

## 1 John Series

Charles Clough

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### SESSION 1: BACKGROUND 9/1/2013

Framework for New Testament times:

The Incarnation versus pagan notions of  
God (Slide 2)

Man (Slide 3)

nature

revelation (Slide 4)

justice (Slide 5)

ultimate purpose (Slide 6)

(Slide 7) The alternative to biblical revelation: “That Man is the product of *causes which had no prevision* of the end they were achieving; that his origin, his growth, his hope and fears, his loves and beliefs, are but the *outcome of accidental collocations of atoms*; that no fire, no heroism, no intensity of thought and feeling, can *preserve an individual life beyond the grave*; that all the labours of the ages, all the devotion, all the inspiration, all the noonday brightness of human genius are *destined to extinction in the vast death of the solar system*, and that the whole temple of Man’s achievement must inevitably be *buried beneath the debris of a universe in ruin* – all these things, if not quite beyond dispute, are yet so nearly certain, that no philosophy that rejects them can hope to stand. Only within the scaffolding of these truths, only on the firm foundation of unyielding despair, can the soul’s habitation henceforth be safely built.” Bertrand Russell, “A Free Man’s Religion” (1903) essay in Mysticism and Logic (1917) pg. 45-46.

The Apostle John: (Slide 8)

Uniqueness and closeness to Jesus (John 3)

*[discussion here on relativism due to parents’ questions about their teenagers’ friends]*