



I JOHN: WHEN TRUTH IS LIVED
“THE CHRISTIAN LIFE THAT IS REAL”
I JOHN 1: 1-4

PEOPLE TODAY ARE REALLY NO DIFFERENT FROM PEOPLE OF LONG AGO. DOWN THROUGH HISTORY MEN AND WOMEN HAVE BEEN SEARCHING FOR SOMETHING THAT IS REAL. BUT WANTING SOMETHING REAL AND FINDING SOMETHING REAL ARE TWO DIFFERENT THINGS.

THE DESIRE FOR SOMETHING REAL IS ESPECIALLY STRONG AS IT RELATES TO ONE'S RELIGION OR FAITH. ALL OF US DESPERATELY NEED SOMEONE AND SOMETHING TO PUT OUR FAITH IN WITHOUT BEING LET DOWN AND DISAPPOINTED.

THE APOSTLE JOHN DISCOVERED THAT SATISFYING REALITY IS NOT TO BE FOUND IN THINGS OR THRILLS, BUT IN A “PERSON”---JESUS CHRIST, THE SON OF GOD. IN THIS BOOK, JOHN TELLS US WHAT THE REAL CHRISTIAN LIFE IS ALL ABOUT:

I. THE CHRISTIAN LIFE THAT IS REAL IS ONE THAT KNOWS THE LORD FIRST-HAND

HERE IN THE VERY BEGINNING OF HIS LETTER JOHN SETS DOWN HIS RIGHT TO SPEAK; AND IT CONSISTS IN ONE THING---HIS PERSONAL EXPERIENCE OF CHRIST.

- A. HE SAYS THAT HE HAS HEARD CHRIST.
- B. HE SAYS THAT HE HAS SEEN CHRIST.
- C. HE SAYS THAT HE HAS GAZED ON CHRIST.
- D. HE SAYS THAT HE ACTUALLY TOUCHED CHRIST.

TOO MANY CHRISTIANS TODAY HAVE A “SECOND-HAND” KNOWLEDGE OR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LORD. THEY DON'T HAVE ANY REAL EXPERIENCES OF THEIR OWN WITH HIM ANYMORE; THEY JUST DRAW UPON THOSE FROM OTHERS WHO DO. SO THEY WIND UP SHORT-CHANGED IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE, AND AS A RESULT, IT DOESN'T SEEM REAL TO THEM ANYMORE.

II. THE CHRISTIAN LIFE THAT IS REAL IS ONE THAT IS SHARED IN FELLOWSHIP

LIVING A LIFE THAT EXPERIENCES JESUS CHRIST IS ONE WHICH IS ENJOYED IN FELLOWSHIP---WITH GOD AND WITH OTHER CHRISTIANS. THE REAL CHRISTIAN LIFE IS NOT ONE TO BE LIVED IN ISOLATION. THE ROOT MEANING OF THE WORD IS “PARTICIPATION”, THAT IS, OF COURSE, A SHARING IN SOMETHING WITH OTHERS. THIS IS AN EMPHASIS THAT IS SORELY NEEDED IN OUR DAY, FOR THE “CHURCH” IDEA IS UNDER ATTACK BY MANY. THE GREATEST REVIVAL NEEDED TODAY IS A REVIVAL OF THE SENSE OF THE IMPORTANCE AND VALUE OF CHURCH LIFE TO THE INDIVIDUAL BELIEVER. WE WOULD DO WELL TO REMIND OURSELVES THAT IT WAS THE CONCEPT OF TRUE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP, A THING WHICH WAS UTTERLY FOREIGN TO ANCIENT PAGAN SOCIETY, THAT HELPED CHRISTIANITY SPREAD LIKE A WILDFIRE THROUGHOUT THE ROMAN EMPIRE.

THESE TWO FELLOWSHIPS—ONE WITH GOD AND ONE WITH OTHERS---HANG TOGETHER. THE ONE WITH HIM CEMENTS THE OTHER; WHILE THE ONE WITH OTHERS REFLECTS THE ONE WITH HIM.

III. THE CHRISTIAN LIFE THAT IS REAL IS ONE THAT IS FULL OF JOY

JOHN SAYS THAT IF WE HAVE TRUE FELLOWSHIP WITH CHRIST, A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WHICH IS REAL, THEN OUR JOY WILL BE “FULL.” CHRISTIAN PEOPLE ARE MEANT TO BE FULL OF JOY. BUT WHAT IS JOY? JOY DOES NOT MEAN LIGHTEARTEDNESS, NOR DOES IT MEAN A PLEASANT EMOTIONAL FEELING. JOY IS NOT SOMETHING WE CAN PRODUCE ON OUR OWN; IT IS ALWAYS PRODUCED BY SOMETHING ELSE. HERE ARE SOME OF THE ELEMENTS OF JOY:

Presented by Dr. Jimmy Hilton

**SOUTH POINT
BAPTIST CHURCH**

Finding God's Direction for Life



1. JOY IS A STATE OF COMPLETE SATISFACTION.
2. JOY HAS A SPIRIT OF EXULTATION.
3. JOY HAS IN IT A FEELING OF POWER AND STRENGTH.

JOHN SAYS HE WRITES THESE THINGS TO US IN ORDER THAT “OUR JOY MAY BE FULL.” IN THE GREEK LANGUAGE IT LITERALLY MEANS “FILLED FULL”. OUR JOY AS CHRISTIANS IS TO BE LIKE THAT. BUT IT ALSO MEANS “TO REMAIN FULL.” WE SHOULD BE FULL OF JOY AND SHOULD REMAIN SO NO MATTER WHAT ELSE HAPPENS TO US OR IS HAPPENING IN THE WORLD.