

CERTAINTY OF JESUS CHRIST 1 John 1:1-4

- We have begun a series in 1 John titled *Living in Discernment and Certainty in an Uncertain World*.

INTRODUCTION

*1 John 1:1–4 (ESV) 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.*

- John provides no greeting to his letter,
- Really, no introduction.
- He jumps right into the theme or objective of his writing the letter – Jesus Christ.
- Who is Jesus? Video - <https://youtu.be/fCf6Qy3j3Y4?feature=shared>

MESSAGE THEME – *Living with certainty concerning Jesus Christ.*

REVIEW – 2 SLIDES

JOHN'S PERSONAL STORY

1 John 1:1 (ESV) 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—

- What John is proclaiming, he experienced!

ILLUST.: *Distinction between a report and a testimony.*

- John is one of original 12.
- A brother to James, one of the “sons of thunder.”
- He was part of Jesus’s inner circle of 3; James, John, and Peter – seeing things the other 9 did not.
- John is older estimate between mid-80s and mid-90s.
- We are about 60 years after Jesus’ resurrection.

1. From the Beginning

- In the beginning God Created . . . at creation

- In the beginning was the Word, the Word was with God, the Word was God. . . *before creation eternity past!*
- Now a different “In the beginning.”
 - An old commandment which you had from the beginning 2:7
 - *Beloved, I am writing you no new commandment, but an old commandment that you had from the beginning. (Jesus’ teaching and the Church)*
 - This message you heard from the beginning to love one another 3:11
 - *This is the message you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. (Jesus’ teaching and the Church)*
 - This was a contemporary, historical beginning related to the person and life of Jesus Christ and the foundation of the Church.

2. Which We Have Heard

- John personally heard Jesus words of compassion, of correction, and teaching.

3. Which We Have Seen with Our Eyes

- John is not talking about a mystical Jesus, an illusion.
- He actually saw Jesus turn water into wine, feed 5000, walk on water, heal multitudes, raise the dead the rest of the 35 miracles recorded for us in the gospels.

4. Which We Have Looked Upon

- This is more than seen with our eyes.
- Same term as in John 1:14.
 - And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, . . .
 - Speaking to the Mount of Transfiguration in Luke 9.
- Peter states in 2 Peter 1:16 For we did not follow cleverly devised tales . . . but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty.

5. We Have Touched with Our Hands

- The same term Jesus used after His resurrection in **Luke 24:39**.
- “See My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself; touch Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones . . . John witnessed Jesus’ resurrection!

JOHN’S SUBJECT MATTER

1 John 1:1–2 (ESV) . . . 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—

A. Concerning the Word of Life

- He is talking about the Word or expression or embodiment of life.
- In verse 1 John emphasizes the humanity of Jesus.
- In verse 2, John shifts the focus to Jesus embodying and imparting life, His deity.

1. **This life was manifested,**

- This is more than Jesus being merely alive.
- This is speaking to an essence of being.
- Jesus declared, and the apostles witnessed, that Jesus was/is life's source.

John 14:6 (ESV) Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. . . ."

- They experienced this physically and spiritually.
 - Life imparted by Jesus spiritually and physically. He is life, and it was manifested.

2. **we have seen, bear witness, and proclaim to you the eternal life,**

- John and the apostles saw and testified that Jesus is eternal, the eternal one, the essence of life, that He is God.
- The apostles not only had Jesus Christ revealed to them objectively and historically (vs. 1) but also manifested spiritually as "the life, the eternal one."
- He is God!

3. **This eternal life was with the Father (God) and manifested to us.**

- God opened their eyes to see that the man, Jesus, was not just a godly man or a great teacher. It was revealed to them that He is "the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matt. 16:16-17).
- John stated who Jesus is in His gospel in 1:1.

John 1:1 (ESV) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

- The Word is identified in John 1:14 as Jesus Christ.

John 1:14 (ESV) And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory,

- Eternal life is not the by-product of enlightenment or knowledge acquired by an exclusive mystical experience but in the historic life and person of Jesus Christ.

B. Concerning Fellowship

1 John 1:3 (ESV) 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.

1. Fellowship Defined

- "Fellowship" is translated from *koinonia*. This word means to have something in common.

- This can be to have shared experiences, shared occupations, shared stages of life, etc.
- John is saying that what is fundamental to the Christian community is not sharing common temporal sympathies, causes, or an intellectual consensus.
- Christian fellowship is where we mutually share God's life in and through the person of Jesus Christ; it is a shared experience and reality.
- Salvation is more than mere assent to a creed or orthodoxy. It is a birthing and impartation of life in and through Jesus Christ executed in the Holy Spirit.
- Our fellowship is shared life!

2. Fellowship Explained

- The Christian community is not merely horizontal, a mere social phenomenon.
- It is triangular; it begins with our fellowship with God and Jesus Christ, and it is then living and experiencing the Father and the Son *together* as believers.
- This fellowship is vertical in sharing God's life and being born again.
- It is also horizontal as we share with each other our sharing of God's life.
- True Christianity is an experience rooted in revelation and realized in a relationship—with God and with other believers.

C. Concerning Joy

1 John 1:4 (ESV) *And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.*

- Verse four tells us that the result is *joy*.
- Truly knowing Jesus Christ, experiencing God's life, and living in authentic fellowship with God and, thereby, others brings deep joy.

