

Personal/ Small Group Sermon Study

Trashing the Treasure. Treasuring the Trash.

Week of February 14, 2021 A.D.

The apostle Paul said, "Many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction. Their god is their stomach. Their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things." That attitude still exists today. Let's talk about that in this lesson.

Read 1 John 1:1 - 4

1. Refer to verse 1. Does that word "beginning" refer to the beginning of (a) heaven, (b) earth, (c) mankind, (d) time, and/or (e) God? Please explain and discuss why each of the five answers which are listed at (a) through (e) may or may not be the best answer.
2. Is it possible to know God? Does every human being have a responsibility to (a) contemplate if God exists, (b) seek to know if God does exist, (c) seek and consider the evidence which supports the existence of God, and/or (d) want to please God? Please explain the reasons for your answers.
3. Do these 4 verses state and/or infer that (a) God became a man, (b) Jesus is the God who became a man, and (c) John and the other disciples spoke with, saw, and touched the son of God? Please explain the reasons for your answers and explain the inevitable consequences for how the people of earth personally respond to those answers.
4. In your opinion, have these 4 verses, and have the mental exercises which are stated in questions 1-3 above, been considered, and/or examined by a majority of (a) the people now alive on earth, (b) the American population, and/or (c) the "Christians" who live in America? Please explain (a) the reasons for each answer and (b) the practical and/or eternal consequences which await each of the three people groups we are identified in a, b, and c. Is each people group equally responsible and/or accountable for their own consequences?
5. Refer to verse 2. In your opinion, what is John's motivation for what John has written in verse 2. Please explain the reasons for your answer.
6. Refer to verse 3. Does verse 3 provide the answer to question 5 above? How does the acceptance of the truth of verses 1-2 enable John's listeners and readers to have fellowship with (a) John and all other believers in Christ and (b) the Father and His son Jesus Christ? Can that "fellowship" exist if all of the people within that "fellowship" do not believe and affirm the truth of all of the statements which are contained in verses 1-2? Please explain the reasons for your answers.

7. Please explain the reason for the joy which John expresses in verse 4. Do you personally have and express that same joy? If so, why? If not, why not? Please explain what your answers reveal about your love for and relationship with (a) Christ and (b) your church family?

Read John 20:24-31

8. In your opinion, would the church of Jesus Christ be in existence today if the first disciples (i.e. the apostles) did not personally see, touch, and have conversations with the resurrected Jesus? Please explain the reasons for your answer.
9. Refer to verses 24-25. If you were one of the disciples who saw the resurrected Christ, how would you have spoken the words which are quoted in verse 25? Do you personally know the resurrected Jesus? If so, (a) how has the resurrected Jesus changed your life? and (b) do you feel driven to tell everybody you meet that you “have seen” (i.e. have a relationship with and personally know) “the Lord”? Please explain the reasons for your answers.
10. Refer to verse 28. Is Jesus your “Lord”? Is Jesus your “God”? Please explain in detail how you openly proclaim the Lordship of Christ to other people in your daily life? Please explain how you acknowledge to others and to God that Christ is the God of your life.
11. Refer to verse 29. Please explain how this statement by Jesus applies to “the Church”. What proof did Jesus offer to explain and express His personal love for “the Church”? How on earth is it possible for people who have never seen Christ to believe in Christ? Based on this verse alone, what is the only reason for God to allow a believer in Christ to remain alive on earth after he or she becomes a believer? Please explain the reasons for your answers.
12. Refer to verses 30-31. How important is the Bible to the believer? What, if anything, is more important to the believer than the Bible? What does it mean for a follower of Christ “to believe”? What does it mean to “have life in His name”? Do you believe that Jesus believes that you “have life in His name”? Please explain the reasons for your answers.

Consider: We have become so addicted to focusing on the sounds and images which come from our cell phones and other devices that we tend to ignore the miraculous reality that God became a man, that God dwelt among us, and that God now wants to show Himself to the world through us. What a miserable and pathetic lot we have the tendency to be. “You think about that.” Amen.