

OUR RELATIONSHIP AND UNION IN THE SON

***By
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Sunday morning. Glory to God! Let us turn in our Bibles: we're going to look at some scriptures this morning in first, second and third John. And we may go to a couple more places, but as I was looking into the Word, the Lord just really began to deal in my heart of this RELATIONSHIP and this UNION that He has brought us into in His Son. And we are just going to be looking into some different places this morning in 1 John, 2 John and just look at them. Mainly in 1 John is most of the scriptures that I want us to look into.

Let's go to 1 John chapter 1 and begin in verse 1 this morning, and in particular we are just going to go into the third verse, which is what I really am looking at. **I John 1:1:** *"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;"* And we know that that "word of Life" there is Christ Himself. **2:** *(For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)* **3:** *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."* One of the things that was standing out to me in these verses of scripture that we are going to look at this morning: and we had made a reference on Thursday night in Romans 8:11 where it said that "Jesus had died and that He rose from the dead." Jesus Christ – He died, but He rose from the dead. And I was noticing

in these verses this morning how many times that The Word of God... still, we know all of this was written after the death, the burial, the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And yet here's this plain view that Jesus still exists!

And I'm not going to get so much this morning on "The Name of Jesus", but you know the last time I shared, I was sharing on The Name of Jesus. And how sometimes it seems that people just kind of say, Well, it's Christ now. But I think what we need to understand is Jesus was The Word made flesh: became the sacrificial Lamb of God. He was destined to die: to go to The Cross. Hebrews 10 says, "*A body thou has prepared Me.*" And so we understand that that was speaking of HIM becoming and fashioned like unto the Adamic man: that He was going there representing all of mankind into His death. Christ speaks of a Union and a Relationship because the word "Christ" means "The Anointed One" or "The Messiah" – Christ, The Messiah, The Anointed One of God. And therefore we have come in to Jesus Christ. We have come in, and through and by His death, His burial, and His resurrection. Glory to God! And when I was looking at this second verse here: it just stood out. "*For the life was manifested...*" You know **John 1:4** said: "*In him was life; and the life was the light of men*", I believe it says. In HIM was Life. Well we know that when Jesus was on the earth: what was The Life that was in Him? It was God, The Spirit. God is Spirit. He's The Living Word and therefore He was The One that was out from the beginning.

And so when we begin to look at this, we begin to see that John said here that Life was manifested, and we have seen it and bear witness. And notice this "*and show unto you that Eternal Life.*" So not only was there Life that was manifested, that John said that they would bear witness of; but that they would see and make known unto them. But what? That it would be

showed unto them that Eternal Life. In other words, Eternity deals with no time. Really, and I'm not going to go into that this morning; but that which was from the beginning; that which was from before even the foundation of the world, for that matter, we find this RELATIONSHIP that the Father and the Son had. And so we find that this relationship with the Father: John said it was manifested unto us. Now John is speaking here clearly of The Lord Jesus Himself: how that He came to manifest the very Life, the very essence of God. In **Colossians 2** he tells us there that "*all the fulness of the godhead bodily dwelleth in the Lord*". And then the next verse says that "*Ye are complete in Him.*" So as John was beginning to write here, he was writing not only to those of that day, but he was writing to you and I who have come into Christ, and to declare unto us that what fellowship that the Father and the Son had, He has brought you and I through this Son, through Jesus Christ: He has brought us into this same fellowship!

And this is what Paul was saying in **I Corinthians 1:9**: "*God who is faithful...*" What is He faithful to? "*... to call us into the fellowship of his Son* (again, if I'm not mistaken it says) *Jesus Christ our Lord.*" Does it not say that? Oh that's good! Jesus Christ... not just THE Lord, but Jesus Christ OUR Lord! See, so John is speaking here of something, and it is so beautiful when you go into this because you see there is an emphasis put on a RELATIONSHIP, a FELLOWSHIP, a UNION that the Father and the Son has. But see the intention and the heart of God was never that it would be just the relationship of the Father and Son. In fact you're going to have to turn to **John 17** and find some things. But it was also that there would be a people that would come, a body of Believers that would come into this same fellowship: into this same union. Glory to God, and you see it is just so beautifully described here in the scripture when we begin to realize that the Heart of God was that through His

Son He was going to bring a people that would be ONE WITH HIMSELF! Glory to God! And this is what I am seeing when I look at these scriptures today. I am seeing this beautiful relationship that is unfolded: how that we have been brought together and made One with Him. And there in **John 17** He shows us, He says, *“Father, as You and I are one, make them One. The glory which Thou hast given Me, I have given them.”* Bob is going to read that for us in **John 17**. This is speaking of The Son. **John 17:2:** *“As thou hast given him power over all flesh, (speaking of the Son, speaking of Himself) that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. 3: And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.”*