APPLICATION

- John is in a war-torn situation. The Early Church, though only decades old, was under spiritual assault to destroy the foundation and essence of its existence.
- He combines the themes of truth concerning Jesus Christ and the true Christian community.
- John says that the essence of a Christian community is based on one's theology and experience with Jesus Christ.
- Jesus' personhood and work is the central doctrine of the Christian faith.

They heard, saw, and touched God in the flesh.

- This message has been offensive and a stumbling block from the beginning.
- So many want to make Jesus a good man, not God.
- Many want to make Jesus a good teacher, but not God.

- The reason people reject that God came in the flesh is because it means that every human being on the face of the earth must obey him.
- If it is true, then Jesus' words are authoritative and must be obeyed.
- If it is true, then Jesus' life is the example for all creation to follow.
- It is a stumbling block because Eternal Life is only found in Him.
 - Life is not found in ourselves.
 - Life is not found in our actions.
 - Life is not found in good works.
 - Life is not found in spirituality.
 - Life is not found in religion.
- Eternal Life is only found in Jesus Christ.
- This one man, Jesus, becomes the measure of truth and righteousness.
- John gives his valid testimony.
- The Life was revealed. God has been seen, touched, heard, and recognized.
- Jesus Christ of Nazareth is fully God who came to earth fully as a human to provide God's life to sinful mankind for fellowship with Him.

Living in Discernment and Certainty in an Uncertain World begins with living with certainty regarding Jesus Christ, who He is: fully God who came to earth as fully human.

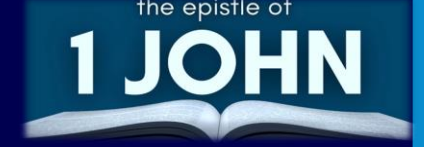
the epistle of

1 JOHN



*LIVING IN DISCERNMENT AND CERTAINTY IN
AN UNCERTAIN WORLD*

INTRODUCTION



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MESSAGE THEME – *Living with certainty concerning Jesus Christ.*



*Some Jews did not accept the divine messiahship of Jesus being fully
God as a human,*

Greek pagans did not accept Jesus as being fully human as God.

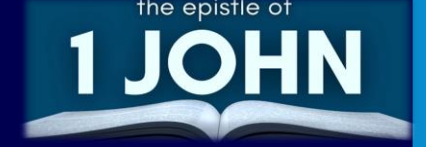


Christianity confessed that a fully human person named Jesus of Nazareth was also God the Son.

Greek dualists believed, “How could the true God indwell a human body of flesh and blood?”



JOHN'S PERSONAL STORY



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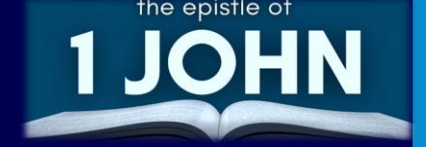
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From the Beginning



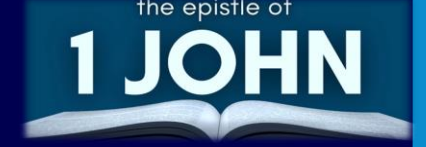
JOHN'S PERSONAL STORY



From the Beginning
Which We Have Heard



JOHN'S PERSONAL STORY



From the Beginning
Which We Have Heard
Which We Have Seen with Our Eyes



JOHN'S PERSONAL STORY



From the Beginning
Which We Have Heard
Which We Have Seen with Our Eyes
Which We Have Looked Upon



JOHN'S PERSONAL STORY



From the Beginning

Which We Have Heard

Which We Have Seen with Our Eyes

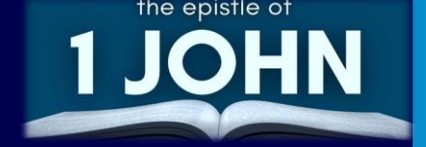
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JOHN'S PERSONAL STORY

JOHN'S SUBJECT MATTER



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Concerning the Word of Life

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JOHN'S PERSONAL STORY

JOHN'S SUBJECT MATTER

Concerning the Word of Life

This life was manifested

John 14:6 (ESV) Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. . . ."





JOHN'S PERSONAL STORY

JOHN'S SUBJECT MATTER

Concerning the Word of Life

This life was manifested

We have seen, bear witness, and proclaim the eternal life



JOHN'S PERSONAL STORY

JOHN'S SUBJECT MATTER

Concerning the Word of Life

- *This life was manifested*
- *We have seen, bear witness, and proclaim the eternal life*
- *This Life was with the Father (God) and manifested to us*

John 1:1 (ESV) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.



JOHN'S PERSONAL STORY

JOHN'S SUBJECT MATTER

Concerning the Word of Life

This life was manifested

We have seen, bear witness, and proclaim the eternal life

This eternal life was with the Father (God) and manifested to us

John 1:14 (ESV) And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, . . .



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Concerning the Word of Life

Concerning Fellowship

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Fellowship Defined - Koinonia



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Fellowship Defined – Koinonia

Fellowship Explained



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Concerning Joy

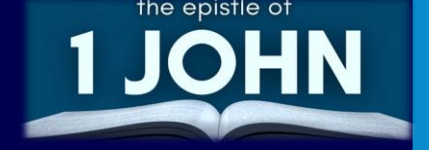
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APPLICATION



the epistle of

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UNCERTAIN WORLD begins with living with certainty
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to earth as a fully human being.*
