

**“A Symphony of the Christian Life” – A Study of 1 John**  
**“Tactile Jesus”**  
1 John 1:1-4

**A Prologue**

***That which is from the Beginning***

*The first note in the “melody” is the externality of God -- “That which was from the beginning.”*

***The Word of Life***

*John describes Jesus as the “word of life.”*

*We can gain two insights from this designation:*

*Jesus is the essence or embodiment of life itself.*

*Jesus is the giver of life – physical and spiritual.*

***The Word of Life Manifest***

*The term we often use to describe this action of manifestation is incarnation.*

*In the incarnation, Jesus takes on humanity (tangibility) – he can be heard, seen, and touched.*

*John is bringing together the eternal nature (divine nature) of Jesus with the human nature of Jesus.*

***A Witness***

*The apostle was a personal witness to the reality of Jesus – he had seen his humanity and as a witness of the resurrection could also give witness to the Divine nature.*

***Addressing a Heresy***

*There were those who refused to accept Jesus had come in the flesh. Their focus was on the divinity of Christ to the denial or at least diminishing of his true humanity. Historically, the heresy became known as Docetism.*

*A less than human Savior constitutes a less than complete salvation.*

*1 John 4:2b-3 says – “every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, 3 and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God.”*

***Authentication***

*The second purpose John has in his witness is to authenticate the Gospel message.*

*John is an “eyewitness” of Jesus life, death and resurrection.*

***Proclamation***

*John’s proclamation has a dual purpose:*

***Joy*** -- *When John says the proclamation of the gospel brings joy, he intends that we understand the underlying factor for that joy which is grace offered through Jesus Christ.*

***Fellowship*** -- *Koinonia is a term meaning that which is shared in common and by extension, participation, shared communion, and spiritual fellowship.*

*Our fellowship with God is authentic because the Spirit of God dwells in us (1 John 4:13).*