

January 23, 2021

Lesson 2 — Background of 1st John Continued

- The apostle John was pastoring a group of house churches in which a number of false teachers had been teaching a form of Greek philosophy called **Gnosticism**.
- John has stated his purpose to his writings in the gospel of **John 5:13**:
 - *These things I have written to you who believe in the Name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.*
- It is also important to understand how such teaching was affecting the fundamental purpose of God for His saving the church: God saved us to display his glory by making us *partakers of the Divine nature (2 Peter 1:4)*. Consequently becoming his people and he becoming our God. (**Jeremiah 24:7; 31:33**)

- This purpose began to be fulfilled with the birth of the One in Whom this promise would be fulfilled:

➤ **Matthew 1:20-24** | *an angel of the Lord appeared to [Joseph] in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. 21 "She will bear a Son; and you shall call His Name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." 22 Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet:*

23 "BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL," which translated means, "GOD WITH US."

- So we now see that God's purpose for saving us, for sending Jesus to save us from our sin is so that we would have fellowship with Him and He with us.
- This fellowship is the emphasis of this epistle.

➤ **1 John 1:3** | *so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ... 6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness... 7 if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another.*

- It is this fellowship that proves and matures our salvation. It is at this point that we must distinguish between our fellowship and the basis of our fellowship with God. The basis of our fellowship with God our union with [in] Christ.
- Our union with Christ is often referred to as our relationship with God. This means that our fellowship with God is the result of our union with Christ and it is the viability of this fellowship that is the major subject of this epistle.
- There is a distinction between our **relationship** with God and our **fellowship** with God.

- Our ***relationship with God*** is our permanent spiritual status of position with God.
 - ***Colossians 1:13*** | *[God] has delivered us from the domain [position] of darkness and has transferred us into the Kingdom of His beloved Son.*
- Our fellowship with God is the fruit of our union. It has to do with how we experience and relate to God and to one another as members of His family. This means that our relationship with God is constant while our fellowship is developmental.