.
 6. Will you listen honestly?
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Sources

1. From a Sermon by Terry W. Benton 206 Highland Ave. Trussville, AL. 35173
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 2. Commentary on 1 John by Guy N. Woods - P. 211
 3. Guy N. Woods p. 215
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Sermon by Arthur Pigman - Sunday Evening July 20, 2008
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