

being such, writes all this *less than twenty years after the death of Jesus, the Nazarene, on the cross.*

The teaching of the epistle touches nearly every Christian doctrine. For the sake of convenience we have grouped the facts as follows:

1. He who wrote and those to whom he wrote believed in the immortality of the soul (5:23). They believed in one God, the Creator, who is called "Father" (1:1; 3:11), who is the living true and only God (1:9; 3:9). This Father sent his Son from heaven (1:10) and revealed his will through Him who is called Jesus Christ (5:18). He is called the "God of Peace" (5:23), who searches hearts (2:4), desires holiness in men (4:3), and sanctifies believers (5:23).

This God made known his will by prophets (2:15) and makes it known now (that is, at the time when the apostle was writing) through his Gospel, which is a divine message (2:8) and not merely the word of man (2:13). There is no pantheism or polytheistic teaching in this epistle. Its doctrine of God is complete and fits in with the teaching of the Old Testament. We have clear reference also to the call of God to salvation and to holiness (2:12; 4:7; 5:24). The afflictions of believers are also predetermined by God (3:3).

2. What does this earliest document teach in regard to Jesus Christ? He is an historic personality, so well known that He needs no further introduction to its readers. He is the standard of conduct and character (1:6) and had a company of