

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN

1 John 5:9-13, 20

Intro: Not the book, but the message. And not primarily an exposition of the text, but an examination of 1 John to determine the nature of the Gospel which John preached.

We have had:

- 1) The Gospel according to Isaiah.
  - 2) The Gospel according to Peter -- from Acts 2.
  - 3) The Gospel according to Paul -- from 2 Timothy 1.
- And now -- the Gospel according to John from his first Epistle.

NOT MANY  
GOSPELS  
BUT ONE!

One thing that I trust all of these studies has emphasized for your own hearts has been that . . .

. . . in order to understand salvation we must begin with God, not man; AND

. . . that we must see that salvation is entirely, from start to finish a work of God, not a work of man.

We will see this morning, I trust, that the same is true of John's teaching -- he begins with God and lets us know very clearly that salvation is a divine work, not a human work!

And since it is a divine work, it cannot fail.

John's words which he uses in this Epistle to designate what he is primarily concerned about are the words, "eternal life." See them in 1 John 5:11, 13, 20. And then see 1:2 and 2:25.

This is John's expression for salvation: "eternal life." We see this often in the teachings of our Lord in the book, the Gospel according to John.

But the words, "eternal life," also mean that we are eternally secure in that salvation. How can we say this? Because it is a work of God, dependent upon God exclusively, from start to finish -- not a work that is dependent in any way upon man. If man does any part of the work, then nothing is guaranteed!

Now let us note the teachings of John in this Epistle with regard to the Gospel.

Does John begin with God? Yes! Note:

I. THE NATURE OF GOD (1 John 1:5).

This means that God is righteous. He is holy. He is perfect. He is without sin.

Not only that -- James calls God, "the Father of lights"! All goodness in the universe comes ultimately from HIM!

Unless we understand this, we will not see ourselves as we should, we will not understand what sin is, we will not recognize how desperately we are in need of salvation -- of "eternal life."

This is where John starts -- with God, what He is!

And it is significant that this Epistle was written for those who are saved -- so that they would understand the true character of salvation.

But there is a second point:

## II. THE PERSON OF CHRIST (1 John 2:2b).

Are you one who says that what you believe about the Lord Jesus Christ is not important? John would not agree with you -- and this is indicated by much of this Epistle -- and also from 2 John.

Note: 2:22, 23 (actually vv. 18-27); 4:1-3.

To deny what the Scriptures so plainly teach about the Lord Jesus Christ is to leave us without any salvation at all.

What does John emphasize? Here -- three things:

- A. Our Lord's Sonship. Cf. 1:7; 2:2. This means that He is equal in every way with the Father in His Deity.

Stand on that truth and never move away from it.

- B. Our Lord's Incarnation. He is "Jesus" (humanity) "Christ" (Deity).

Since His birth He has been not only absolute Deity but perfectly and genuinely human.

Stand on that truth, too. If He were not a man He could not have taken our place. And if He were only a man, He would have needed a Saviour too. He is both God and Man -- "Jesus Christ."

- C. The Righteous One -- thus measuring up in every way to that standard which is acceptable with God. This is what it means to be "righteous."

Never let anyone move you away from this truth. Our Lord Jesus Christ was "righteous" before He became man, after He became a man, when He died, and after He was raised from the dead. He is "righteous" now, and He always will be righteous!

But there is a third truth which John emphasizes in dealing with the Gospel:

### III. THE WORK OF CHRIST.

It is not only important to know WHO the Lord Jesus Christ was (and is), but we need to know why He came, what He did.

The historical record is given 4 times in the NT -- in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. The explanation is found throughout the Old and New Testaments.

Again we have three expressions:

#### A. Our "Advocate." See 1 John 2:1.

Transliterated into English we have the word, Paraclete. Literally, He has been called to our side. He is our Helper, the One Who pleads our case, our Mediator.

And there is only One -- the Lord Jesus Christ.

It could not be Mary, or the Apostles, or any other. It is Christ, and only Christ.

#### B. "The propitiation." See 1 John 2:1; 4:10.

Paul also uses this word in Rom. 3:25 where we read, "Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God."

Probably the best word to define propitiation is the word, satisfaction -- that God is satisfied with the work of His Son.

Nowhere in the Bible do we read that God is satisfied with any work except that of His Son!

And, however rich in meaning the last part of 1 John 2:2 may be, it certainly points to the infinite value of the work of Christ. If there were myriads of worlds like ours, and Christ had died for them all, His work would have been far more than enough!

#### C. "The Saviour." Cf. 1 John 4:14.

Obviously the Lord is not going to save all men, but He is the only "Saviour" that God has provided for people in the world.

See also 3:5.

But all of this raises the question, WHY? Since God is what He is, and we are what we are, WHY would He even be concerned about us?

In answering this we are brought to a truth which has to be one of the most, if not the most, glorious of all truths in the Word of God:

#### IV. THE LOVE OF GOD.

Read 1 John 4:9, 10.

Paul writes of the same in Rom. 5:8 and Eph. 2:4 ff.

See also 1 John 3:1.

Why does God love us? If we look at ourselves for the answer, we will look in vain. God was not prompted to send His Son because of anything that He saw in any of us. The reason can only be found in the heart of God Himself. And the longer we know the Lord, the harder it is for us to understand this truth. But we know it is true because it is the teaching of Scripture, and, by the grace of God, we can enter into all the glorious blessings of salvation which God has provided for us in His infinite love!

Concl: Much, much more could be said about the Gospel according to John, But it would all have to be an expansion of these basic truths which we have been considering.

Are you concerned this morning about your salvation? Have you been working at it? Are you asking in your heart this morning what the Philippian jailor asked Paul and Silas, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" Then listen to the answer that Paul gave to them: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house."

Salvation is yours because of what Christ has done for you, and in spite of all that you have done to displease Him.

Christian -- are you worried about your salvation? Then get your eyes back on the Saviour, and rejoice in the infinite value of His work for you. He is greater than all the sins you committed before you were saved, and He is greater than all of the sins you have committed since. Get that truth back into your heart, and you will have peace!