Isn't that beautiful? That they may know what? That Eternal God, that Life of that Eternal God! Oh Beloved, you see, when I was looking at these scriptures early this morning (I was too tired to look at them last night); but this morning as I was looking into these scriptures the Lord just really began to speak into my heart of this wonderful, glorious fellowship that we have. Do you realize that the word "fellowship" is the same word in the Greek with "communion"? You know, how that we "commune"; we take communion. And in that relationship and in that communion that we have this Oneness with Him because God's Purpose and God's Heart was that this true Relationship and this Oneness that Him and the Father had, glory to God, is the same that you and I become One with Him! Now where is that found? **John 17:21:** *“That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. 22: And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: 23: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou*

hast loved me.”

Now you want to be perfect this morning? Where is that perfectness? See, that perfectness is in Him. We cast our eyes so many times on ourselves and we fail to forget to see the Reality, the Perfectness, the Maturity of all that God is doing. We really do. And we begin to measure perfection by our own flesh, by our own self. And you see I just quoted it awhile ago there in **Colossians 2:9,10**. Verse **9** says that in Him was the fulness of the Godhead bodily. All fulness of God dwelt in Him. I think the Amplified says something like this: that in Jesus Christ is all the fulness of the Godhead: The Father, The Son and The Holy Ghost. They are all complete – full, complete. Why? Because folks, He is ONE with the Father, He is One with the Father. Then verse 10 there in Colossians 2 says and You are complete in Him. Now in **Colossians 2:20** it talks there about the Blood of Jesus Christ. I’m going to turn there. I believe it’s Colossians 1:20. **Colossians 1:20**: *“And, having made peace ...”* Oh God, I’m telling you, it’s just overwhelming my soul this morning! Because you see so many times we are trying to base the Reality of what we have in Christ, and what Christ is in us: and we are trying to measure it by ourselves. We are trying to see it through our own eyes, hearing it by our own ears, and trying to conceive it by our own heart – fleshly heart. And missing the whole Reality of what God has worked in Christ in this Union.

I’m telling you, God really began to deal in my heart this morning in this: how that we miss The Reality, The Realness, The Fellowship, The Communion, The Oneness, The Perfection that we have because it is not based upon you and I: it is based upon our Faith in that which has been achieved and accomplished and purchased in The Lord Jesus Himself! And here’s what it said in **Colossians 1:20**: *“And, having made*

peace through the blood of his cross..." Look at that: having made peace by the **BLOOD OF HIS CROSS!** "...by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven." Oh God, I'm going to jump out of there and go over here to **Ephesians 1:10** and I want to bring something in, as a matter of fact in Ephesians 1:9 and 10. **Ephesians 1:9:** *"Having made known unto us the mystery of his will..."* Whose Will is it? God, let's catch this this morning. I know I am excited! Hallelujah, but let's catch this this morning. Don't let us pass this by. ? *"Having made known unto us the mystery of His Will..."* It is HIS Will. "... according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:" **10:** *That in the dispensation...* And really and honestly this word "dispensation" in most of the translations it says "administration". "... of the fulness of times..." Do you think there is any time later on to be filled in? Look at this this morning. *"That in the dispensation or in the administration of the fulness of time he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him: 11: In whom also we have obtained an inheritance..."*

One day we are going to get an inheritance? Oh Beloved, look how real this is! My God! "... also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: **12:** *That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.*" Now go back here to Colossians again and let's look at this again and bring it together with what we have just read. **Colossians 1:20:** *"And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven."* Same thing, ain't it? See, all things have been summed up in The Person of The Lord Jesus: the dispensation, the administration. In other words all the fulness of time have come forth and been

set forth in Christ – all of the Old Covenant, all of that that was speaking. All of that where time was involved, but now it comes to Eternal Life where there is no longer measured in time. What is it measured by? It is measured in the Eternal One Christ Himself who is that Eternal Life, that is where? In you, and you are in that. Remember in St. John that He has given to us Eternal Life! Folks, Eternal Life is not measured by time, days, nothing of that. It is measured by the Person of The Lord Jesus Himself who is Eternal Life. Oh Lord, we are going to touch some of that as we go on this morning.

