

Week 2

Review: Authorship, Audience, Style/Genre

- A. Augustine: "1 John commends nothing else but love."
- B. Apocalyptic - problems(schism) in church part of divine drama.

Chapter 1

1. vv. 1-4, prologue (not epistolary greeting)
 - A. Language reminds us of the Gospel of John Chapter 1: beginning, life, word/logos
 - B. Easter appearance, parallel to Thomas encounter, Jesus Christ is still alive and will meet us where we are
 - C. Jesus is the word and the life and we are to meet him through this letter
 - a. Incarnational - Real life not spiritual. Faith must be lived.
 - b. Bios and Zoe are not opposites Bios vs Zoe

"In reality, the difference between Biological life and Spiritual life is so important that I am going to give them two distinct names. The Biological sort which comes to us through Nature, and which (like everything else in Nature) is always tending to rundown and decay so that it can only be kept up by incessant subsidies from Nature in the form of air, water, food, etc., is Bios. The Spiritual life which is in God from all eternity, and which made the whole natural universe, is Zoe. Bios has, to be sure, a certain shadowy or symbolic resemblance to Zoe: but only the sort of resemblance there is between a photo and a place, or a statue and a man. A man who changed from having Bios to having Zoe would have gone through as big a change as a statue which changed from being a carved stone to being a real man. And that is precisely what Christianity is about. This world is a great sculptor's shop. We are the statues and there is a rumour going round the shop that some of us are some day going to come to life."
- C. S. Lewis, Mere Christianity
 - c. Philia and agape are not opposites. (*Lex orandi, Lex credendi, lex vivendi*)
2. vv. 5-10, God is light. "C. K. Barrett, "There could hardly be a more Christocentric writer than John, yet his very Christocentrism is theocentric."
 - A. Light - Creation, James,

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that." - Martin Luther King, Jr.

"The light of the Lord's transfiguration does not come into being or cease to be, nor is it circumscribed or perceptible to the senses, even though for a short time on the narrow mountain top it was seen by human eyes." - Gregory Palamas

- B. Morality - love complete. (Theology vs Ethics: Stanley Hauerwas, "You can only act in a world you can see, and only see in a world that you can say.")
- C. "If" - apparatus test
- D. Forgiveness of sin
- E. Walk as Jesus Walked - "Christianity is not about abstract faith, but following Jesus."

Chapter 2

- 1. vv. 1-6, Christ Our Advocate
 - A. My little children
 - B. Sin in church - Luther, "The primitive church wasn't as holy as we believed it to be."
 - C. Atonement, not take away God's wrath but to show God's love
 - D. Test of commandments
 - E. Christ as Advocate - *paraclete*
 - F. Love - first of 52 times, with 10 more in the brief 1 & 2 John.

Hymn

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

1. I want to walk as a child of the light.
 I want to follow Jesus.
 God set the stars to give light to the world.
 The star of my life is Jesus.

Refrain:

In him there is no darkness at all.
 The night and the day are both alike.
 The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
 Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

2. I want to see the brightness of God.
 I want to look at Jesus.
 Clear sun of righteousness, shine on my path,
 and show me the way to the Father. [Refrain]

3. I'm looking for the coming of Christ.
 I want to be with Jesus.
 When we have run with patience the race,
 we shall know the joy of Jesus. [Refrain]