

Thank's – Zach | Brian | Stev – 'Preaching = God's Truth communicated through human personality'

- 5 weeks...four men...very different backgrounds / interests / family dynamics / styles
Represents a timeless biblical reality...God uses different people to accomplish his one goal...
- Peter – Fisherman...'You will be a fisher of men' | Simple man > first preacher after Pentecost
- Saul – Tentmaker (builder)...He is a chosen instrument...carry my name = Gentiles / Kings / Israel
 - One who went from one who hit Christians with rocks to death > Greatest Church Planter
- John – When John and his brother James first started following Jesus he called them
 - Son's of Thunder – A nickname they earned – Passing through Samaria...Jew/Samaria Hatred Rejected (Luke 9:54) 'Lord, do you want us to tell fire to come down from heaven to consume them?'
 - Hot-headed young man | Sharp and Impulsive...loudmouth - (Biblical - I resemble that remark)

Jesus didn't see just an impulsive young man...saw what he would become...even at the beginning...

- What was John doing when Jesus met him? Mending nets...Jesus saw a great mender...restorer
What an amazing testimony of changed life...that's what every testimony is...Jesus changing lives
- Two young men who started as raw material - James became the first apostle to die...John the last

- John – One of three at: Transfiguration | Raising of Jarius' Daughter | Praying in the garden
 - John – Only at Cross | Mary | Revelation of the end | Beloved...Arguably = Jesus' closest friend
- What changes 'son of thunder' > mender of men | Alcoholic > Preacher | Breaker > Points Redeemer
Abounding in Authentic Christianity | **BIG IDEA – Fill up and Overflow with Authentic Christianity**
I want us fill up and overflow...up to the brim & spilling out over the edges with Authentic Christianity

Read (Summarizes Gospel) - 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 – 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 – 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. And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

Only one point today, couple of sub's, because this points incredible importance...eternal importance

Abounding with Authentic Christianity requires us to be:

1. Unapologetically Unoriginal - Historical biblical message is permanent and unalterable

1 John reads like a sermon...broken into two major ideas: God is light / God is love
The letter is then held together by 'Living in fellowship with God, who is light and love'

Opening John's addressing house churches in Ephesus | They have a problem – Similar to ours

- Gnosticism – One of the greatest threats to the early church in the first three centuries
 - All matter is evil & All spirit is good | Knowledge trumped faith & Seek Higher Truth
- They believed that anything done in the body, even the grossest sin, has no meaning because real life exists in the spiritual realm only
They believed Jesus could not be God because a deity would never take the form of a material man

Gnostics influencing John's churches...he was setting the record straight...Unapologetically Unoriginal

(1) That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon and have touched, concerning the word of life – 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.

Key (Text): 'Word of Life' = Person and work of Jesus as proclaimed in the Gospel – What about it?

- 'From the beginning' & 'Which was with the Father' – Jesus was with the Father through it all!
 - In the beginning | At His beginning | Throughout His life | In His death | Ascended to be with Eternal deity and equality with the Father must be upheld in character, nature, and work of Christ

John's Warning = Those who diminish or adulterate the biblical Truth of the perfection of Christ held within the Triune Nature of God do not have fellowship with God | can only through acceptance and repentance

It was this truth that radically changed John...and He was not only willing to testify to it, but die for it!

- Heard / Saw / Touched / manifested or revealed to him = Not metaphoric language
John was giving a personal account of what he has actually experienced in the God-Man Jesus

This is what our world needs now...people who will give personal accounts of what they have actually experienced in the authentic, biblical, God-Man Jesus. Gnostics were rocking early Christians

- Allowing their foundations to be re-poured by a new 'spiritualized' 'higher thinking' reasoning
Do not allow your foundations to be re-poured by people who do not hold to Jesus as their Truth
Since WW2 – Civilized society has built pretty philosophies, educational systems, governments, and economies that are not solidified on the absolutes of Biblical Truth...first time...applying weight...

We have to get this into the right order...'what informs what'

- Philosophy doesn't inform our Christianity – Christianity informs our philosophy
- Politics doesn't inform our Christianity – Christianity informs our politics

If abound...fill up & overflow unapologetically w/ unoriginal historical message - nothing shakes foundation
2008 Beijing Olympics – Men & Women's 4x100 relay – Lost contention for a medal...why? Dropped Baton
(3) That which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you – Baton – Pass we have made! Why?
The Unapologetically Unoriginal – Historical biblical message when proclaimed and received leads to...

a) Unfathomable Relationships – (3) That which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you SO (Always preach) that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the father

Abound with unapologetically unoriginal gospel people are brought into unfathomable relationships

- **First** – Saving union through the Holy Spirit
 - Transfer from death into life and life eternal – All sinners / rebels / pride / angry = Adopted
 - John was a loudmouth who wanted fiery judgment on Samaria now a welcoming Pastor...
- **Second** – Fellowship with us – The Church – Assembly of God's People
 - *Koinonia* – Mutual life and love for all who are one in spirit
 - A people who take seriously the call to love, forgiveness, unity, and perseverance

How far are we willing to go to both bring people into that fellowship with God and the Church?

How far are we willing to go to protect the unity of the fellowship of the church?

One is a fellowship of perfection and one is a fellowship of imperfection

- The relationship with God is perfect and everlasting
- The relationship with the church is imperfect – Both need protecting | Both Unfathomable

Unapologetically Unoriginal – Historical biblical message proclaimed received leads to unfathomable

b) Unending Joy (4) And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete

I'm not sure if there is a biblical concept less understood than 'joy'

Webster's – The emotion evoked by well-being, success, or good fortune or by the prospect of possessing what one desires. – Radically thoroughly inaccurate understanding Authentic Christianity

Martin Lloyd-Jones (Life in Christ – Studies in 1 John)

Joy is something very deep and profound, something that affects the whole and entire personality. In other words it comes to this; there is only one thing that can give true joy and that is contemplation of the Lord Jesus Christ. He satisfies my mind; He satisfies my emotions; He satisfies my every desire. He and His great salvation include the whole personality and nothing less, and in Him I am complete. Joy, in other words, is the response and the reaction of the soul to a knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

If we place our joy in anything other than understanding the reality of Christ, the saving truth of the gospel, and the fellowship believers have with God and the church...it will fail.

Here what Matured Elder- Mender - Christ's beloved disciple, who heard / saw / touched saying:

There is nonsense out there...stop it – slow down – remember

The message we need for today...we are allowing people who do not hold to Jesus as truth influence

Wit and reason fail behold your saviors face is on every page and on every moment of history

Stop it – Slow down – Remember | Fill up and overflow with Authentic Christianity

- Unapologetically Unoriginal – Leads to Unfathomable Relationships & Unending Joy - **PRAY**