There in Colossians 1:20; there in the middle of that verse it says, “... *to reconcile all things unto himself...*” Now back in Ephesians 1:10 in the middle of that verse it says, “...*that he may gather together in one all things in Christ...*” In John 17:23 it says, “... *I in them, and thou in Me, that they may be made perfect...Where? In one...*” Can we see that this is all about ONE? And I am not the One; you are not the One! We are IN The One! It is the One Body that He is, but it is the One Body wherein comes this perfection. Alright now let's go a little further here in Colossians. We read verse 20 that it was through the Blood of His Cross. We can't miss that! Through the Blood of His Cross – by Him. See everything is unto Him; everything is worked by Him; it is His Purpose, it is His Will, it is after the counsel of His Own Will – not man. You know I'm just going to throw this in: but over I believe it's in Romans 9 (if not it's in Romans 10); I believe it's in Romans 9 he's dealing with Jacob and Esau and how Rebecca had conceived and in her womb was two nations. I'll leave all of that alone, but he goes forth there and shows something. He says these guys knew nothing of good or evil. See we always try to base the things of God just on good and evil. And it is not him that runneth nor him that willeth. But you see it is the Sovereignty of God: that God had chosen. And he said, “*Jacob have I loved but Esau have I hated.*”

I won't take time to go into all of that, because what he's representing is two nations.

It's representing two natures coming forth: Jacob as that one in whom that was chosen of God and Esau the one that was not chosen of God which is the flesh. But what I am bringing that in is it is not him that runneth nor him that wills. Why? Because it is set forth after the Heart and the Counsel of God Himself. Not based upon what man has done or what man hasn't done; but it's based in man as you and I by faith begin to realize and to see that God's Purpose in His Son was to reconcile and to bring forth a people unto Himself, that they would be One. And we will just throw this in. **2 Corinthians 5:** *"God was in Christ reconciling the world..."* Now folks, that's not talking about the trees out here! It's not talking about the beautiful flowers: although they are beautiful and there is Life in all of that because Life is in the seed. And that's why the tree grows and the flowers come and all of that.

But you see He is not talking about that. He is talking about The Life of that Eternal Son that has come within a people. So it is after the counsel of His own Will. Now we look at Colossians 1:21. See it is through the Blood of The Cross, by Him to reconcile all things unto Himself – how? By Him! It isn't dependent upon you and I: upon our works, upon our will: how much we run towards it. But it is depending upon things in that which He has done. I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. Now, **Colossians 1:21:** *"And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled."* How did He do it? It tells you in verse 20 – through The Blood of His Cross, by HIM to reconcile all things unto Himself. And so He shows here that while we were alienated and we were enemies in our minds, by wicked works, yet now hath He reconciled. Now look at **Colossians**

1:22: *"In the body of his flesh..."* See, because it was through the body of His flesh, a body *hast thou* prepared me: a body that had went to The Cross. *"... through death, to present you holy* (God if we could see this!) *and unblameable and unproveable in his sight:* **23:** *If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;"* In other words Paul said I am made a minister to declare this unto you. Don't be moved away from it. Don't look through your own eyes: don't begin to lean upon your own understanding; don't sit in the seat of the scornful; and don't do all of these things, but let us embrace this!

Glory to God! That God has worked and God has accomplished something in Jesus Christ to bring a people into Union and Fellowship and Relationship and make them One. Folks, I am telling you this morning – He is not far away! And you are not far away from Him! My God! Where is He? Where is He this morning? In your heart! He's in you! He's in you! Where are you this morning? You are in Him? Why? Because it is Him that has set this forth. It is through the Blood of The Cross that He has reconciled and brought you into Relationship, and Fellowship and Oneness and Union with Himself. Glory to God! I wasn't intending to get into all of this, but praise God, it is wonderful!

Now I want us to look at Colossians 2 while we are there because here in **Colossians 1** it says in verse **22:** *"In the body of his flesh through death..."* So a body, see. Look at Colossians 2. I've already quoted verse 9 and 10. And we'll read it now. **Colossians 2:9:** *"For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. 10: And ye are complete in him..."* Oh God, you know what? It makes me laugh and it makes me so joyful this

morning at the same time, because when this becomes real in your spirit, in your soul: brothers and sisters, you are going to quit looking just at yourself and see The One that has brought you into Fellowship and Relationship with Him. Could you ever imagine Jesus being on the earth, you say well we're not Jesus. No, but you are One with Him. You are one with Him, and the statement I'm fixing on making is: Can you imagine ever seeing Jesus on the earth and being separated from God except on The Cross? When in **Psalms 22** He says, "*My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken Me?*" But that "forsaking" was just for a little while in order that He might accomplish and bring about His Purpose and His Will. "*I come* (Hebrews 10, Jesus said) *I come to do Thy Will O God.*" I come to do THY Will. Not My Will. In the garden when He cried, "*Lord, let this cup pass from Me. But nevertheless not My Will, but Thy Will be done.*" My God, could you ever imagine seeing Him without that understanding? And Folks, that's exactly what God in His Son desires to bring you and I into. Is that we never see ourselves in this earth; but we see ourselves on this earth, but we see ourselves seated in heavenly places. We see ourselves as HIM who is our Life.

