

So That You May Know

An Expository Study of the Epistle of 1John

Chapter 2- John's Declaration **1John1:1-4**

15. The Person of Jesus Christ Part 11

WAOY Thursday 04/26/07; WOSM Wednesday 10/15/08; WOSM Friday 10/21/22

Welcome again, my brothers and sisters in Christ. We are continuing our verse by verse “journey” through the Epistle of 1John and today we are going to begin to at “The Declaration of the Apostle John” as listed in **1John 1:1-4-** so let's read those verses together.

1 What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life —

2 and the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us —

3 what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.

4 These things we write, so that our joy may be made complete.

Now on the last broadcast, we were looking at the heresy of Gnosticism which John was combating late in the first century. Now I want to look at the rest of John's apostolic declaration on today's broadcast.

We have already seen that John went to great lengths to say that Jesus was both God and man. We have also seen how that John was telling his readers several key elements about the Person of Jesus Christ:

In verse 1, John tells us four things:

1. That Jesus was with God in the beginning
2. That John and the other Apostles literally saw and heard Jesus
3. That they physically touched the Son of God'
4. And that Jesus is the Word of Life

In verse 2, John tells us that the very life of God was manifested in the flesh and John says that all of the Apostles saw that physical manifestation of that eternal Life of God in the Person of Jesus Christ.

Now the word that was translated into English as “manifested”, comes from the Greek word that means: *to make visible; to make clear; to bring to life; or to show openly*. Read with me what John said about this in verse 2:

and the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us —

John uses the phrase, “**the eternal life**” here in verse 2, showing us that the “**Word of Life**” that John used in verse 1 and Jesus are one and the same. As I have told you many times, Jesus did not simply speak *about* Truth- no, Jesus *is* Truth. And Jesus didn’t just teach people *about* this eternal Life- Jesus *is* Life and all those in whom Jesus dwells- have this life in them.

Next John repeats here in verse 2 that he and the other Apostles literally saw the very life of God manifested or made visible; or made clear; or brought to life; or shown openly through the Person of Jesus Christ.

Then John says something that is very important. John stakes his own personal integrity and credibility of himself and all of the other Apostles combined in the next statement that he makes:

... and testify ...

This phrase that John uses here is a legal statement designed to give credibility to what he was saying. John is telling us here that he himself and James and Peter and Paul and all of the other Apostles and the other writers of the New Testament are “bearing witness” or in other words, they are testifying under oath that what they say about Jesus is true.

Now this has enormous impact on both this Epistle of **1John** and all of the other New Testament Books. What John is actually saying here is that not only does he say that what he writes here in **1John** is true- but he is saying that Peter and Paul and James and all of the

other writers that God used to write inspired infallible Scripture also collectively agree with what John is writing here.

But how does Peter and Paul agree with John when both Peter and Paul were martyred several years before John ever wrote this Book?

John is telling us that what he is writing here in **1John** is in perfect agreement and in perfect harmony with all that Peter and Paul and James and all of the other New Testament writers have already written.

So, through their collective writings- John is saying that not only he- but also all of the Apostles and writers collectively and together are in one mind and in one accord doing three things for us and to us:

1. They have literally seen the very life of God manifested in and through Jesus Christ
2. They testify under a solemn oath to God that what they tell us in their writings is true
3. They not only tell us about this life of God- but they themselves having personally experienced this holy life are able and qualified to show this very same life to us.

So, with all of this in mind, let's read verse 2 again so we can get the full impact of what John is saying here:

and the life was manifested (the very eternal life of God Almighty Himself was made visible to the Apostles through Jesus Christ), **and** (then John says) **and we have seen** (they saw it with their physical eyes when they looked upon Jesus), **and testify** (they all collectively as a single group in one mind and one accord and singleness of heart testify under a solemn oath before God that what they are telling us is true **and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us —**

(They not only have personally experienced the miracle of the New birth themselves- but they also show unto us- by way of the inspired words that they wrote down for us- that very same life that we can have also.)

That is what John is saying here in this verse. And by bringing in all of the Apostles into this discussion- John is saying that either one thing or the other has to be true. Either it is true that every single one

of the Apostles and the other New Testament writers- including all of their assistants and disciples *collectively* agreed to make all of this up and they conspired to lie their entire lives to lie about Jesus and the Resurrection in everything that they wrote- or else every single thing that they said is true.

So, let's examine this for just a moment. Let's say that John and Peter and James and the other original Apostles all agreed to just make it up. Let's say that they conspired together to fabricate a huge hoax upon all of mankind about Jesus rising from the dead and of His appearing unto them for 40 days after the Resurrection and of His Ascension into Heaven. Let's just say they made it all up.

Okay, but we can't stop there- because if we really believe that they just made this all up- we then are forced to answer some very important questions.

