



"Dear Children, It Shouldn't Fit!"

1 John 1:1-4, 5:19

Sunday | October 15th, 2017 | Pastor Patrick Bowler

CONSULT THE SCRIPTURES

1 John 1:1-4, 5:19

(See also John 1:1-4, 9-14, 2 Pet. 1:16, Rev. 19:7-8)

CONSULT THE SCHOLARS

[Martin Lloyd-Jones] "The gospel is an announcement. We can put that negatively by saying that the gospel of Jesus Christ is not a speculation, nor a human thought or idea or philosophy. It is essentially different, and it must never be put into that category. That is the trouble, alas, with so many of us. We will persist in regarding it as an outlook, as something which results from the meditation and thought of man on the whole problem of life and living. That has been the real tragedy of the last century or so, when philosophy took the place of revelation and people said that the Bible is nothing after all but human thoughts, man's ideas, man's search after God—why should modern man equally not have a place in these matters? So we put forward our modern ideas.

But that is not the gospel! The whole position of the apostles, John and the rest, is that they have something to declare, something to say. They have seen something, they are reporting it, and that something is so wonderful that John can scarcely contain himself. Have you noticed the interesting point that in a sense there is no introduction to the epistle? There are no preliminary salutations and greetings; John does not even say who he is—you have to deduce that from internal evidence. Here is a man who has something amazing to say; he knows these people have to hear it and so, without any introduction, he suddenly plunges them into the heart of the mighty message he has to deliver. There is nothing uncertain about this message, it is a proclamation; there is an urge and an authority behind it.¹

¹Life In Christ: Studies in 1 John (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2002), p. 45.

DISCUSS

1. Describe what it feels like to wear an article of clothing that does not fit (there is no need to talk about why it doesn't fit)?
2. Pastor Patrick used a suit jacket that doesn't fit him well to illustrate the discomfort the Christian feels living in this world. He said for the Christian, this world will feel like it doesn't fit. What did he mean by that?
3. Read 1 John 5:19. How does this passage inform us as to the Christian's place in this world?
4. As Christians, what is the danger of trying to make the world fit? What is at stake?
5. Early Gnostics were infiltrating the early church by the end of the 1st century. They believed all matter was evil and only the spiritual was good or pure. How might that belief erode some of the tenets of the Christian Faith? What about the Gospel itself?
6. Read 1 John 1:1-4 and discuss. How does John's opening of his letter address some of the heresies present in the first century church?
7. Read 2 Peter 1:16. How important is the testimony of the Apostles? Why?
8. What does this passage have to say about the unchanging nature of the Christian faith, particularly the Gospel? (see also John 1:1-4, 9-14 and discuss)
9. What immediate applications can be made in light of this text?