Now I said all that to say this: You are complete in Him, which is the Head (Colossians 2:10) of all principality and power. Now notice this. And He goes on. "*In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh ...*" How? Is it something you and I done? How is the putting off of the body of the sins of the flesh? "*... by the circumcision of Christ:*" By Christ being cut off: by Christ being crucified. "*Buried with him in baptism,* (in His Baptism, the Baptism of His death). Folks, this is what it is talking about, and oh, I've just got to mention **Romans 6:3**: "*Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?*" Here's to say I don't care where you go in the scriptures of the

Apostle Paul. Here he is speaking to the Colossians. In Galatians he is speaking to those that's in Galatia. In Romans he is speaking to those in Rome. In Philippians he is speaking to them that are in Philippi. Oh Beloved, but it is all the same! It is the ONE same One Gospel! The same Word! So now he is speaking to you and I that are in Christ this morning. So it doesn't really matter whether you were in Culpepper, or whether he was at Colosse or Galatia: all of that. It is still the same Gospel because he is speaking only to One Body, One Church, One People that has been brought into Christ. So he is speaking to you and I this morning: Glory to God: that are in Christ. So he is saying **Colossians 2:11**: *"In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: 12: Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him ..."* RISEN WITH HIM. Oh Folks, it's not just being buried with Him. You are Risen with Him! You are Risen with Him! Hallelujah! You not only died in His death: but you have been raised in His Resurrection! And because that you have been raised in His Resurrection, you have been raised in Newness of Life, which is HIS Life! *"Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead."*

"And you, being dead in your sins..." And what he is showing now is that you were dead in your sins. *"... and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses."* My God – wonderful, wonderful folks! What does it say in the middle of verse 13? It does not say "will quicken: but HATH He quickened together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses. This all happened. Just go back. I'm going to have a laughing and a joyful time this morning! I'm telling you folks, if you will allow the Holy Ghost to write this upon the tables of your heart and

in your mind, I'm telling you it's REAL! This is not a story that we are reading about. This is not a fairy tale. This is a Reality that God has worked through Christ to bring you and I into this Fellowship. Circumstances don't dictate any of this to you. Situations doesn't dictate any of this to you. What dictates this to you is the Spirit of God because it is Reality in the Person of Christ.

Look at **Ephesians 2**. And I'm just going to jump in Verse **4**: *"But God..."* Who is it? Quit looking at anything but GOD. *"But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,"* Here's the Mercy of God again – The Cross. **5**: *Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)* **6**: *And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:"* There it is – the same thing. Paul didn't tell the Ephesians something and then go over here in Colossians and tell them something else. That's why I said several weeks ago, or months ago: you know what it didn't matter where Paul went. There wasn't any such thing as Baptists and Pentecosts, and Methodists and Catholics and Presbyterians – name them all. I guess there was no such thing as that back in those day. But if there had been, if Paul went to the Baptist, you know what? He had the same message. If he went to the Pentecosts, he had the same message. If he went to the Catholics he would have had the same message. See, because the message never changed because that there was a name that was given to somebody. The message never changed. It was the same. It was always the same because Paul's Vision and Paul's View was One Body, One Church, One Life, Glory to God, One Purpose. And that Purpose of Christ that had been revealed in him was so that Paul could bring all believers to this understanding. All that had come into Christ had now been brought into this same Fellowship. It wasn't a different Gospel to John where we started this morning. John

was saying the same thing. You read it. He preached Christ and the Resurrection. He preached Jesus and the Resurrection. And you see the whole thing is even in Colossians. He talks about you were raised with Him. Do you remember that?

