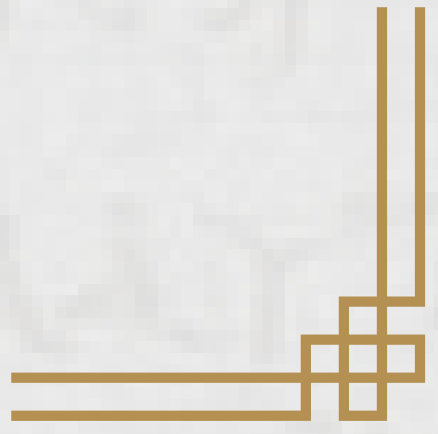
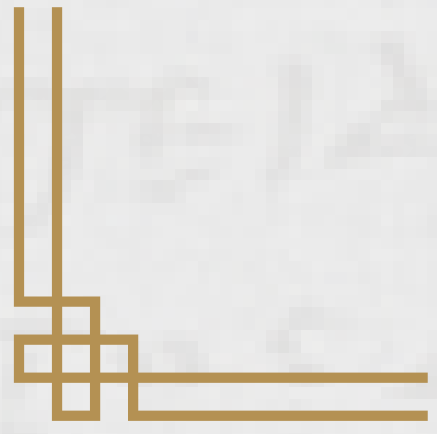




1 John

An Exegetical Series
1 John 1:1-4: Prologue



Introductory Thoughts

An Exegetical Series: Not “Thematic”

1. Extracting the “meaning” of the text from the text itself rather than reading meaning into the text
2. The themes present in 1 John by the Apostle will be our “themes” as it were
3. Rather than do “*1 John: The Christian Life*” we’re gonna read 1 John through what is there as if we were receiving this for the first time

Introductory Thoughts

Content Significance for All Believers

- 1 John 2:12-13:

“12 I am writing to you, **little children**, since your sins have been forgiven on account of his name. 13 I am writing to you, **fathers**, because you have come to know the one who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, **young men**, because you have conquered the evil one.”

Exegesis of 1 John 1:1-4

v. 1-2: Three Realities According to John:

a. Deity and Ministry of Christ

b. Apostolic Witness

c. Apostolic Testimony

Exegesis of 1 John 1:1-4

v. 1-2: (a) Deity and Ministry of Christ

What **was** from the **beginning** (Cf. John 1:1; Rev 1:8)

- Was in the Greek “ἦν” as John Uses It
 - Diff. form of the Personal Pronoun “ἐγώ εἰμί” (Jn 8:58)
 - Imperfect (tense) 3rd person (he), singular, active (now) indicative (what the author believes)
 - The Imperfect tense is the kicker! It implies **present action as ongoing without beginning or end**

Exegesis of 1 John 1:1-4

v. 1-2: Three Realities: (a) Deity and Ministry of Christ

- Was “ἦν” implies Existence (was = state of being)
 - Exodus 3:14 — But John is being more forward and deliberate than using “I AM” or ὁ ὢν of Jesus
 - The one who “Was” or Jesus, is not merely the God who “IS” though such a statement is correct — John is going further by saying that Jesus (like the Father — John 1:1!) is God in the present, as well as past, and future!

Exegesis of 1 John 1:1-4

v. 1-2: Three Realities: (b-c) Apostolic Witness/Testimony

Who is the “We”?

- The Apostles **witnessed** Jesus’ physical existence
- But this, alone, is not enough: John 2:23-25:

“While he was in Jerusalem during the Passover Festival, many believed in his name when they saw the signs he was doing. Jesus, however, would not entrust himself to them, since he knew them all and because he did not need anyone to testify about man; for he himself knew what was in man.”

Exegesis of 1 John 1:1-4

v. 1-2: Three Realities: (b-c) Apostolic Witness/ Testimony

- The Apostles **witnessed** Jesus' physical existence
- John specifically uses legal terms to describe the type of "witness" he has been (courtroom setting)
- In other words, he not only claims to have experienced Jesus, but vouches for the truth of what he experienced, "We experienced and came to **KNOW** Jesus's identity and Gospel ministry!"

Exegesis of 1 John 1:1-4

v. 1-2: Three Realities: (b-c) Apostolic Witness/ Testimony

The Apostles, specifically, John, now Testify:

- What John will witness to is “the eternal life that was with the father and was revealed to us...”
- What has been revealed about Jesus to them—both who he is and what his ministry accomplished—they are now going to declare or proclaim to “you” the audience

Exegesis of 1 John 1:1-4

v. 3-4: The Purpose of John's Witness and Testimony

True, Joyous Fellowship with the Triune God

- Fellowship with us
 - The eye witnesses (The Apostles)
 - Why is that important? They know the truth of who Jesus because he revealed himself to them
- Our Fellowship is with the Father and the Son
 - True, joyous fellowship is only found in the Triune God and his own revealed truth

Exegesis of 1 John 1:1-4

v. 3-4: The Purpose of John's Witness and Testimony

What Kind of Fellowship?

- ◆ Greek word is “κοινωνία” (koinonia)
 - Close relationship through close association based on common interests and purposes
 - I.e., “God’s redemptive purposes for the world in general and for individual lives in particular, as Jesus revealed them” (Karen Jobes, Commentary)

Exegesis of 1 John 1:1-4

v. 3-4: The Purpose of John's Witness and Testimony

Significance of Fellowship by *κοινωνία*:

- ♦ If false teaching is impeding the Christians John is writing to through Greek philosophy or other teachings, they are receiving a **false understanding of redemption from the darkness of sin**
- ♦ Such false teaching will lead them to eternal death rather than eternal life!

The Meaning of 1 John 1:1-4

- ✻ John is stating, “We were there with Jesus and he revealed to us who he is and what his ministry would be, what it would accomplish, and how it affects us!”
- ✻ If we heard this for the first time, we would have to ask: Will we believe John? Or will we seek other things to get at the “truth”? In context, it was Greek Philosophy...
- ✻ **What about in your context? What truth would you seek instead of the Apostle who walked with Jesus?**



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