

# A Life Like No Other

## Lesson for Sunday, February 9, 2025

TEXT: 1 John 1:1-4

### INTRODUCTION:

- ⇒ Can anyone remember a famous beginning? *Examples...*
  - “Once upon a time...” – every great fairy tale!
  - “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times...” – Dickens “A Tale of Two Cities”
  - “A long time ago in a galaxy, far, far away...” Each Star Wars film
- ⇒ The Bible has some great beginnings:
  - In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth – Genesis 1:1
  - In the beginning was the Word – John 1:1
  - The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God – Mark 1:1
- ⇒ Right in line with the biblical great beginnings is 1 John 1:1-4. These verses serve as the introduction to this epistle, where John reveals the incarnate Son, who became a man in the person of Jesus of Nazareth.
- ⇒ John’s goal is simple: he wants us to know Him.

### BIBLE STUDY:

1. Know Jesus (vs. 1-2)
  - a. Jesus is Divine
    - i. The Son Jesus Christ (3) is “that which is from the beginning” (1) and is “that eternal life which was with the Father” (2).
    - ii. There has never been a time when Jesus was not. Never. He is eternal. He was before the beginning, in the beginning, and from the beginning. This is what John believed and is teaching.
    - iii. This is also what Jesus taught. See John 8:58; John 10:30; John 14:9.
    - iv. There was never a time when the Son was not, and there never will be a time when He will not be. Just as we learned in our study of John 1 – Jesus is God. He is divine.
  - b. Jesus is Human
    - i. At the same time John is proclaiming the deity of Jesus, he presents a rigorous defense of the humanity of Jesus.
    - ii. John says four things concerning “Word of Life” (1).
      1. We heard Him with our ears (1 & 3).
      2. We saw Him with our eyes (1, 2, 3).
      3. We touched Him with our hands (1).
      4. We testify and “declare unto you” (3) – we are bona fide eyewitnesses – Jesus was “manifested unto us” (2).
  - c. Remember our lesson last week? John is fighting Gnosticism which fervently denied the incarnation of Jesus.
  - d. John is saying, “The biblical Jesus is no myth, fairy tale or fable. He is no ghost or illusion. He is indeed the God who took on full humanity.”
2. Make Jesus Known (vs. 3)
  - a. The impact that the incarnate Lord had on His followers is difficult to put into words. They were radically changed and turned the world upside down (Acts 17:6).

- b. This impact compelled His followers to take the Gospel to the nations. They simply believed that they must. They had no other choice.
  - c. In verse 3 we discover the main verb of the prologue. It is the word “declare.”
    - i. It means to proclaim or announce.
    - ii. John is saying that we cannot keep silent about this eternal life-giving Word.
    - iii. What we have seen, heard, looked upon and touched we must share with others.
  - d. What is the purpose? “That you might have fellowship with us.”
    - i. John speaks of fellowship 4 times in this letter – all in 1:3-7.
    - ii. The word speaks of sharing in common something that is significant and important. You share common goals, beliefs and values. You are pursuing a common agenda.
    - iii. John loves the church so much that he wants to invite everyone to become a part. The same should be said of every Christian!
3. Find Your Joy in Jesus (vs. 4)
- a. When we are joined to Jesus through salvation, and to other believers in fellowship, we will experience common blessings.
  - b. John weaves these blessings throughout 1 John. How might we enjoy these blessings?
    - i. 1 John 1:4 – Promote joy that is full. Not partial but complete. Full. All we could ever want or ever need. (Also see John 15:11 and John 16:24).
    - ii. 1 John 2:1 – Press on in holiness. The life of striving to be more like Jesus is a life of joy lived not out of obligation, but gratitude.
    - iii. 1 John 2:26 – Pursue correct doctrine. John has written us a letter that is full of theology. This theology is doctrinal and it is practical. John believes that theology matters and so should we.
    - iv. 1 John 5:13 – Provide assurance of salvation. John knew that one can be truly saved and experience doubts. But John doesn’t want us to wonder if we are saved. He wants us to have assurance.

APPLICATION THOUGHTS:

- ⇒ What would you say to someone who asked you: Who is Jesus?
- ⇒ Are there any areas or thoughts where we confront shades of Gnosticism today?
  - Consider when we put personal experience over Scripture.
  - How about when we believe that certain doctrinal truth is reserved for certain people or groups?
- ⇒ Are we ever guilty of focusing on knowing Jesus while neglecting making Jesus known? Who is the last person you talked about Jesus with?
- ⇒ Would you describe yourself as “joyful”? Why or why not? Are we not full of joy because we are neglecting one of the four points in section 3 above?

Remind your class we are trying to memorize 1 John 1:7 – maybe read it and quote it together.

Next Week’s Text: 1 John 1:5-2:2