**1 John 1:1-4**

**The Word of Life**

**That which was  *from the beginning*, which we have heard, which we have seen *with our eyes*, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the *Word of Life*— 2the Life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the *eternal life*, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— 3that which we have seen and heard we *proclaim* also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. 4And we are writing *these things* so that our *joy* may be *complete*. *Chapter 1, v.1-4***

**The Major Matters of Certainty Fall into Three Categories**

1. **Theological Certainty of the Gospel – The True Word of Life**

1:1-3; 2:1,2; 2:22;5:1,20

**What is theology?** The word “theology” comes from two Greek words that combined mean “the study of

God.” Christian theology is simply an attempt to understand God as He is revealed in the Bible. No theology

will ever fully explain God and His ways because God is infinitely and eternally higher than we are. The study

of theology is nothing more than \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_into God’s Word to discover what He has revealed

about Himself. When we do this, we come to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Him. Poor theology and a superficial, inaccurate

understanding of God will never bring the peace, comfort and hope we long for. We are cruel to

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ if we try to live in this world without knowing all we can about God.

**All Christians should be consumed with theology—the intense, personal study of God—in order to**

**know, love, and obey the One with whom we will joyfully spend eternity.** - Unanimous

**SIDENOTE:**

*Systematic* theology refers to something being put into a system. Systematic theology is the division of theology into systems that explain its various areas. For example, many books of the Bible give information about the angels. No one book gives all the information about the angels. Systematic theology takes all the information about angels from all the books of the Bible and organizes it into a system called angelology. The same with Christian demonology [understanding of the demonic as we find in the Bible].

That is what systematic theology is all about—organizing the teachings of the Bible into categorical systems.

*Biblical* theology is the study of the doctrines of the Bible, arranged in chronological order and historical background. In contrast to systematic theology, categorizing doctrine according to specific topics, biblical theology shows the unfolding of God’s revelation as it progressed through history.

1. **Moral Certainty of the Law – Life of Holiness and Hatred of Sin**

Practicing holiness is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_His Word.

*“The one who says, “I have come to know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him;” 1 John 2:4*

*“If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone also who practices righteousness is born of Him.” 1 John 2:29*

*“No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.” 1 John 3:9*

*“We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him.” 1 John 5:18*

1. **Relational Certainty – Love for Our Brothers and Sisters in Christ**

*“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.” 1 John 4:7*

*“Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.” 1 John 4:8*

*“Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.**No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.” 1 John 4:11-12*

*“If anyone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.” 1 John 4:20-21*

These are the absolutes that become the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of one’s spiritual state. Anyone who fails to pass the

test in any of those categories is exposed as a deceiver and is\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, as John is going to lay

down the certainties of those categories as tests by which anyone can be measured as to their true spiritual

condition.

-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

**The Certainty of the Word of Life**

***That which was* / *What was*** – Why doesn’t it read, “He who was ….”? The answer is because the neuter

gender was used in referring to the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus Christ. His humanity. The

‘humanity’ of Christ was not a person, but a thing which He condescended to.

The Word becoming flesh and tabernacling among men marked a new \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the

world’s history – and that is where John launches into his letter assailing the apostasy of the gnostics who

denied the reality of Christ’s humanity. They were once professing Christians, but later were apostatized.

**What is being apostatized?**

The word "apostasy" comes from the Greek *apostasia*, which is translated "falling away" as we read in [2 Thessalonians 2:3](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/2%20Thess%202.3).

*“But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons,**by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron,”*

Apostates are those who fall away from the true faith, abandoning what they formerly \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

to believe. True Christians [those born form above] do not apostatize. Those who fall away into apostasy

demonstrate that their faith was never real to begin with.

*“They went out from us, but they were not really of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us.” 1 John 2:19*

***From the beginning*** –

“From the beginning” is pointing to the beginning of the Christian era – the proclamation of the\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

The proclamation of John the Baptist, of Christ, of the Apostolic proclamation of Christ and the proclamation

of Paul. John is saying, “I have no new message. This is the same message as from the beginning of its

proclamation; from the beginning of Christ’s birth.”

