

# *The Way to the Savior*

Wednesday, October 20, 2021

1 John 1:1-4 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and show unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;) That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.

- I. These words show a progression here that corresponds to the development of saving faith.
  - A. There is an eternal God that existed before there was ever anything else. (“That which was from the beginning...”)
  - B. The apostle here is referring to Jesus, who was God manifested in flesh and dwelling among us.
  - C. First, we HEAR of Him.
  - D. Then we SEE Him. (more of our attention is captured)
  - E. Then we LOOK UPON Him. (gaze; to fix upon and meditate, study upon; examine closer)
  - F. Then we HANDLE (touch) Him and He touches us.
  - G. There are depths to God that are known only by the few who come through this whole progression.

Rom 11:33) O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!

- H. This truth can be applied two ways:
  - 1. This whole process can happen pretty quickly in coming to know Christ as our Savior and Lord.
  - 2. The same process is the outline for spiritual growth as we continue to live here in this world after we are born again.
- II. Which we have heard ...
  - A. ALL people HEAR of Him.
    - 1. ALL people hear of God at some point in their life.
  - B. Most do not pursue the matter any further than that – and they know nothing more than what they have heard.
  - C. Some hear more about God than others – some hear very little.
  - D. Most who do hear the Word lose it before it can bring forth any fruit in their life.
  - E. To hear is to receive the seed, but the ground it is received into is what makes the difference.
  - F. When a seed is received in the ground there is nothing to see ...yet.
- III. But then we read “...which we have seen with our eyes,...”
  - A. Our heart has trouble setting its affection on things that we simply hear about – things that are unseen.
  - B. While we may know that some unseen thing is real there is a new dimension added when it is set before our eyes and we can SEE it.

- C. Until the seed actually brings forth life there is nothing to SEE and we are simply believing a written promise.
- D. The seed must fall into the ground and die before there can be a new life.
  - 1. There is a time when we have to trust in the promise alone.
- E. But a seed planted in good ground WILL BRING FORTH new life that is visible to the eye.
- F. There is a point where Jesus becomes real to you.
  - 1. It is generally during a crisis time in your life where death and burial become a real personal experience for you.
- G. There is a point where you are not simply going through the motions and playing the game with everyone else.
- H. There is a point where your eyes are opened.

John 3:3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

Luke 24:30-31 And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them. And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight.

- IV. "...which we have looked upon, ..."
  - A. This speaks of a continuing look, not just a glance, but a steady gazing upon.
  - B. Lots of folks SEE things that should keep their attention, but they look away and are carried back into the world and its pleasures and ways.
  - C. Those who abide in Christ and continue, fix their gaze upon Him and keep it there.
  - D. These are those who are stable and unmovable in the Lord.
  - E. These are those who do not stumble at calamity, reproaches, or disappointment in other men.
  - F. When we gaze upon an object our desire toward it increases and our heart attaches itself to it.
  - G. So our stability, and the reality of God in our life will correspond in proportion to how much we "look upon" this Word of Life.
  - H. These are the only ones who bring forth fruit unto eternal life.
- V. "...and our hands have handled ..."
  - A. There is still a higher plain to live on than hearing, seeing, and gazing upon.
  - B. The consummation of feelings is accomplished through the sense of touch.
  - C. You can say with a touch what you cannot express with the most flowery words.

Mark 1:41 And Jesus, moved with compassion, put forth *his* hand, and touched him, and saith unto him, I will; be thou clean.

Mark 6:56 And whithersoever he entered, into villages, or cities, or country, they laid the sick in the streets, and besought him that they might touch if it were but the border of his garment: and as many as touched him were made whole.

- D. A touch speaks of attachment and making two become one.
- E. Jesus still touches lepers and makes them whole.
- F. Those who have experienced the comfort of the Holy Ghost know what it means to be touched by Him.
- G. When the woman touched the hem of his garment Jesus perceived that virtue had gone out of him. (Luke 8:46)

1. Virtue is strength and so strength can be transferred through touching another. (Hug, simply laying your hand on someone's shoulder or hand.)

VI. "For the life was manifested ..."

- A. God does not hide, but reveals himself to those who keep his commandments.

John 14:21 He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

John 14:22-24 Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world? Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me.

1 Tim 3:16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

Rom 1:19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath showed it unto them.

- B. God will make himself real to you if you hear, obey, and search for Him.
- C. God will manifest himself to you IF you really want Him.
- D. He will not manifest himself to you if you tempt Him by demanding of Him that He do something special for you outside of what He has promised.

VII. For our testimony to be effectual God must be a reality to us – not an imagination.

(For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and show unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;) That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.

- A. To bear witness means to "duplicate or restore."
- B. We have to testify not only of what we have heard, but what we have seen, and heard and handled.
- C. We must talk about things we know and not just about things we have heard about.
- D. To make God real to others He must be real to us.
- E. And God must be seen in us by the fact that our character, personality, and values have truly been altered to be conformed to his.