**The Book of 1 John Lesson 2**

1John 1:1-4

 “I Know”

Introduction: There are two injustices that could be committed and often times are in dealing with this and other writings of the NT. The first is that we could read this letter just as though it were to us with no regard to the circumstances surrounding the writing of the letter. (He was dealing with things that were taking place right then). If we only read this letter as though it is to us with disregard of the circumstances that led to the writing of the letter, we will not understand all of the letter.

The second would be to study this letter and understand its historical and theological setting and not pay attention to its application to us.

 > Here is the setting: the person of Jesus Christ is under attack among the believers. He is being attacked by enemies of the cross and it is having an effect on the believers. This attack has shaken some of the believers. What has shaken some is the teaching of the Greek Gnostics. They taught that any emancipation came from knowledge, and that all matter was evil. Therefore, our attachment to this physical body is evil and the way that we are emancipated (liberated) from the bondage of this physical body is by applying the brain. High intellectualism, special knowledge that they believed that they had. They were teaching before Jesus came, and they applied their method of thinking to Jesus Christ. They looked at the work of Jesus and tried to reason it out and came to this conclusion: 1) that he was merely a man; at best, he was maybe visited by the Spirit of the messiah, but He was just a man. 2) He was not a man at all, He was a Spirit with no association with the body.

 > From the human standpoint, the teaching of the doctrine of Jesus was new (but we know that it is not new, because we know that the promise of a messiah began back in the book of Genesis). We have a compilation of truth in our hands that they did not complete access to. These teaching were foolish, but it was able to shake the faith of some of those new Christians.

**I. I Know Him** (John is saying)

 A. He is a pastor who loves the truth and hates error.

 1. Understanding that the Gnostics said we know

 a. They are the “knowers”

 b. They claim to have superior knowledge

 2. John is basically saying that they DO NOT know.

 3. Don’t miss the passion for truth that John has.

 B. Diagram the sentence with correct syntax.

 1. Should read (without the filler) “That which was from the beginning, the Word of Life, declare we unto you”

 a. John 1:1 – “In the beginning was the Word”

 b. We know who he is talking about , who the Word is

 1) The Word is not a thing, but a person

 2) The Word is the person, Jesus Christ

 2. John is telling us to contradict the Gnostic and their philosophy, you must go back farther than John 1:1, but to the beginning.

 a. Genesis 1:1 – “In the beginning God created…”

 1) John is speaking to us of the Word of Life

2) when I speak to you of the Word of Life, I am talking about He which is from the beginning.

 c. You can go all the way back to the beginning (Genesis 1:1)

1) when you go back as far as your mind can go in eternity and where you could find God

 2) wherever you find God, you would find the Word

 a) because the Word was with God

 b) there has never been a time when the Word has not been

 C. “The Life was manifested”

 1. The Word is the Life and this life was manifested.

 a. The Word existed in eternity past.

 b. There was not a point in time when He (the Word) began.

 c. There was a specific time when the Word was manifest.

 1) There was no time when the Word did not co-exist equally with the Father.

 2) 2000 years ago in Bethlehem

 a) Virgin Mary - mother / God - the Father

 b) He shall be called Emmanuel, God manifest

 c) Here He is in the flesh.

 2. Gnostics said that the Messiah could have no association with the physical.

 a. because the physical flesh was evil.

 b. John says you cannot separate the eternal God from the human Jesus.

 D. “That” is understood in the front of each phrase

1. “That which was from, that which we have heard, that which we have seen with our eyes…”

 a. These personal pronouns are neutered (Not “he whom”)

 b. Not for the emphasis that John is giving

 c. The emphasis is not primarily on the Word

 1) The emphasis is on the Life

 2) The last mention of Word, but not the last of Life

 a) from now He is the Life

 b) Eternal Life is being developed in this letter

 c) to answer the attack of the Gnostics

 2. John is teaching us about Life Eternal.

a. You are not saved from the evil of this body by “knowing” (having superior knowledge)

 b. You are delivered from sin and the bondage of sin by reason of eternal life.

 1) Eternal Life is not a thing, or some thing

 2) Eternal Life is the person of Jesus Christ

c. Life is not deliverance through superior thought, but life eternal is a person, named The Word, the Word of Life.

 1) John says, “I Know Him”

 2) Not just a ghost, “I have seen Him”

3) Didn’t just see Him, but looked upon His life and gazing upon Him, examining Him.

 4) Not just me alone, but all the apostles; and our hands have touched Him.

 d. You can know eternal life while the soul is still attached to this physical body.

 1) Eternal Life cannot be measured by a span of time.

 2) Eternal Life is not defined by a state of bliss.

 3) Everything we have from God is found in the person of Jesus Christ.

 a) mercy and grace

 b) forgiveness and peace

 c) in Him all things consist and there is nothing outside of Him.

 II. We want you to have fellowship with us.

 1. That fellowship begins with the Father.

 a. Outside of a fellowship with the Father, we cannot have fellowship together.

 b. That fellowship with the Father is wrapped up in His Son, Jesus Christ.

 c. Without Jesus Christ, there is no fellowship with the Father

 1) We must come to the Father through Jesus Christ.

 2) To reject Jesus Christ is to reject the Word of God.

 2. We may all believe in God and still go to Hell when we die.

 a. Fellowship with God is not based on an intellectual consent that God exist.

 b. Fellowship with God is based upon whether or not we have believed in His Son.

Conclusion: Do you know Him today? Do you have the assurance of your salvation? Outside of Jesus Christ there is not eternal life!