Stay with the true apostolic proclamation of Christ. The gnostic heretics were those who thought they had a

transcendent knowledge, a secret knowledge, and heard new things from God. There are charismatics today

among many evangelical churches who claim to have transcendent knowledge allowing them to hear directly

the very words of God that He wants you, or the church to know. This claim of having divine dialogue directly

with God is so secretive that He only speaks to them, not to people who have either not been gifted with such a

direct line to God, or they have not been courageous enough to venture into such a place of spiritual awakening

of a transcendence sense.

*“Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.” Colossians 3:16*

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Heard, Seen, Looked Upon, Handled**

**The Progressive Operative Grace All Christians Experience - By Grace Alone Through Faith Alone**

**“We have heard”** – It is a perfect tense form of the verb “akouo” that addresses a completed occurrence in the

past, but with an impact for the present. John wrote his letter some 60 years after hearing Jesus, after His

ascension, and what he wrote still rung clear.

“**This is given first place because the utterances of Christ are of more importance than His miracles; so in his Gospel John records a greater number of His discourses than did the other apostles. This indicates the reverential esteem in which he held the Lord’s teaching. “Heard” includes more than the actual sound of His voice, and goes deeper than the words of Christ falling upon their ears. It signifies that their souls had felt the power of what He said. The Lord Jesus wrote nothing, but He spoke much, and we have great cause for thankfulness that God moved the apostles to record so much of what He said, that we too may hear Him (via the printed page) for ourselves.”** – AW Pink

*“Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way?” Luke 24:32*

*“When the king heard the words of the book of the law, he tore his clothes.” 2 Kings 22:11*

*“Then Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, “This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep.” For all the people were weeping when they heard the words of the law.” Nehemiah 8:9*

*“When the crowds heard this, they were astonished at His teaching.” Matthew 22:33*

*‘Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved.’ How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those whobring good news of good things!” Romans 10:13-15*

*“So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.” Romans 10:17*

**“We have seen”** – This is not restricted to His miracles and supernatural works only, but they saw the

perfections of His \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and conduct as He tirelessly “went about doing good.” Seeing ‘with

our eyes’ is not speaking only of the visible sight of their bodily eyes, but it also implies their spiritual

perception of Him.

* They saw His kindness in feeding the 5,000.
* They saw His mercy as He forgave an adulteress woman.
* They saw roaring waves become quieted at His command.
* They saw His zeal for His Father’s house as He turned over the robbers tables
* They saw His compassion as He revealed His deity to a socially rejected woman at Jacobs’ well.
* And they saw His love for children as He placed them on His knee.

John saw it all. The Word of Life. The Eternal Life and he had even placed his own head on His Savior’s chest.

*“…who also had leaned on His breast at the supper,” John 21:20*

**“We have looked upon”** – Here we find an even closer and more deliberate inspection. ‘Looked upon’ is the

same Greek word as ‘we \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_His glory’ in John 1:14,

*“And the Word became 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.”*

It means to ‘gaze at with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and delight.’ To ponder and meditate more studiously on more

than just what was visible, but on its Origin. The Glory of God. This is the depth of our looking upon that we

find in 1 Peter 1:8;

*“Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now,* ***you believe in him****[look upon Him with all your heart, soul and mind] and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy,*

**“Our hands have handled”** – *Handled* has both a special reference to His resurrection body and a more

general one to the closeness of their contact with Him; which eliminated all possibility of Christ simply being

what the gnostics believed which was that He was merely an optical illusion of sorts.

“*Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself.****Handle******Me****and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have.” Luke 24:39*

**These four verbs duplicate the spiritual progression of each Christian.**

* First, our knowledge of Christ is limited to what we ***hear*** of Him in the Gospel.

“***So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the message about Christ.”***

***Romans 10:17***

* Second, when the miracle of grace has worked within our soul and we have been birthed from above, His Spirit opens our spiritual sight and we ***see*** Christ with a regenerated sight of faith. As we grow in grace, and become more and more enamored of Him, we then…
* ***Look upon Him*** more steadfastly with eyes of love and adoration and meditate on His goodness, holiness, justice, and glory.
* The result of all the growing love and adoration, in a spiritual way, we **handle** Christ because our fellowship [partnership] with Him has become a living and experiential reality.

