

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN

1 JOHN 4:1-10.

Intro: In the last two Sunday nights:

- 1) The Gospel according to Paul.
- 2) The Gospel according to Peter.

next Sunday: The Gospel according to James.

Tonight: John - not from his Gospel record, but from his epistle, the first one - written especially for the people of God. Cf. 5:13.

Our text is 4:9, 10.

Strangely enough John's reason for referring to the Gospel is to emphasize what he means that they should love each other. They could never understand how they were to love each other if they did not understand God's love for them.

I. JOHN'S TWO WORDS. He may have others, but these are two that he uses more than any other NT writer, and more than all of the other Gospel writers combined. They are: **LOVE** and **LIFE**.
(Possibly LIGHT would be another)

A. LOVE. By this ἀγάπη, John does not mean merely the affection, but it is a love which is "a... reasoning attachment." (French, p. 41). God is not blind in His love, but He has taken everything into consideration + knowing all about man has declared His love for man. Cf. Rom 5:6-8.

B. LIFE. Again - John's word. Both of these are in John 3:16.

This is a word of contrast. It is used in contrast with death - the separation from God which has been caused by sin. BECAUSE OF GOD'S LOVE FOR MAN, HE COULD NOT LEAVE HIM IN SPIRITUAL DEATH. So He had to do what was necessary to meet man's need.

II. THE BASIS OF SALVATION - God's love for us, not our love for Him.

John, like Paul and Peter, give man absolutely NO CREDIT FOR SALVATION! NOT even our love for Him!

But notice what John says: "In this was manifested the love of God toward us," or lit., in us.

how he cannot mean that the Gospel was the first evidence of God's love for man.

The OT is full of proof:

- 1) God's creation of man in innocence + His provision for him in the garden.
- 2) His provision for Adam + Eve.
- 3) His protection of Cain.
- 4) His goodness to Lot.
- 5) His care of Joseph's brothers.
- 6) The journey of the Israelites to Canaan.
- 7) Cf. Gen. 31:3; Deut. 4:37; 7:8

NO, WHAT JOHN MEANS IS THAT MAN NEVER HAS KNOWN BEFORE HOW MUCH GOD LOVES HIM!

III. THE ^{EXTENT} ~~PROOF~~ OF GOD'S LOVE. John never ceased to marvel at this because he is an old man writing this epistle.

A. IN THE ONE WHO CAME: "his only begotten son" - the only son He has.

The Isk is unique. "Because His son, the only begotten, God sent into the world."

And remember that God knew exactly what kind of a world this is - and so did His son! Cf. Jn. 2:24, 25.

Only 3x does John speak of the son as being "sent" in this epistle (4:9, 10, 14), but he mentions this at least 42x in the Gospel!

Again - John 3:16.

B. IN WHAT HE CAME TO DO - two things are mentioned here by John.

1. "That we might live through him" (v. 9b).

God could not stand to be separated from those He loves. So even though it meant the death of His son, He made life, eternal life, available to man.

Cf. 1 Jn. 5:11, 12

It will never end.

It means an eternal relationship with God. Cf. Jn. 10:27-30.

2. He "sent his son to be the propitiation for our sins" (v. 10b).

He not only came to deal with the effect of man's sin, but with the cause.

note: John does not call him the PROPITIATOR, but the PROPITIATION. Just as in Hebrews, He is not only the Priest; He is also the Sacrifice!

The blood of bulls + goats could never take away man's sin. So He had to come to die.

HOW IT MUST HAVE MADE JOHN'S BLOOD RUN COLD WHEN HE FIRST REALIZED WHAT THE LORD HAD COME TO DO!

And he never got over it! Have you?

But just as though this is not enough - look at the one other place where John uses this particular word, propitiation (and he is the only one who uses it.) Cf. 1 Jn. 2:1, 2.

Cond: What is the gospel according to John? It is the message of God's love for man in sending His son to die for our sins that we might have eternal life.

But there is one thing we must do to claim it. WE MUST BELIEVE, TRUST, RECEIVE.

again - John 3:16. "He that hath the Son..."