

EPISTLE OF 1 JOHN
CERTAINTIES REGARDING THE TRUE GOSPEL
PART 4-THE GOSPEL MESSAGE IS TO BE SHARED
1 JOHN 1:1-3

INTRODUCTION:

In dealing with the certainty of Christ, John gives us some great certainties about the True Gospel Message or “the Word of Life”.

Thus far we have looked at three of these great certainties of the True Gospel Message, and that is:

1. THE GOSPEL IS STEADFAST!

- A. *The Gospel Message Has Never Changed. (Vs 1)*
- B. *The Gospel Message Doesn't Need Changing.*
 - 1. *The Gospel Message Meets Man's Greatest Need!*
 - 2. *The Gospel Message Is The Only Thing That Can Meet Man's Need!*
- C. *The Gospel Message Will Never Change!*

2. THE GOSPEL IS SENSIBLE!

It makes sense to believe the Gospel, because the Gospel is credible! John and the other Apostles experienced the Gospel with their senses.

John said:

- A. *“We Have Heard.”*
- B. *“We Have Seen With Our Eyes.”*
- C. *“We Have Looked Upon.”*
- D. *“Our Hands Have Handled.”*

3. THE GOSPEL IS SPIRITUALLY ENLIGHTENING!

- A. *Before A Person Comes To Christ, They Are Dead In Their Trespasses And Sins!*
- B. *Faith In The Gospel Of The Lord Jesus Christ Brings, Those Who Believe, The Same Life That Christ Has—Eternal Life.*

Tonight we deal with the fourth certainty of the Gospel message which is this – **THE GOSPEL IS TO BE SHARED!**

READ VERSES 1-3.

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I. JOHN SAID THREE THINGS IN VERSE 2 THAT WE NEED TO FOCUS UPON.

A. “*For the life was manifested . . .*”

Let me remind you of what we saw about that word *manifested*. “*Manifested*” means “*to render apparent*” or “*to reveal*.”

In other words, it was **obvious** to those who were closest to Jesus that **He was Who He said He was!**

John 1:14—“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.”

1 Timothy 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.”

1 John 3:5—“And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin.”

1 John 3:8—“He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.”

B. “...we have seen it . . .”

This is the third time in two verses that John mentions **some form of having seen Jesus**.

The first time had to do with **having seen Jesus with his eyes**.

The last two times the word that he uses means “*to gaze upon; to stare at; and it implies to have discerned clearly.*”

It is a Hebrew idiom or expression that means “*to experience.*”

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John wanted us to know that **there is not any shadow of a doubt as to what he saw in Jesus!**

- C. **“...and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life. . .”**
The words “**bear witness**” in verse 2 are translated from the Greek word that is the root word for our English word “**martyr**”. It means “**to give a personal testimony or to testify.**”

The word “**shew**” means “**to announce.**”

How did they bear witness or testify and show or announce that eternal life?

1. They Bore Witness With Their LIPS!

They preached what they had heard and what they had seen!

2. They Bore Witness With Their LIVES!

Look at the dramatic change that took place in the lives of the disciples! After the resurrection, they lived what they preached!

II. JOHN SAID THREE THINGS IN VERSE 3 THAT WE NEED TO FOCUS UPON!

- A. **“That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you. . .”**
For the fourth time John mentions **having seen** and for the second time he mentions **having heard!**

Again, the word that he uses here is the same word that he has used the last two times and means “**to gaze upon; to stare at; and it implies to have discerned clearly or to experience.**”

The word “**declare**” in **verse 3** means “**to announce.**”
What did they **announce**?

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It says that they **declared (or announced)** that which they had **seen** regarding the Lord Jesus Christ and that which they had **heard** from the Lord Jesus Christ.

i.e. “*We have shared the Gospel with you by personal testimony and by sharing with you what we have seen and heard regarding the Gospel of Christ.*”

That is how we witness!

B. **“...that ye may have fellowship with us. . .”**

This is why John and the other apostles shared the Gospel with others!

The word “**fellowship**” means “**partnership**” or “**participation.**”

How does one “partner” or “participate” in the Gospel?

1. First One Must Hear The Gospel!

This means that we *who are in possession of the Gospel must share the Gospel with others!*

Others CANNOT participate in the Gospel if they don’t know about and they come to know about it by hearing!

Mark 16:15—“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”

Romans 10:14—“. . .how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?”

2. Secondly, One Must Believe The Gospel!

One CANNOT genuinely participate in something they don’t agree with!

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Mark 16:16—“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”

Romans 10:14—“How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed?”

One Must Hear The Gospel...Believe The Gospel...

3. Thirdly, One Must Share The Gospel!

You CANNOT be a full partner unless you are obeying the Great Commission!

Matthew 28:19-20—“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”

I'm not saying that one can't be saved without sharing the Gospel...but what I am saying is that we are not a full partner of the Gospel until we are actively propagating or proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

Are you actively propagating the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

C. . . and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.”

Now remember we said that “*fellowship*” means “*partnership*” or “*participation*”.

1. Our fellowship, or partnership or participation is with the Father!

What was the Father's purpose in sending His Son Jesus Christ? Well, John recorded it for from Jesus on lips in his Gospel!

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John 3:16-17—“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.”

2 Corinthians 5:18-21

2. Our fellowship, or partnership or participation is with Jesus Christ!

Why did Jesus leave His throne in Heaven, humble Himself, and come to this world as a Babe Who was laid in a lowly manger...He grew up sinless in a sin cursed world...He endured persecution, suffering and affliction unjustly to finally be nailed to an old rugged cross where He died for our sin...He was then buried, and three days later He arose again from the grave?

Isaiah 53:5-6—“But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. 6All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.”

Matthew 1:21—“And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.”

Luke 19:10—“For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

1 Timothy 1:13—“This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.”

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Conclusion

Listen, Christ manifested Himself to the disciples, and they became responsible to propagate that which they had seen and heard regarding Him and then teach those who believed to do the same thing!

The Gospel message is steadfast and unchanging, it is sensible and perceivable, and it is to be shared with others and it is the source of our fellowship.

The purpose of proclaiming the Gospel is to create a fellowship and maintain that fellowship!

I know you have heard the Gospel! Have you truly believed the Gospel?
If not, what are you waiting for? There is danger and death in delay!

If you have truly believed the Gospel...are you sharing it? Our fellowship or partnership is with the Father, with the Son, and with each other as Believers!
Let's get busy sharing the true Gospel message...carrying out the Great Commission that Jesus left us!