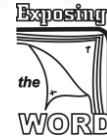


KNOW "LIGHT, LOVE & LIFE"

A Sermonic Commentary of the Epistle of 1 John

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1- Know: The Word of Life 1 John 1:1-4

1 John 1:1-4 *That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; 2 (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;) 3 That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. 4 And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.*

The book of 1 John is considered to be the last book written in the New Testament. John gives four purposes of the letter. First, in **1 John 1:4** *And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.* Second, is in **1 John 2:1** *My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not...* Third, we see in **1 John 2:26** *These things have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you.* Last we see the verse that I have chosen for the overall theme verse of the epistle contains the fourth reason, **1 John 5:13** *These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.*

In any book there are key words that give insight into what God is saying to us. 1 John is no different. There are many key words in this epistle. One is "Know" that appears in 22 verses 27 times. Another is "Light" or its opposite "Dark/darkness" which are found in 10 verses 13 times. "Love" is found in 24 verses a total of 36 times. "Life" is found in 15 times in 12 verses. I have entitled the overall theme of 1 John, **KNOW "Light, Love and Life."**

There are other words that appear many times and are important. "Children" is found

12 times in 11 verses. "Fellowship," while it appears only four times, is an important underlying theme of the epistle.

I will admit that this has been one of the most difficult books of the Bible that I have ever undertaken to do a sermonic outline of. The epistle is rich and deep and is not just a shallow one. There are some things in this epistle that will be left unsettled in my mind I am sure after we exhausted our outline.

The Apostle John, the writer of this epistle, is often lost among the Bible writers. We sometimes forget that he wrote 5 of the 27 New Testament books. The Gospel that bears his name, the three epistles of 1,2 and 3 John as well as the Revelation.

John had heard John the Baptist proclaim "Behold the Lamb of God" recorded in **John 1:36**. Jesus called him to be an apostle in **Matthew 4:21** *And going on from thence, he saw other two brethren, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in a ship with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and he called them.*

I- Know the Word of Life:

John in his gospel introduced us to the "Word." **John 1:1** *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.* In this epistle he starts by expanding that to the "Word of Life."

Touching Lives by "Exposing the Word" of God

The pulpit ministry of Dr. Edgar Pierce

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Before someone can bring life they had to be alive when life began. Otherwise they themselves are only the product of the one who began life. There is a strong statement here that declares that Christ was in existence before life and we know it began. ***1 John 1:1 That which was from the beginning...***

We see that John declared in the gospel of John, Christ was in the beginning as well. However there is one more place that we need to look at to really set this in context. ***Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.***

This fact that Jesus was eternal with the Father is important. Why? Because if He was not from the beginning then He would only be a created being and not God Himself. This would relegate Him to no more than an angel or a human in one sense. Beloved the Bible makes it very plain that this was not the case because Christ was not created but in fact was eternal from the beginning.

If this is not true He cannot truly be the source of Light, Love and Life. The Bible declares that He is. Notice the following.

John 1:4 says In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

Romans 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

So the fact that Christ is a part of the eternal God head and existed from the beginning makes it possible for Him to be love, light and life.

II- They Personally Knew The Manifested Life:

Someone who knows someone famous or a celebrity and brings up that fact in a conversation is often called a name dropper. They want a person to know that they know someone who is something they by elevating their status in the eyes of the one they are talking with. Don't confuse the following with name dropping. It is simply a personal testimony of their personal knowledge of who Christ was.

The fact that Christ came in the flesh of man is an important fact. Flesh and blood was sacrificed for our sin not just some mythical conceptual god. Over the years there have been some who attempted to deny that God became flesh saying that a holy God could not dwell in the flesh with is sinful.

...which we have heard, Now it is possible for God to speak and not be seen. We see this at the Mount of Transfiguration as well as Paul's experience on the Damascus Road.

...which we have seen with our eyes, Now it is not possible for someone to see something that is not manifest.

...which we have looked upon, Robertson's *Word Pictures* says, "a spectacle which broke on our astonished vision" ***John 1:14*** tells us "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth."

They had seen His glory as the glory of God.

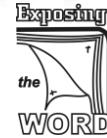
...our hands have handled, Just in case someone would have an argument that you can hear something not flesh, see something that is an illusion or that is not in the flesh,

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John next tells us that they touched Him. Remember after Jesus was resurrected He told His disciple Thomas in **John 20:27** ...*Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing.*

Three senses are here appealed to (hearing, sight, touch) as combining to show the reality of Christ's humanity against the Docetic Gnostics and the qualification of John by experience to speak. But he is also "the Word of life" and so God Incarnate. – Robertson Word Pictures

John again restated with a stronger emphasis that Jesus was manifest in the flesh. **1 John 1:2** (*For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;*)

The word manifested is used two times here. This simply means something that had existed before was made visible to us. He was made visible with the incarnation of Christ. It is imperative that we do not miss the fact that Christ did not come into existence at the time of conception in the womb of Mary but was eternal.

III- Not Hearsay:

I have always been amazed when you play the game where you start with a sentence whispered to someone who in turn whispered it to the next. By the time it gets around the room it has changed to an unrecognizable tale.

John is giving us the firsthand account of the Word of Life that was sent from the

Father to earth. **1 John 1:3** *That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you...* I think all would agree that someone who has involved is certainly the most reliable witness to the event. John had seen, heard, felt and now testifies.

IV- Purposes:

John wanted men and women to have fellowship with each other with the common bond of Christ. **1 John 1:3a** ...*that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.*

The common bond of true fellowship is with the Father and the Son. Not separate from each other. The word fellowship means, according to *Wuest's Word Studies* "...is that of one person having a joint-participation with another in something possessed in common by both."

Joint participation not just some social gathering for a finger food event or hanging out for a light conversation. When we have a common goal, purpose and are working in single step to accomplish this there is a richness of fellowship. That is why mission trips are so rich with fellowship.

1 John 1:4 *And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.*

Next the purpose is full joy. May I suggest that when we have fellowship with God through Christ and have a common fellowship in Him our joy will not only be full but overflowing? When we truly know the Word of Life we will experience life indeed. Life at its fullest...life eternal...life in Him, the Word of Life.