



First Epistle of John

1 John 1,2 - Reality of the Incarnation Part 1

Andrew Molloy lesson (Feb 5, 2022) reviewed

- The apostle John's authorship validated
- Time (90-96 A.D.) and place (Ephesus) probably
- Audience – churches in Asia Minor
- Purpose – assurance, fellowship, joy, new life
- Underlying issue – Gnosticism

Why are the 3 epistles of John so located in the NT?

- Darby – ‘The Epistle of John, that is to say, his First, shews us the life that comes from God by Jesus Christ. **John sets God before us, the Father revealed in the Son, and eternal life in Him. Paul sets us before God accepted in Christ.**’

Constable (Marshall) – ‘This writing begins without any of the formal feature's characteristic of a letter, such as we found in 2 John and 3 John. Since the conclusion also



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lacks any typical features of a letter, we must conclude that the writing is not so much a letter as a written sermon or address.’

• 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—

– How should we interpret *the beginning*?

- *archē* – 5 possible meanings but according to Thayer used here absolutely, of the beginning of all things
 - » *Gen 1:1 - In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.*
 - » *John 1:1 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*
 - » *2 Thess 2:13 - But we are bound to give thanks always to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because **God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation** through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:*
 - » *2 Peter 3:4 - And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, **all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.***



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- Constable believes this relates to the beginning of the Christian Gospel.
 - » *1 John 2:24 - 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.*
- **What do you think?**
- *which (**who**, which, what, that) we have heard* – what fits best here?
 - to perceive by the ear what is announced in one's presence
 - to get by hearing learn
 - a thing comes to one's ears, to find out, learn
 - to give ear to a teaching or a teacher
 - to comprehend, to understand
 - » *1 John 1:5 - **This is the message which we have heard from Him** and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.*
- *which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon*
 - Is this redundant?
 - *horaō* – perfect active, that which we see with your eyes



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- *theaomai* – aorist indicative, to behold, look upon, view attentively, contemplate
 - » *John 1:14 - And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*
 - » *1 John 4:14 - And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Savior of the world.*
- *and our hands have handled* – aorist indicative, literally touched
 - Why is this included?
 - Let's now relate this to what followed in the Upper Room.
 - » *Luke 24:39 - Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.*
 - Contrast this with the heathen desirous of feeling that they might find God.
 - » *Acts 17:27 - "so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might feel after Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us;*
- *concerning (of) the Word of life*
 - *Word* – *logos*, the living and eternal Lord Jesus Christ
 - *life* - *zōē*



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- Thayer – ‘here used emphatically to indicate the absolute fullness of life, both essential and ethical, which belongs to God, and through him both to the hypostatic λόγος and to Christ.’
 - » *Phil 2:16 - holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.*
- All of this relates in to His eternity and His humanity which was witnessed by John and the many others!
- ***1 John 1:2 – (For - kai) 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—***
 - *For the life was manifested – phaneroō, aorist passive*
 - Let’s ponder for a moment the significance of this simple phrase.
 - Is not this the life embodied in the 3rd person of the Godhead, the Lord Jesus Christ, who was with the Father and now has become the source and center of our new life?
 - *and we have seen (horaō), and bear witness*



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- *bear witness* - to affirm that one has seen or heard or experienced something, or that he knows it because taught by divine revelation or inspiration
 - » *John 1:6,7 - There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. **This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light**, that all through him might believe.*
 - » *Acts 2:32 - This Jesus hath God raised up, **whereof we all are witnesses.***
- *and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us*
 - *eternal – aiōnios*, without beginning and end, that which always has been and always will be.
 - And what's the world view of this word?
 - *was manifested to us – aorist passive indicative*
 - Again, He was previously with the Father and what followed was no act of ours, was it!
 - » *Eph 1:4 - just as **He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world**, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,*
 - This restates the incarnation and opens up and builds on the theme of fellowship which is exemplified in *verses 3 & 4* and throughout the epistle.



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– *John 1:4 - In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.*

