

## The Word of Life

### I John 1:1-4

#### Introduction

Last week we covered what John was concerned about. He addressed the false teachings of Gnosticism, when they taught that they had secret knowledge and those were contrary to the apostle's teaching. They denied the humanity of Christ and denied that incarnation happened. They also denied that Jesus was the Christ. So John immediately goes into the doctrinal truths that we have to hold on, namely the Word of Life. He immediately heads off the false doctrine of that we can only know God secretly and by experience alone, and John refutes this by opening this letter with the great truths of what he has experienced and what they can experience by knowing what is true. Did it work? Well, within 300 years the Greek/Roman world was transformed by the gospel. It can be that way today because the gospel is the power of God unto salvation!

The truths that John lists are vital to the churches today because it centers on who is Jesus. If you ask people today who they think Jesus is, the chances are high that people will have a distorted view of Christ. He introduces in the Gospel of John in the prologue this vision of Christ, the eternal Son of God who came, and he wrote that we would believe in the Son of God and have eternal life. Here in 1 John, he writes to believers who were uncertain about who Christ is because of false teachers. Like the Gospel, John introduces Christ and the importance of the Word of Life.

#### I. Permanence of the Word of Life (1:1)

- That which was from the beginning...concerning the Word of life (1:1)
  - Word of Life (the Person)
    - Word—Gk *logos*
    - **John 1:1**—Word is Jesus Christ, eternal Son of God
    - **v2**-- the life was manifested...eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us  
***Was with God—face to face with the Father***
  - Word of Life (the Message)
    - Word of Life is also the gospel message—“That...from the beginning”
    - Cannot separate Jesus Christ from the gospel message

#### II. Reality of the Word of Life (1:1)

- which we have heard
  - hear Jesus' teaching
- which we have seen with our eyes
  - not a vision, but reality
- which we have looked upon
  - searching gaze—look deeply and closely
  - seeing the realities of Christ and His power and His message
- our hands have handled (touched)
  - like a blind man groping
  - **Luke 24:39**
  - **John 20:24-29**  
***All those words are perfect tense which means that the action happened once in the past and has a continuing impact in the present.***

Transition: Everything they have heard, seen, looked, touched had affected their lives that they were preaching the truth until their death.

#### III. Proclamation of the Word of Life (1:2, 4)

- we
  - Message of the apostles
  - **II Peter 1:16**
  - faith which was once for all delivered to the saints (**Jude 1:3**)

***never to be repeated, never another faith given (note: Jude never claims apostolic authority, but what he has received from the apostles)***

- **Hebrews 13:9**
- **Galatians 1:6**

***Old, old story—nothing new to add to the apostolic teaching. To be part of the church is to believe the apostolic teaching.***

- the life was manifested
  - **John 1:14**
- bear witness (testify)
  - Gk *martureo*—which is a court term where a person who has seen the event testifies
- declare to you (proclaim)
  - commissioned by Christ as apostles to preach the gospel—an authority
  - **I Corinthians 2:1**
- these things we write to you
  - preserved for us in the NT

Transition: Because we have seen and heard and testified, we want to share with you the fellowship we had with our Master and that you can have what we have. Nobody is excluded and all can come to the water and drink the living fellowship.

#### **IV. Fellowship by the Word of Life (1:3)**

- you also may have fellowship with us
  - fellowship—Gk *koinonia*—partnership, community
  - **I Corinthians 6:17**
  - Sharer in the life of God (even with His purpose, His plan...we do anything to bring the kingdom of God into this world)
  - **II Peter 1:4**
- our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ
  - we now know God...relationship is real
  - **Galatians 4:9**  
***Fellowship is now possible with God because we have been reconciled. True fellowship is desiring and delighting in God and desiring to praise Him. With this communion with the Father and Son, we are sure of His presence.***
- our fellowship is...with His Son Jesus Christ
  - We have fellowship because of Christ  
***This is the gospel...when sin is the barrier between God and man and through Jesus Christ we are reconciled.***

#### **Conclusion: Joy of the Word of Life (1:4)**

When we accept the teachings of the apostle, have fellowship with each other and with God. Our joy will be full and remain full. And what is joy? 1) state of complete satisfaction (intellectually, emotionally, and willfully); 2) exultation with God, and 3) feeling of power and strength (**Neh 8:10**). The joy is accomplished through Jesus Christ our Lord—He is my satisfaction and strength