

**Intro:** Older people sometimes have wisdom we need to hear!

Wed Nite: New men's group Icebreaker: Question: *Beauty is...*

*"A life well lived that touches others and makes a difference!"*

WOW ...I would have never....

I needed to hear that! I was thinking PHYSICAL BEAUTY, they took it to an entirely different level!

Someone with a few more years under their belt helped me see something that I needed to see.

That is what John is doing in the letter we call 1 John.

He is writing to a church that is: **CONFUSED** and needing some insight into some things he already knew.

John, in our way of saying things a few years ago, is saying: *Been there, Done that, Made the TShirt, Walked w/Jesus*

And I am here to talk to you about something you are confused about...I want to talk to you about ETERNAL LIFE

Think with me about the background of 1 John just a little bit, and let's then look at how John opens his letter.

- **Author:** John (Most likely the Apostle John when he is 80-100) *12 are gone...Only John is left: Old*
- **Date:** 60-90 AD 30 -50 years After The Crucifixion, Resurrection, Founding of Church
- **From:** An older disciple (probably the LAST living disciple) to a church struggling and confused  
~Jesus wasn't a REAL human being: Just a "ghost" "Spirit" "phantom"  
~Eternal life is about KNOWLEDGE, what you KNOW: Knowing the right things  
~Knowing, Talking, Telling is ENOUGH: Doesn't matter how you live if you KNOW
- **To:** A church that is confused, struggling w what it means to know Jesus, be true disciples
- **Purpose:** To set the record straight...Help church get back on track, Correct errors, Clear Up Confusion
- **Theme:** *"I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life." 1Jn 5:13*

#### 4 Things You Need To Know About Eternal Life

1 John 1:1-4

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### 1. You Can KNOW You Have Eternal Life.

You can KNOW: What it is, Where it come from, What it looks like, How to get it! God TELLS US!

We don't have to go searching for it...God has made it abundantly clear! Right in front of you!

*You can KNOW you have eternal life...because God has been careful to tell you about it in 3 different ways!*

Vs 1: *That which was from the beginning, which we saw ect...*

Vs 2: *The life appeared: Lit = to make know what already exists, to reveal, to show, to help to be understood*

John here is describing the process of what we call "Revelation" to pull back the curtain, show what is behind

That is what God is doing about life: He is SHOWING us what Life is like...how we can have it, what it looks like:

GOD does that 3 ways:

- **General/Natural Revelation:** *That which was from the beginning:* References John 1 and Gen 1  
God speaks to us about Himself...and Life...and Light...and Eternity through nature, through His creation  
Rom 1:19-20: "...what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities-- his eternal power and divine nature-- have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made..."
- **Specific Revelation:** Word of Life: God speaks to us to help us understand more than general: There and Strong  
He speaks to us through His Word: Written word, the bible...and Living Word, Jesus! Tell us all we need to Know!  
Bible: He shares with us: Who He is, Characteristics, Love, Forgiveness, How Know Him, What REAL LIFE is!
- **Incarnational Revelation:** Through the Living Word of God, Jesus, God in the Flesh, we can SEE what that Life looks  
Joh 1:14 "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."

John starts his letter by saying to us...You Can KNOW that you have eternal life...because God has made it clear. Written it in the heavens for the world to see...and he will pull back the curtain for you to see it...if you will just look!

### 2. You Can Personally Experience Eternal Life.

The second thing John says is, listen, I experienced Jesus in a REAL way, and you can too!

Here he is very clearly taking on some of the errors in the church;

Jesus wasn't a real man, with flesh and blood. He was just a spirit that LOOKED like a man...not really there!

John says...don't you believe that for minute. He was REAL...and I KNOW He was real...I experienced Him myself.

- **Heard him:** Oh, I was THERE when He preached Sermon on Mount, Explained OT, Taught Children, Confronted
- **Seen with eyes:** Listen to me, I SAW Him walk on water, SAW lame walk, Blind see, Lepers cleaned, water to wine
- **Hands touched:** Oh don't you think for a moment He wasn't real...I leaned on His breast LS, There when told Thomas, TOUCH me! When Thomas thought he was a spirit...Put finger in hole in my hand, hand in my side!
- **Looked at:** Lit = to gaze upon with wonder and amazement! I saw the empty tomb, demons flee, dead to life!