Like why? *Why* did they make it up? What would encourage or entice or tempt all of these men collectively to lie about all of this-and to continue to say it- even when they were killed for it? Well, there are only a few reasons. First of all – we have to say that if it is all a lie- then all of the men collectively had to be in on the lie. Peter and James could not have done it alone. John had to be in on the hoax too. But so did Matthew and John Mark, and Dr. Luke, and Jude- the half- brother of Jesus- who didn't believe in Jesus until after the Resurrection. But that would mean that that Mary- Jesus' mother had to also be in on the conspiracy to lie and also Mary Magdalene and Salome who was with Mary Magdalene at the Garden- they too would have had to be in on it for the lie to be effective long term and after you go through the whole list- not only would every single one of the 120 who were in the Upper Room, but also the other 380 who were invited to come but who didn't would also to some extent have to be included in the great conspiracy to lie in order for this great lie to carry any weight at all with anyone else.

Remember that the entire time that Peter and Paul were ministering all throughout Asia Minor that Matthew and John Mark and Dr. Luke and John and Mary and many hundreds of other people who saw Jesus and knew the facts were still alive and they would all have to all keep quiet about what they knew to be a lie if this was all just a hoax.

And keep in mind that all of these hundreds of people would have to be in perfect harmony about the lie for their entire lives without ever

once revealing to anyone that it was a lie- or even changing the story at all- even as they were being tortured- or else the entire story would come apart like a three dollar watch.

So, let's see- we have literally hundreds of people who all collectively have to agree with a story and they all have to keep repeating the same story thousands of times over several years without one time changing it or revealing to anyone that they are lying.

Now what would cause anyone to be willing to do that? There are only four reasons that anyone would be willing to make up a story like this and stick to that story all their lives:

1. Power
2. Money
3. Fame
4. A combination of two or more of these four things.

Now let me say here that it is conceivable that *some* people would be willing to make up a story and to keep perpetuating the lie for many years- as long as they really thought that they could accomplish one or more of these four things or even had the hope of accomplishing them during their lifetime.

Horrible hoaxes- that went on for many years and terrible lies have been told throughout the centuries by many people so that they could become wealthy or so that they could achieve great power or come into great fame or a combination of these four things.

People have murdered people and tried to cover it up- wars have been started; nations have been overthrown; Governments have both risen and been toppled as a result of one or more of these four things- so it is conceivable that some could have done this.

But wait just a minute. What fortune did the Apostles come into? There was no money in serving Jesus back then and there was certainly no money to be made in preaching about Jesus at that time. It was *illegal* to be a Christian during the early days of the Church. People served God under penalty of death back then. And these faithful men were persecuted both by the Jews and the Gentiles and they had to contend daily with a hostile Government that threatened them with total annihilation at any moment.

Those who served and preached Jesus were all thrown into jail, and they had all their worldly goods confiscated precisely because they said what they said and believed what they believed. So, what fame and fortune did any of these men come into?

Unlike the prima donna ministers today- not a single Apostle of Jesus ever achieved any wealth for serving Jesus. None of them obtained any power whatsoever. But they all did receive unspeakable persecution! They all did come into great pain and torture and suffering as a result of saying what they said. And all of them but John were martyred for telling the Old, old Story.

So like I said, it is conceivable that some might be willing to conspire to tell a lie and keep on telling that lie for great wealth or great power or great fame- but there is no one who is willing to continue to say something that they know to be a lie- as they are being beaten and as they are being flayed alive and as they are crucified upside down and as they are beaten with rods and as they are thrown off a wall and as they have their head cut off and as they are being boiled in oil.

No, the only conclusion that we can come to is that John and the other Apostles were telling the truth and Jesus really is God and He really did rise from the dead and He really has the very Life of God in Himself and it really is true that there is Salvation in no other Name and it really is true that what John wrote down is just the way that it is. And it really is true that we are now commanded to repent and to serve this risen Lord and love Him and follow Him and trust Him for our own Salvation.

Well, I have to stop right here, but please join me on the next broadcast as we continue our “journey” through the Epistle of **1John**. May God help us all.

© 2007- 2023 by Enjoying God Ministries, Inc. All rights reserved. Printed in the United States of America
Enjoying God Ministries, Inc. PO Box 147 Saucier, Mississippi 39574 www.covenantofpeace.net

Scripture quotations, except those noted otherwise, are from *The New American Standard Bible* © 1996 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission.

This is a single transcript in a larger series of teachings taken from a verse by verse **Journey through the Epistle of 1John**. You are free to reproduce it and distribute it as the Lord leads you- without cost or reimbursement to us with the stipulation that you may not add anything or take anything away from this transcript without the express written permission of The Covenant of Peace Church and that this complete copyright statement be at the end of all copies.

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.