

The Essentials of Our Faith – Studies In I John #2

Our Faith Centers On The Real Person of Jesus Christ!

I John 1:1-4

I. The Text VS 1-4

“We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us— we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.”

- A.** Declare – proclaim – announce
- B.** From the beginning – not some new message
 - Genesis 1, John 1 – the message has continuity
- C.** Eyewitness account
- D.** A real encounter with a “real” person
- E.** Word of life – logos – the central truth is a person
- F.** Revealed – disclosed by God
- G.** Our testimony is true because we were there
- H.** From God to us through Jesus – eternal life
- I.** We declare our relationship with Jesus so that you can have a real relationship with Jesus too.
- J.** Fellowship with God, with Jesus, with us, with each other
 - Partnership with Christ
 - Koinonia with Christ
 - Common with Christ
- K.** Through this real relationship (fellowship) we all discover joy
- L.** What a sentence!

II. John’s Opening Message

- A.** John is saying that God’s eternal decision to be in fellowship with mankind was revealed to John and the other Apostles through the real physical life of Jesus Christ. We know God, not through secret information, but by having a relationship with Jesus.

- B.** The life that was with the Father and was witnessed to by John is the basis of fellowship with the Father and the Son and each other. Without that word of life there is no fellowship.
- C.** That fellowship is the basis of our true joy!
- D.** All of John’s readers can have the same real relationship with God and Jesus by believing his testimony. In fact there is no other way!

III. Thoughts

- A.** In today’s world it seems like everyone wants to be included to feel like they are okay. So what they do is establish their own criteria for fellowship. When they encounter distinctives like, only through Jesus can you have fellowship with God and His people, they react and accuse Christians of being exclusive, judgmental and all kinds of other words. We should expect this and not overreact.
- B.** John is very clear that Christians:
 - Believe in Jesus as God in the flesh
 - Have fellowship with God and Jesus
 - Have fellowship with each other
 - Through this fellowship they experience joy
- C.** These are not options. We evaluate our faith by these distinctives –
 - Where are we in our relationship with God and Jesus?
 - How is our fellowship with each other?
 - Are we experiencing the deep joy of God’s grace?
- D.** I can’t make up what makes me a Christian. I have to surrender to what John says.