

Proof of Life: Testimony for Joy

1 John 1:1-4

The Gospel is the Testimony (vv.1-2)

- The Gospel
 - First article is neuter meaning that this most likely is referring to the gospel message first
 - This is one long, complex sentence in the Greek
 - So it really carries a single train of thought
 - John the Evangelist is apparently the author and refers to himself alongside both the other apostles and the believers to whom he is writing
 - Christ, certainly, is at the center of the gospel
- The Gospel is God Incarnate
 - **John 1:1-3,14**
 - The Logos (the Word)
 - The Life
 - Fully God...Fully Man
 -
 - Had / Has a physical body
 - As opposed to a vision or dream.
 - John most likely wrote this letter from Ephesus, after being displaced after the fall of Jerusalem to Rome in 70AD – Ephesus was a place of great Greek religious influence (temple of Artemis / worship of the goddess Diana) – birthplace of Gnostic thought.
 - This battled some of the false teaching going on at the time, as well as the burgeoning heresy of Gnosticism
 - Gnosticism held to a knowledge of the divine attainable through the internal light already present and realized. Divorced the physical body from the spirit (led to same abuses we have in every religion – asceticism, narcissism)
 - Lived, Died, Buried, Resurrected, Ascended

- The Gospel is God Incarnate Alone
 - Eternal life is found in no other
 - **Acts 4:12**
 - Salvation is God manifesting Himself to us (not the other way around)
 - **Rom.5:8**

The Gospel is Why and How We Have Joy-filled Fellowship (vv.3-4)

- Fellowship with One Another is Why we Proclaim Christ
 - Proclaiming the Gospel to other believers?
 - True Koinonia – holding something in common
 - Protect this idea
 - Just because we are in the same room, breathing the same air and all claim to be believers does not mean there is fellowship.
 - When we gather we should find that what we hold in common is that all of us find our greatest joy in Christ and particularly enjoy seeing others find their joy in Him – THE GOSPEL!
 - PASSION STATEMENT
 - How is that Joy? (to proclaim the gospel to each other)
 - How was it joy for Christ?
 - **John 10** – Perfectly doing the will of the Father
 - When we remind each other of the gospel we are declaring again and again that God has ransomed us in Christ, perfectly saving His sheep who He already had as His possession and are now in sweet fellowship.
 - This reminds us that our fellowship with Christ is PRESENT TENSE, not past.
 - THAT IS JOY FOR US BECAUSE IT IS PARTICULARLY ENJOYABLE FOR GOD!
 - Our Fellowship with One Another is found only in Our Fellowship (together) with God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit

- The End of God-Centered Fellowship is Mutual Joy
 - John's first stated Purpose of Writing
 - **1 John 1:4** – That joy would be complete
 - **1 John 2:1** – That the believer would not sin
 - **1 John 2:21** – To embolden the Truth in the believer (in light of discouragement)
 - **1 John 2:26** – To warn of false teachers
 - **1 John 5:13** – To give the believer assurance of eternal life
 - Joy in biblical fellowship is a completer (there are things “lacking” in our temporal state)
 - Our Mutual Joy is in each other as we find our Mutual Joy in Christ
 - The loss of this joy was a real threat to John and the local church (going after false teachers)
 - **1 John 2:19**
 - THIS MUST SIMMER FOR A WEEK BECAUSE THE LANGUAGE NEXT WEEK GET VERY DIFFICULT VERY QUICKLY
 - It is NOT enough for you just to work through your doubts about your salvation and come to some soothing word from me!
 - Your doubts (marked by a serious lack of joy) will only dispense when God is your greatest JOY!
 - That is my difficulty, my story and my fight!

Application

- Do you believe that Jesus is the Christ, God the Son, and are you certain you have eternal life in Him?
- Believer, what makes your joy complete? New stuff? New relationship? Why are you without joy? Is your relationship with Christ fractured? What about the fellowship with the saints?
- MEMORIZE 1 JOHN BY THE END OF THE SUMMER