**A Person can be heard at a distance,**

**but it’s a grand grace that brings Him in range to our vision,**

**only to attentively consider how significant His nearness is so that all distance is now obliterated**

**and we live in ever-increasing intimacy as He is clearly made manifest to us!**

**Happy day, blessed hour, when our eyes were first opened**

**to behold Him as the Redeemer of our souls.**

AW Pink

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**That which was  *from the beginning*, which we have heard, which we have seen *with our eyes*, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the *Word of Life*— 2the Life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the *eternal life*, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— 3that which we have seen and heard we *proclaim* also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. 4And we are writing *these things* so that our *joy* may be *complete*. *Chapter 1, v.1-4***

**“Proclaim to you”** - *Proclaim what?* What was made manifest.

*What was made manifest?* The Word of Life. The Eternal Life. Jesus Christ.

**To proclaim is -** to make known \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and purposefully.

John was lionhearted as an old man, and he wrote fearlessly. To *proclaim* shows boldness and no temperature

of timidity existed in John. To testify is to give eye-witness account with authoritative certainty. But to

proclaim places exclamation points with John’s protestations!

**May have *fellowship***

**“…so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.”**

Fellowship is the Greek term *koinonia* and it is far more than enjoying the social gatherings of those who share

in the same beliefs. John is saying more than, “I want to have social interaction with you.” The way to

understand this is that the preaching of the gospel produces faith, and a person who puts their faith in Christ

enters into a real \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with other believers. It is a real sharing of life.

1 Corinthians 1:9 – *“God is faithful through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son Jesus Christ our Lord.”*

It is the mutual life and love of those who are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in spirit.

*“But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him.” 1 Corinthians 6:17*

We can have friendships with unbelievers. But we can only enjoy fellowship with those who we are in mutual

participation of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ life with Christ.

**Our *Joy* May Be *Complete***

**“And we are writing *these things* so that our *joy* may be *complete*.”**

It’s evident that what Jesus Himself said was still ringing so clearly in John’s ears:

“***These things*** *I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete* [made full].” John 15:11

What are “***these things?****”*

*“Nicodemus said to Him, “How can****these******things****be?”* John 3:9

*“Jesus answered and said to him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and do not understand****these******things****?”* John 3:10

***These things*** are the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ concerning the Kingdom of God and where our joy is made full.

**1 John 2:20-21-**

*“But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you all know.**I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it, and because no lie is of the truth.*

You have an anointing from God. The anointing is the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. God gives us confidence

in the truth because the Spirit of God reveals ***these things***…the truth of the Kingdom of God.

**1 John 2:27-**

*“As for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing [the Holy Spirit] teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him.*

When you were saved you came to confidence [certainty] in the Word of Life and there is where you

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ – in the Word of Truth. That certainty was given to you through conversion the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

you believed by faith!

Do not fall for all the hocus-pocus post-modern emerging church gnostic gospel that is gaining ground among

evangelicals today. Apostacy will increase as the day draws nearer for the church to be taken away and during

the tribulation and even during the 1,000 year reign of Christ.

**Why do we believe “these things?”**

We believe because God \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that we would believe.

***“****For to us, God revealed them to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.”* 1 Corinthians 2:9

*“Now we have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who comes from God, so that we may understand what has been freely given to us by God. We also speak these things, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual things to spiritual people.**But the unbelieverdoes not welcome what comes from God’s Spirit, because it is foolishness to him; he is not able to understand it since it is evaluatedspiritually. The spiritual person, however, can evaluate[discern] everything, yet he himself cannot be evaluated by anyone. For who has known the Lord’s mind, that he may instruct Him. But we have the mind of Christ.”* 1 Cor. 2:12-16

***“We have the mind of Christ.”***

What a statement! It is not a mystery to us because all God wants us to know, He has given to us in our bible –

the revealed Mind of Christ. We understand because He has \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ us to understand and to live

our life embracing the wonder of such profound grace found only in the Word of Life! You believe the bible

and live in its glorious truths because God was well pleased to predestine you and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ you

through His Word and when He gave you Christ, He gave you His \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ … who ***is*** Christ.

**The Word of Life**