

“The Word of Life”

1 John 1:1-4

INTRODUCTION

- 1. Author: John, one of the 12 disciples.** (wrote Gospel of John; 1, 2, 3 John; Book of Revelation)
- 2. Place and Date: probably from Ephesus; nearing the end of John’s life, 85-95 AD**
- 3. Historical context: John wrote to address a false teaching called Docetism.**
 - Docetism denied that Jesus Christ (God) had truly come in the flesh. (Docetism)

THE WORD OF LIFE REVEALED

- 1. The Word of Life was revealed.** Twice in v. 2: “...the life was made manifest...and was made manifest to us...”
 - Manifest = revealed; appeared; made known
- 2. This is what we call the Incarnation. Ref. Galatians 4:4-5**
- 3. The Word of Life is the 2nd Person of the Trinity, Jesus Christ, the Son of God.**
 - The “word” is the Greek word *logos*. = Eternal. Ref. John 1:1-3

THE WORD OF LIFE IN JOHN’S LIFE

- John was an eyewitness of the Word of Life—Jesus.
- 1. John heard him—2 times in v.1-3.**
 - 2. John saw him—3 times in v.1-3.**
 - 3. John “looked upon” him. v.1**
 - 4. John physically touched him with his own hands. v.1**
 - 5. John knew Jesus personally and intimately. (nearness, dearness, and oneness)**
 - He was “the disciple whom Jesus loved.” John 20:2; 21:7, 20
 - He was the man who at the Last Supper laid his head on Jesus’ breast. John 13:23, 25; 21:20; Ref. Jn 1:18

THE WORD OF LIFE PROCLAIMED TO YOU

- 1. John wrote not for his own sake—but for the sake of others (including us!).**
- 2. John’s proclamation came AFTER his testimony.** *We have heard and seen...and proclaim to you...*
 - The priority of personal experience: John saw and heard and experienced before he proclaimed.→ You must **be** a witness before you can **bear** witness.
- 3. John wrote for a purpose. v.3: “...so that you too may have fellowship with us...”**
 - Why? Because our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

THE WORD OF LIFE IN OUR LIFE

- 1. The Bible says WE CAN KNOW the Word of Life—by knowing Jesus Christ.**
 - Not reserved for a few special ones—but YOU can know the LIFE God talks about in His Word.
- 2. The Bible says this is ABUNDANT life, full life.**
 - John 10:10: “I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”
- 3. The Bible says it is ETERNAL life. v.2 Ref. John 3:16**
→ John 17:3: And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

All that is ultimately true, wonderful and lovely, everything that gives real direction, purpose and meaning is to be found wrapped up in the life of Jesus of Nazareth. Anything claiming to be true that does not somehow find its source in him is, at best, only a shadow or, at worst, a lie. For he himself is the Truth, its source and its fulfillment...Any plan or purpose which is not based in him is destined to frustration and failure, because he himself is the Plan and the Purpose, he is the Way. Indeed, “there is only Christ and he is everything” (Ephesians 1:23, Phillips). To embrace his life is to find yourself being embraced by it. In contemplating his life, you discover that it is not your mind at work, but his. Anyone who comes in faith to examine this life will find themselves somehow more alive. For he is the Life. (Michael Card, *The Life*)