

The Word of Life

1 John 1:1-4

Author: John, son of Zebedee and author of the fourth gospel, and Revelation is the author of 1, 2, & 3 John. Date: 90s AD Purpose: 1 John calls the us to the fundamentals of the Christian life (1. True Doctrine (2. Obedient living, and (3. True Devotion. John's letter is redemptive in nature resounding that all believers should grow in faith, obedience, and love.

The Word of Life

1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— 2 the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— 3 that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. 4 And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

I. The Proof of True Life (vv.1-2) This verse shows the existence of Jesus, the true life. There can be no doubt that the reference here is to the Lord Jesus Christ, or the "Word" that was made flesh that John refers to in the gospel of John 1:1. For hundreds of years the Messiah was prophesied, but now was there in the flesh, living proof of the way, the truth, and the life! John's description here in verse 1 is the evidence of the existence of Jesus Christ. Secular scholars and historians have confirmed the existence of Jesus Christ. C.S. Lewis states the phrase in "Mere Christianity" that "Jesus is either Liar, Lunatic, or Lord." If He is Lord, we must do something about it. Jesus Himself claimed His own divinity. Listen to Mark 14:61-62: ***"But he remained silent and made no answer. Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?" And Jesus said, "I am, and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven."*** I believe with all my heart that Jesus lived, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again on the 3rd day. Because of this Christ demands obedient living and devotion, which equals true life!

II. The Promise and Proclamation of True Life (v. 3) The Word came to us, for us to pass on to others. Listen to John 5:24: ***"Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life."*** Those who are saved, the ones who are being transformed by faith in Jesus Christ have a mandate through the Great Commission (Matt 28:19-20) to pass this hope forward to everyone else. A few reasons why we must do this:

- a. Fellowship with the Church, the Bride of Christ, His saints.
- b. Fellowship with Christ, the author of true life.

This promise from the proclamation of the gospel is again proof of the true life only found in Jesus Christ.

III. The Product of True Life, Joy (v.4) True joy comes with knowing Christ. Listen to these two verses: John 15:11: ***“These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.”*** and John 16:24: ***“Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.”***

John Piper states: “God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him.” If Jesus lives within you, you will show Him, His joy, His peace. Look at Galatians 5:22-23 at the description of the fruits of the Spirit. What are the first few fruits listed? “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control...” If you’re not living for Christ, you’re living a faking life! You might as well be living some type of fantasy life. You’re not living the life that God intended for you to live! You were created for a greater purpose, His glory!

Jesus is the proof of true life, the promise of true life, and the product of living for Him is true joy!