1 John 001 2021 4/25/21

**Fellowship Made Possible**

**1 John 1:1-4**

**I.** **Introduction:**

 **A. New Testament Books**

 *In the New Testament there are four categories of writings.*

 **1.** – Gospels

 **a.** Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John tell of the life and ministry of Jesus.

 **b.** These books give 4 views of Jesus’ birth, life, death on the cross, & His resurrection

 **2.** – History

 **a.** The Book of Acts, written by Luke, is a historical account of the birth of the church, how the church was structured, & its growth throughout the first century.

 **3.** – Epistles or Letters

 **a**. Next are the letters, called epistles, written by the apostles to 1st century Christians.

 **(1)** There are the Pauline epistles: Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians,

 Philippians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, &

 probably Hebrews as well.

 **(2)** General epistles: James, 1 & 2 Peter, 1, 2, & 3 John, and Jude.

 **b.** Epistles are important as they contain doctrine & instruction for the Christian life

 **4.** – Prophesy

 **a.** Prophesy in the Book of Revelation tells how God will end human history.

 **b.** John wrote it while he was exiled on the Island of Patmos for preaching the gospel.

 **B.** **The epistles of John**

* *This sermon begins a series in the epistles of John which were written by the same John who wrote the Gospel of John & the Book of Revelation.*

 **1.** Purpose

 **(1)** – Confront false teachers

 **a.** False teachers entered 1st century church & did great damage among redeemed

 **b.** John wrote to refute false teachers & strengthen the brethren providing sound doctrine and truth to refute these false teachers.

 **(2)** – Brotherly fellowship

 **a.** As Christians know the truth, their fellowship with God & each other will be strong.

 **(3)** – Joy

 **a.** As Christians grow spiritually in their faith and enjoy fellowship with God and each other, their joy in their faith will be full.

 **2.** Application

 **a.** We share the gospel with lost people so they might be saved. **(Romans 10:17)**

 **b.** But in the church, the saved are taught purposefully for the same three reasons.

 **(1)** Guard against error: False world views abound today.

 **(2)** Spiritual growth: We grow spiritually through learning God’s word.

 **(3)** Joy: Knowing God’s word will bring joy and confidence.

**II.** **John’s Introduction (1 John 1:1-4)**

 **A.** **The truth about Jesus**

 **1**. The prologue or introduction opens with a direct attack against the false teachers & their false doctrine. The false teachers often denied the literal incarnation of Jesus.

 **2**. The false teachers rejected the truth that Jesus was God and man at the same time.

 **B.** **The literal incarnation** (**1 John 1:1)**

 **1.** – From the beginning

 **a.** John begins with the deity of Jesus, He is God. Jesus is eternal so no matter what beginning we talk about from our perspective, Jesus was already here!

 **2.** – Confirmation

* *John gives a series of confirmations, each stronger & more convincing than the last.*

 **(1)** We have heard Him.

 **a.** John said he and the other apostles personally heard Jesus’ teaching.

 **(2)** Seen with our eyes

 **a**. Seeing is more powerful than hearing. John said he & the others could testify to the incarnation of Jesus by having seen him, they were witnesses.

 **(3)** We have looked upon

 **a**. To “look upon” is different word from “see” The word here is **θεάομαι *theáomai***

 **b.** This means to gaze intently, to carefully deliberate and make a determination.

 **(4)** And our hands have handled

 **a.** The progression is from hearing, seeing, gazing, and then handling.

 **b.** They could attest to the genuine incarnation of Jesus because they touched Him.

 **3.** Application: Jesus was born of the Virgin Mary whereby He took on human flesh, blood and bones, so He could die for us on the cross.

 **C.** **Reason for this declaration. (1 John 1:3-4)**

* *John gives two reasons for this defense of the incarnation of Jesus.*

 **1.** – Fellowship

 **a.** John gave this defense so their fellowship with apostles, one another, & the Father would be experienced. He wrote this letter to Christians. **(1 John 2:12-14)**

 **b.** If they listened to these false teachers & became confused about who Jesus is & what He did for them, their spiritual growth & fellowship would be hindered.

 **c.** Application: If Christians today allow sin to invade their lives, they won’t enjoy full fellowship with the Father. They spend no time in God’s word & miss fellowship.

 **d.** Relationship & Fellowship: The truly saved are indwelt & sealed by the Holy Spirit, so their salvation can’t be lost or relationship with the Heavenly Father. However, full fellowship with the Father isn’t guaranteed unless sin is confessed.  **(1 John 1:7)**

 **2.** – Joy may be full

 **a.** There is joy in the Christian life when we walk in fellowship with our God and when we walk in fellowship with our brothers & sisters in Christ.

 **b.** When we allow our fellowship to be hindered, our joy in Christian life will diminish

 **D.** **John’s joy involved. (3 John 4)**

 **1.** John’s joy was full seeing Christians in full fellowship with one another & the Father.

 **2.** Application: This should be the heartbeat of every pastor, desiring to see the lost saved

 **3.** For the saved by faith in Jesus, the pastor’s desire is seeing their growth in God’s word

 **4.** The pastors and teachers of this local church labor in the word so you can understand and grow to maturity in your faith.

 **5.** As you grow in your faith and fellowship with the Father, your joy will be full.