

Resurrection

2 John

Let's get a quick summary again of these three letters of John,

1. God is described as Life Light and love. Isn't that wonderfully positive? Not death darkness and hatred, but Life Light and love!

We see this life in Jesus! Jesus is fully eternal. We see that this life is deeply fertile. His life is expansive, explosive, growing.

There can be no growth in death, darkness and hatred.

That's partly why the kingdom of Satan is declining. There can be no growth!

The growth of the kingdom is based on Life Light and love.

2. As we walk in this life light and love, we are challenged to be sinless selfless servants. Now we know that's a tall order!

This Side of Heaven we will never be sinless.

This Side of Heaven none of us will ever be perfectly selfless.

This Side of Heaven, we will never be perfect servants.

But thankfully, that's why John says if we DO sin, have an advocate with the father....

3. Finally, these three little letters are all about Jesus. In theological terms Jesus is called *the Telos of creation*.

TELOS means the finality, the consummation, the end, the full outcome of something.

He is the finality, the consummation, the END of all of eternity.

For of Him and through Him to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. (Rom 11)

For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth,

visible/invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers *all things were created by him, and for him:*

And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

Let's delve into the unfathomable mystery of the Trinity...

All three persons of the godhead are individuals, yet they are all the same essence. So...

Jesus is the father.

He said if you've seen me you've seen the father, I and the father are one.

But yet at the baptism of Jesus, there is a separate Father who spoke, Dove...

God is the Holy Spirit.

When Jesus was speaking to the woman at the well he said God IS spirit, (not "a" or "the" spirit, but God is Spirit).

So the Father, who is Spirit has a Body (Jesus). Figure that one out...

Jesus is the Holy Spirit.

In John 14 Jesus said "I will pray to the Father, send you the Holy Spirit." Well that's three distinct people right there!

But in verse 18 He says, "I will come to you!"

Well how is he going to come to us? *In the form of the Holy Spirit!*

So this is the reality of the unfathomable concept, the mystery of godliness Paul calls it.

Three distinct beings, yet one being. Now everybody got that? (Cuz I don't!)

Here is the wonderful upshot of the entire thing. In these little letters from John we see that Jesus is all we need!

This is the Gospel message:

- The Godhead dwelling in the body of Jesus
- AND the physical resurrection of the body of Jesus

In 1 Cor 15, the resurrection chapter...Paul clearly defines what the gospel is...

He begins with what we call a Credal statement in scripture.

We used a Credal statement this morning. "I receive from the Lord that which I delivered to you..."

1 Cor 15:

Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand...

Starts with a Credal statement (vs 3): For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: States the Gospel:

- Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,
- He was buried,
- He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,
- He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve.

That's the gospel! *Jesus died to save us from our sins; was buried; rose again in bodily form.*

Paul clearly states in Romans 10:

If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead you will be saved.

The gospel is simply believing in the birth, death and bodily resurrection of Jesus.

It's not belonging to a church, it's not behaving a certain way,
It's not adhering to certain doctrines, wearing certain clothes

It is simply believing that Jesus died for our sins and was bodily raised from the dead.

Now why is that so important? Why the bodily resurrection? Why did John write three letters about it?
Peter and Paul fight so hard to defend the BODY of Jesus?

If you read further in 1 Cor 15, find out why...

If Jesus rose bodily from the grave, then:

I CAN WALK IN RESURRECTION LIFE

Rom 11

But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

Gal 2

I have been crucified with Christ: it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me;
and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Col 3

If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

1 Pet 2

Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, *might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.*

Because of His RESURRECTED body, I can have resurrection life!

Through our God, we shall do valiantly, it is He that shall tread down our enemies!

I WILL BE RAISED

Jesus: Let not your heart be troubled...

Col 3

When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

I WILL LIVE GLORIFIED FOREVER

Behold what manner...

What marvelous love the Father has extended to us! Just look at it—we're called children of God! *That's who we really are.* But that's also why the world doesn't recognize us or take us seriously, because it has no idea who he is or what he's up to.

But friends, that's exactly who we are: children of God. And that's only the beginning. Who knows how we'll end up! What we know is that when Christ is openly revealed, we'll see him—and in seeing him, ***we will become like him.***

And this Hope purifies us as we labor for His Kingdom and *watch for His return!*