

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan

1 John 1

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The opening verse of I John lays the foundation for the entire book. Notice how many sensory words are used in the first four verses.

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—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—that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. And these things we write to you that your joy may be full. (I John 1:1-4)

John was writing against incipient Gnosticism, even though the evil heresy did not fully develop until the middle of the second century, there is no doubt the aged apostle was already seeing the damage that could be done through this Greek philosophy that would infiltrate the young church. Gnosticism denied that Jesus had a real body and that he was indeed a real man in the flesh. Like Greek dualism, they believed that the soul/spirit part of man was good, and the body was evil. This led to two extremes, one that the body was evil so to deprive it was to starve out evil. This led to asceticism. The other extreme said that since the body is not important in the big scheme of life, do

what you wish with the body, there is no wrong or harm. This leads to antinomianism or lawlessness. Both extremes were dangerous to the followers of Jesus.

Remember the Gospel of John was the Gospel that emphasized the Deity of Jesus, that He indeed was God come to earth. God walking. God talking. God in the flesh. See John 1:1,14, 18, John explains that Jesus is the very essence of God in robed in humanity. All God.

In I John the apostle stresses the humanity of Jesus and does that immediately as he opens this epistle. Notice the words he uses related to the physical realm. This person was from the beginning, the ultimate beginning. This is the language of the uncaused cause. Which we heard (audible), with our eyes (physical eyes seeing physical, not spiritual body), which we have looked upon, **θεάομαι, theaomai**, pronounced (*teh-ah'-om-ah-ee*) this is where we get the word **theater**. What do you do in a theater, you stare at the screen, it is not a place where you occasionally glance at what is before your eyes. You examine what is before you, hence John says, **"They stared at Jesus, He was a real man."** Their hands touched Him, handled Him. The root word here means to touch as in to rub, wipe, or feel over the surface of something. They hugged, touched, felt the Lord's hands, and arms, felt his embrace. He was a real man.

Prayer and Action Steps

Don't let anyone capture you with empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking and from the spiritual powers of this world, rather than from Christ. For in Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body. So you also are complete through your union with Christ, who is the head of every ruler and authority. (Colossians 2:9-10 Emphasis mine)