

New Message Series: **JUST SO YOU KNOW** (study of 1<sup>st</sup> John)

*“These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.” 1 John 5:13*

Our study of 1<sup>st</sup> John is about Knowing or discerning the difference between Light & Darkness and to distinguish between what is truth and what is lies.

Message 1:

**BELIEVING:** Who to Believe and What to Believe

**1 John 1:1-3 (NIV2011)**

<sup>1</sup> That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life.

<sup>2</sup> The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us.

<sup>3</sup> We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.

**Verse 1A** - “That which was from the beginning”

- This speaks to God’s eternal nature.
  - God’s life is eternal; without beginning or end.

**Verse 1B** – “That which we have heard”

- This is in reference to God’s truth and/or God’s Word.
  - God’s life is eternal
  - God’s truth is eternal
  - Truth is not created
  - Truth is not new even though it might be new to you
    - You and I can point to a time when we came to know truth

**Verse 1C** – “That which we have seen with our eyes”

- This points to Jesus Christ
  - He was from the beginning
  - He was the life and word of God made flesh

**John 14:9 (NASB)** – “He who has seen Me (Christ) has seen the Father”

- Because He came in the flesh, we too, can hear from God through the New Testament authors. They witness to His words through their writings.

The following scriptures are references to the commands Jesus Christ gave to His apostles to be His witness.

**Matthew 10:27 (NASB)**

<sup>27</sup> "What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear *whispered* in *your* ear, proclaim upon the housetops.

### **John 15:20 (NASB)**

<sup>20</sup> ...If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also.

### **John 17:20 (NASB)**

<sup>20</sup> "I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word;

### **Acts 1:8 (NASB)**

<sup>8</sup> but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

The Results of the apostle's witness:

Because we have heard and are still hearing with our ears, we have come to know what the righteousness of God looks like by the life taught and lived by Christ.

By this hearing and seeing, we can experience the hand of God upon our life through the presence of His Holy Spirit. Like wind, we don't see the coming and goings of the Holy Spirit, but we can surely feel and see His power at work in our life.

Through this we share something in common with the Apostles; we too, become personal witnesses.

**Verse 3** – "We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us."

#### **1. Who Do We Believe?**

Do we believe those who declare their own truth?

- Those who say, "Well this is what I believe?"

Do we believe those who judge themselves by themselves?

- Those who are wise in their own eyes?
- Man' ideology? Philosophy? Tradition?

We must only believe the witness of that which holds God as its source.

Our study of 1st John is about Knowing or discerning the difference between Light & Darkness and to distinguish between what is truth and what is lies.

We must guard against being deceived by

- False teaching
- False spirits
- Even believing our own lies

We must only believe the witness of that which holds God as its source. The truth that has been heard, seen, and touched – Jesus Christ

#### **2. What Do We Believe?**

**Verse 2A** – “The life was manifested (appeared).”

We must believe that Jesus is who He says He is, and that He can do what He says He can do.

Jesus Christ was and is the son of God. He came to be “the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for *those of the whole world* (**1 John 2:2**)

To “propitiate” is to appease – to satisfy the wages of sin – death. To turn God’s anger away; to reconcile us unto God. To give back the life from God (eternal life) we lost in the fall.

The life was manifested, and Christ is that life.

Christ is the only source of this life.

We must believe in Christ and Him alone.

- Man must die under the penalty of sin
- Jesus is God
  - perfect and without sin
- He became man
  - He took on our flesh
- He partook of death
  - He drank our cup of God’s wrath
- He knew no sin
  - death and the grave had no hold on Him
- He arose from the dead proven to all in Heaven and earth
  - a public defeat of Satan and sin “The life was manifested”
- His shed blood is our redemption
  - Our freedom from sin
  - Our reconciliation to God

Summary:

Believing we can speak truth to every Lie (*every lie has its source from the devil*).

You and I must believe in the name and the authority of the Son of God

Believe you have His eternal life; believe you have His eternal truth; His eternal love; and His eternal victory

**1 John 5:13 (NASB)** “*These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.*”