John writes the church that is wondering and doubting and confused and he tells them...I was THERE! I saw it!

I KNOW beyond a shadow of a doubt that real life, eternal life, life that is lived with God is REAL I lived it!

I walked with Him. I talked with Him, I touched Him, I heard Him, I know what life is like...I saw it in Jesus

**APPL:** He goes straight at the error in church: Not about what you KNOW! NEED to KNOW...but so much MORE!

Real life is about how you LIVE based on what you know. If you don't LIVE it...you really don't KNOW IT!

1 John 2: 3-6 Obey his commands! Say you KNOW...then WALK the WALK! THAT is real life in Christ!

### 3. We Are Called To Share Eternal Life With Others!

Not only can we know about eternal life because God makes it known. One of the ways He does that is through us: Know Him Look at how many times and ways John challenges us about this. 4 times in these few verses he tells us, I'm sharing with you! Uses two different words that have a little different flavor.

- Proclaim: Lit = *to announce in a public way; like a town crier publically calling attention to something*  
*Public proclamation of great news for everyone to hear*
- Testify: Lit = *to be a witness; to bear record; to report and give personal testimony to the facts*
- Write: Lit = *to put something on a piece of paper, to record or write down*

John goes out of his way to communicate to the church, listen. I want you to KNOW what God has told me about life So I am going to communicate to you in every way I know how who and what God says life is all about I am going to announce it from the rooftops, I'm going to witness, speak, share, all that I know I'll write it DOWN But here is what I want you to know: I want to share with you...what God has shared with me!

**App:** What about you? When was the last time you shared God's work in your life with someone?

When did you say...I have seen Him, Felt Him, Heard Him: I want you to know Him like I do!!!!

Invite them, Testify to them of what He teaching you, Tell them His word, write a card, note, invite

### 4. Having This Kind Of Life Brings All Kinds Of Joy!

John says, Listen, THIS LIFE, Eternal Life, Live lived in relationship/fellowship with God is what you were made for! If you want the VERY BEST life possible...you find that with Jesus in heart...walking with God! When you have that...you have Joy

I'm writing this to you to make our joy (your) joy complete:

**Complete:** Lit = *to fill up, to complete, to make full, to cram to top or limit!* (used of fish in a net) So fullbreak

John says, listen, I'm an old man...I want to talk to you about life! Want to know what Real Life is?

Know where real joy comes from? Not from the world around you...It springs up from within, relationship with God!

- I have Joy because I know Him. That relationship floods my soul with joy!
- I have Joy when I share what I know with you! Joy is multiplied when it is shared! (Sorrow is halved, joy doubled!)
- I have Joy when you get...what I got! To know I had some small piece of helping you connect with God: JOY
- You have joy when you truly understand God's love for you...sin forgiven, life transformed

**App:** Do you want to know about life? Want to know where true, lasting, fulfilling joy comes from?

Comes from Jesus. Comes from knowing Him, sharing Him, personally experiencing walking with Him.

### CONCL:

John is an old man now, others are gone, church is confused, Error creeping in, people not connected with God

John says...I have something you need to hear:

~Life is there...and you can know it

~Life is there...you can personally experience

~Life is there...you can share it with others

~Life is there...And when its real...it will bring you joy

*What about you this morning? Do you need that life...that personal experience...that joy: I love to share it with you*

- Do YOU know what life is really all about when it's lived in relationship with God?

Have you *Personally* experienced it...or is it just something you have heard about?

You CAN know...and you can know today!

- Are you personally experiencing what it means to have Jesus in your life ... and live for Him?

Can you say the way John said it:

I have Heard Him....I have Seen Him....I have gazed in wonder at His incredible works...I have felt His touch in my heart!!!

If you can't say that...If you haven't seen, or felt, or heard Him...You can today...He wants you to know Him that way

- Are you sharing what know with others? If you KNOW him...experienced Him...felt Him...Seen Him at work

Is that something you are giving away freely...or are you keeping it to yourself?

You can share him in many ways: Announce it, Quietly share it, Write it, pray it, tell it...

Just share what God is doing in your life...with those that need to hear

- Do you have the joy that comes from knowing and sharing him....  
If not...do you WANT it...its yours