

WEEK 3: 1ST JOHN
Ch 1:1-4
THE MANIFESTED LIFE

Review:

Jesus Christ existed from the beginning, from eternity past and the message of redemption existed with Him from the beginning.

He is unchanging and the message is unchanging from the beginning.

Divine forgiveness has been available through repentance and faith in Christ from the beginning.

Ac 10:43 To him **all the prophets bear witness** that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

2Co 5:18 **All this is from God**, who **through Christ** reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 that is, **in Christ, God was reconciling the world to Himself**, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed the message of reconciliation to us.

20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ; certain that God is appealing through us, we plead on Christ's behalf, "Be reconciled to God."

John was an ambassador, chosen as an apostle of Jesus Christ by Christ Himself.

I. JOHN'S TESTIMONY

- A. "I have heard Him, seen Him, and gazed upon Him"
- B. Lit. GK, "*the hands of us have handled*"—> "verifying by personal contact"
- C. "**Concerning the Word of Life**" -> "*peri Logou tes zoes*"
 - 1. "Peri" – with respect to, concerning
 - 2. "Tes" - definite article
 - 3. "Logou" Something said, a computation, specifically the Divine experience"
 - 4. "Zoes" – life both physical (present) and spiritual (future) existence

II. CONTRADICTION

- A. False teachers: Jesus was a spirit; message of salvation through higher revelation to elite
- B. "We", John, identifying himself with the other apostles,
- C. **Word of Life is not just the person of Christ but all the WORK He accomplished on earth to bring eternal life to those that believe.**
- D. John 1:1 ¶ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 14 And the **Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory**, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

III. John stated, "And the life was manifested"

- A. knowledge of "the Word of Life" was **not some super-spiritual secret**
- B. **Truth of the Word of Life was available to all people!**
- C. John 1:14 And the **Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory**, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.
- D. **the life was manifested** --Manifested-->phaneroo *fan-er-o'-o* -> make visible or known
- E. **God was visible in the incarnate Jesus Christ, He was made known, manifested**
 - 1. Joh 8:19 They said to him therefore, "Where is your Father?" Jesus answered, "You know neither me nor my Father. **If you knew me, you would know my Father also.**"

2. Joh 10:30 **I and the Father are one."**
3. Joh 14:11 Believe me that **I am in the Father and the Father is in me**, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

F. **Jesus brought the message of eternal life** that was true "from the beginning"

1. **2 the life was made manifest**, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, **which was with the Father and was made manifest to us—**

G. **Jesus manifested eternal life to John and the other apostles**—> NOT to keep!

1. Joh 6:40 For this is the **will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes** in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day."

H. **John explains the he has seen and heard it and mandated that he**, "**testify to it and proclaim to you** the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us—**3 that which we have seen and heard we proclaim** also to you,

1. **John explains that Jesus brought the "word of life" to them and it was not to keep to themselves, not to only share with the elite.**
2. **Jesus made known the Word of God, to the apostles so that they would take it to the world!**—> under mandate from Christ to share
3. **John's gospel was written for that purpose**
 - a. Joh 20:30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; **[and what was the point of doing the miracles?] 31 but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life** in his name.
4. Mat 28:19, 20 "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations. . . teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, . . ."
5. **Message has not changed and command to take it to the world has not changed!**

I. **John contradicted all the teaching of the Gnostic false teachers**

1. Not some high level revelation for the elite: not to be kept to themselves
2. This is same truth today! Gospel is for all people!

J. **All Christians are under the same mandate to share the message!**

1. 1Pe 3:15 but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always *being* ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to **give an account** for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;
2. Ps 119:46 **I will also speak of Your testimonies** before kings And shall not be ashamed.
3. 2Ti 2:25 **with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition**, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth,

IV. **True Fellowship**

- A. Sharing the message of Christ so that the hearer could come into fellowship with Jesus and God.
- B. ". . .we proclaim also to you **so that you too may have fellowship** with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ."

- C. **Fellowship** → *koinonia koy-nohn-ee'-ah*
1. Communion, partnership, the share which one has in anything, participation
- D. Life he has with Jesus Christ can belong to all who believe in Christ
1. “you too **may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.**”
- E. **Fellowship** here is **more than being partners, it is sharing life itself.**
- F. **Fellowship here is a shared life and love of those who are born again from above**
1. Have the spirit of God living inside them
 2. 1Co 6:17 But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him.
 3. 1Co 12:13 For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body— Jews or Greeks, slaves or free— and all were made to drink of one Spirit.
 4. John 17:21 that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.
 5. John 17:23 I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.
- G. **John explains that not only through faith in Christ are you in fellowship with he and the apostles, but you actually have the same relationship with God the Father, with Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit**
1. **There are no levels of fellowship in God’s family**→
 2. There is no separation between God and Jesus→ as close to them as they are to each other.
 3. 1Co 1:9 God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- H. **WRAP YOUR MIND AROUND THAT FOR A MOMENT?**
- a. You and John, and Paul and Peter all share the same Spirit
 - b. One day you will sit somewhere in heaven and sing, and talk and listen with them!
- I. **Triune God is forever with the children of God**
1. **Even when we sin, God never leaves us**
 2. May struggle in our valleys at times, but Jesus, the Holy Spirit of God are always at our **side—we are never out of fellowship with them.**
 3. Jesus’s promised Mt 28:20. . . and lo, I am **with you always**, even to the end of the age.”
 4. Eternal life that Jesus brings never leaves, it is never less—it goes on forever.
 5. John 5:24 Truly, truly, I say to you, **whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life.** He does not come into judgment, but **has passed from death to life.**
- J. **Jesus was the Word of life that come to the world—and that Word is sent out to everyone, everywhere**
1. Jn Mac: “The new birth produces new life, so that believers are regenerated into everlasting fellowship with the triune God.”
 2. Fellowship because of the work of Jesus Christ brings us into right standing with God

- K. Available NOW, today--> 3 that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.

V. A WORD THAT BRINGS JOY

- A. 4 And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.
- B. joy – chara – gladness, joyfulness
- C. Teaching of the false teachers brought a sadness--> knowledge that was kept secret
- D. Message of life that the apostles were mandated to share brought “joy”
- E. “joy may be complete.”-->Complete – pleroo- full, abounding, render perfect
- F. **Can never be lost**
1. John 10:28 I give them eternal life, and **they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out** of my hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and **no one is able to snatch them out** of the Father’s hand.
 2. **Never to be separate from Him!** -> Rom 8:35 **Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?** Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?
- G. John 15:11 These things I have spoken to you, **that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.**
- a. **may be full** – “pleroo”- same word 1 John
- H. **Joy defined in the secular world is happiness which is defined by circumstances**
1. “Emotion evoked by well-being, success or good fortune.”
 2. When circumstances change, happiness fades away
- I. Martyn Lloyd-Jones: “Joy is something very deep and profound, something that affects the whole and entire personality. In other words it comes to this; there is only one thing that can give true joy and that is contemplation of the Lord Jesus Christ. He satisfies the mind; He satisfies my emotions; He satisfies my every desire. He and His great salvation include the whole personality and nothing less, and in Him I am complete, Joy, in other words, is the response and the reaction of the soul to a knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.”
- J. **John declared that true joy is available to all who hear the message of Christ and surrender their lives to Him**
1. It is then that we have fellowship that cannot be altered by circumstances and never can be taken away
 2. A complete and perfect joy that resounds in every trial or situation.
 3. A joy that speaks to our hearts, “we are safe in His arms because we are His”!