

# ***Sunday Sermon Notes***

## ***"Complete Joy"***

### **Breaking a pastor's heart:**

- A problem with sin
- A problem with division
- A problem with doctrine

### **Popular attitudes about doctrine:**

- Doctrines are bad
- Doctrines are optional
- Doctrines are flexible

### **Principles guiding our doctrines**

- In essentials we have unity
- In non-essentials we have liberty
- In all things we have charity

### **Essentials for fellowship:**

- Salvation is necessary
- Love is central
- Faith in Jesus is primary

### **Setting the record straight about Jesus:**

- |                            |        |
|----------------------------|--------|
| From the beginning         | Divine |
| Heard, Seen, Touched       | Human  |
| Word of life, Eternal life | Divine |
| Appeared, Seen, Witnessed  | Human  |
| With the Father            | Divine |
| Appeared to us             | Human  |

### **Something to shout about!**

- Eternal life in Jesus
- Fellowship with each other
- Fellowship with God

***Today we celebrate life in Jesus together***

# ***Digging Deeper***

## **Notes for Individual Meditation and Small Group Discussion**

### **Reviewing the Sermon:**

Why do you think so many people have such a negative attitude toward doctrine?

What other essential doctrine can you name that pastor did not name today? Can you think of any non-essential doctrines? Why do we have so much trouble with showing charity over doctrinal issues?

Most of us struggle with holding on to both the divinity and the humanity of Jesus. Which of the two do you have the most trouble keeping in balance?

How well do you think the congregation celebrated Jesus in the service? Why do you think we Christians are so reluctant to be truly joyful in Jesus?

### ***Bible Study: John 1:1-5, 10-14***

#### ***Discussion Questions***

*(Remember that not all questions must be used)*

The sermon this week was from the "prologue" of 1 John. Our Bible study is taken from the "prologue" of the Gospel of John. Quickly read both of these. What similarities can you note? What differences do you notice?

In both 1 John and the Gospel of John, the word "Word" (Logos) is used to refer to Jesus. Why do you think John uses this word in the way he does?

Verses 1-5 emphasize the deity of the Word. List the various ways John teaches that the Word is divine?

What does the word "beginning" mean to you? How do you reconcile the phrases "the Word was with God" and "the Word was God?" What significance do these two statements have for our understanding of the Trinity?

John also emphasizes that the Word was a part of God's creative work. Why do you think this is important? Look at Genesis, chapter 1. How does this affect your understanding of the phrase "And God said" through the creative process?

Notice the relationship between "life and light." What does it mean to say "in him was life"? In what ways does Jesus serve as light to mankind?

Explain what you think John is saying when he writes, "The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it"? What is the darkness and why hasn't understood it?

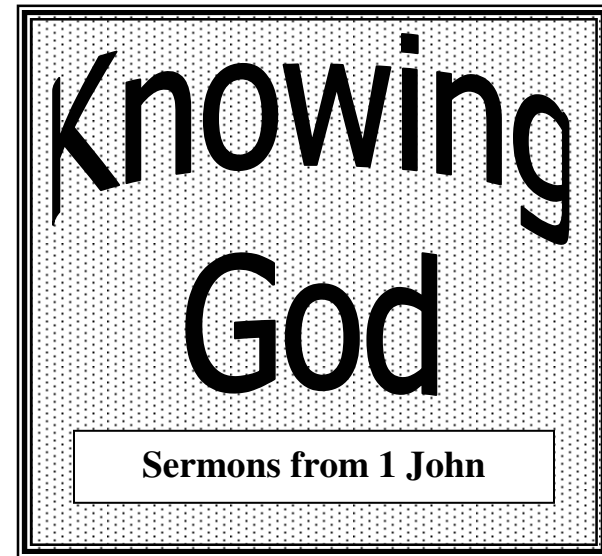
Verses 10-14 emphasize what Jesus did in his humanity. What do these verses say about what happened in Jesus earthly ministry?

Who do you think is meant by "came to that which was his own"? Why do you think they did not receive him?

What is the relationship between "received" and believed? What kind of children do we become?

What is the significance of the Word becoming "flesh"? In what way have we seen God's glory in Jesus?

**Prayer Time:** Pray with your group about how you can better know God through faith in Jesus.



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***1 John 1:1-4***

***"Complete Joy"***

**Pastor Philip C. Rogers**

**Middletown**

**Church of the Nazarene**

**Middletown, Indiana**

**Master copy of notes and audio version of the sermon at**

**[www.middletownnaz.com](http://www.middletownnaz.com)**