

Faith in the Son of God

Notes for 17 May

Catherine Taylor

Read: [1 John 5](#)

Last Words

If we had a little more room on a scroll to find words that touch the hearts of and inspire courage for a community we loved, I wonder what they would be? This is John's effort.

You all know that names inform how I read and think. Here are some definitions:

- Jesus (Hebrew: Joshua) - "God is Salvation" or "Lord is Salvation".
- Christ - The anointed One.
- God – in the Greek, Theos. All things are from them and will be unto them.

Since John's Bible is what we now call The Old Testament I am including some "commandments" that John may have been thinking of:

1. [Micah 6:8](#)
2. [Isaiah 58:6-10](#)
3. [Amos 5:24](#)
4. [Deuteronomy 15:11](#)
5. [Exodus 20:9-10](#)

The speak in "the name of" often refers to speaking "in the character of".

Sin is the willingness to cause harm in order to get what you want.
Michael Messervy

It seems to me that part of John's message is comparing the concept of being focused on power vs. (or) focused on the acts of love.

Questions

1. Why do you think John is using the analogy of God as Father?
2. If you think of Jesus as being invitro "fathered" by one of the other members of the Godhead and we by faith can be "fathered" because he is fathered. How does that analogy influence how we think about the effects of our relationships to Jesus and to God the Father.
3. What is it about faith that makes it such a power?
4. Most of us know that birth is very messy; lots of "blood and water". Why do you think John would use this analogy for a spiritual journey?

5. What are the lessons in this particular trinity: water/blood/spirit that would be particularly important in the context of the Hellenic world?
6. What's the difference between sharing a testimony/or accepting a testimony that is different from what we may have learned from Adventism or other evangelical communities?
7. What are the similarities and differences between 1 John 5:18 and [Zachariah 3:1-7](#)?
8. Why do you think it was important to John that his readers (hearers) accept Jesus as the incarnation of God?
9. I have no idea what John means by a sin that does not lead to death unless he is talking about the concept of when we ignore or turn away the promptings of the Holy Spirit... because it is the Spirit that will help us hone our journey of love. What are your thoughts?
10. What for you has been the most interesting or valuable or comforting part of 1 John?

As always, I wish for you unexpected gentle blessings.

Catherine