Colossians 2:12: *“Buried with him...”* Where? In HIS Death: it’s His Death. And you were *“Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.”* So you see all that was worked and accomplished: we just didn’t know about it until we come to Him. Now he says we are risen: we were buried with Him, we were risen. Before I turn the page, look at Colossians 3. If you and I are not risen: then we are not in Christ this morning, we are still dead in sin. We went back to Ephesians 2 and showed you that while we were dead in sins, He hath quickened us, and raised us up and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. Now Paul says here in **Colossians 3:1:** *“If ye then...”* You see you are going to have to face this face-to-face with the Reality of The Word of God: whether you ARE or whether you are waiting for some Resurrection. He said, *“If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God”* – with all authority and power. Now, *“Set your affection...”* That really is your mind, your desires. I could go on and on but I’ll leave that alone. **Colossians 3:2:** *“Set your affection on things above...”* Glory to God! Where? Above – above what? Above the earth, above the natural, above the earthly. In the Amplified in Isaiah 60 when he says *“Arise and shine, for your light is come.”* The Amplified says there, *“Arise above your circumstances.”* How many times we allow the circumstances to bring us down: just absolutely almost brings us into despair; when Paul tells us we really should ALWAYS rejoice! Always rejoice! Oh My God!

We don't do that folks. We don't do that, but I'm telling you this is not based on circumstances; this is based on Faith in that Work that God has done in Christ. It's not based on you and me: it's based on our Faith to believe and to stand and not move away: be moved away from that which God has done in Christ. So he says, "*Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.*" That's our problem, ain't it? Alright now, **3:** "*For ye are dead...*" Oh no, we can't be! You'll have to forgive me this morning, but I'll tell you the truth, I am over exuberant with joy. Ephesians 3. I am over exuberant with joy. I'm laughing, and joy at the same time. I really am! I am telling you this is ministering into my soul. It is really ministering into my soul. If it ain't in yours, I can't help that. I am just going to joy, and cry and do it all at the same time. But here it is: it's laid out.

I'm talking about Fellowship, I'm talking about Union, I'm talking about a Relationship. I'm talking about this that God has worked in Christ. And not only has it worked in Christ: but it has been worked in Christ FOR YOU AND ME! Now, **Colossians 3:1:** "*If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.* **2:** *Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.* **3:** *For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.*" "Your life" – what is that life? See, it's no longer this physical life. It's that Life Eternal that John 17 says. He has given you ETERNAL LIFE. That's Jesus, that's the Life of the Spirit. So he goes on and says, **3:** "*For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.* **4:** *When Christ...*" I want to say it this way: 'When you and I really honestly allow The Spirit of The Living God to make it so in us...' "*When Christ who is our life shall appear...*" The word here "appear" means it is seen, it is made known, it is manifest. The Greek says it is made apparent. No guessing, no "hope-so", no "thinking-so", no future. Glory to God! But it is made apparent. "*When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, (made apparent)*

*then shall ye also appear with him in glory.” And that’s not a glory to come: that’s the Glory that He is! **Colossians 1:27:** “... Christ in you, that expectation of glory.” Which is Christ that is in you! What a Fellowship! My Lord, it is beyond me this morning! I’ll tell you that. And it’s beyond you this morning because it is in what has been worked in The Lord Jesus.*

Go back to **John 17:24:** *“Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory...”* Oh my, read that again! *“Father, I will, that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory...”* **MY GLORY!** *“which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.”* That we may behold HIS Glory. What did we just read in Colossians 3? *“We shall also appear with Him – where? IN GLORY.”* With Him in Glory. Hallelujah! See when this really becomes the Gospel, the Reality in your heart and in my heart, really, I am serious: when this Truth; when we allow The Spirit of God for this to be the Gospel that we have come into Fellowship.

Let’s go back to **1 John**. I thought I was going to get through 1,2 and 3 John, but I don’t guess I’m going to get there. My Lord, but let’s go back at least to 1 John and let’s look at this again. See, John was declaring a Fellowship with the Father and the Son. First of all the Fellowship that the Father and Son had. That Fellowship was never broken – never! Oh, in fact it was set forth with such seriousness on the heart of God that He said that death was not holden to Me. Death had no power over Him. Oh Beloved, because you see the death that He was going through was taking you and I – taking all of that first Adamic man into that death: moving that creation and bringing in His Resurrection a New Creation. I’m telling you that’s what it says in Ephesians 2 if you’ll just go back there and read it. He’ll tell you that. One New Man – no longer Jew nor Greek. Oh Beloved,

but all have been made partakers of Christ – One Body, One Man, One Life, One Resurrection, One Fellowship, One Union. I'm telling you – it is so powerful this morning!

Let's go back in 1 John just a little bit. What did we read there? Verses 1-3. Let's read **I John 1:2** again: *"(For the life was manifested..."* Now if the Life was manifested, it means the Life was seen, right? Made known. Somebody... there was a lot... And I quoted awhile ago from **John 1**: *"In Him is Life, and the Life was the Light of men."* So, *"(For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness..."* Not only have we seen it, but we are bearing witness. Oh God, takes me back now to John the Baptist when they said, Are you the Christ, are you the Messiah? No, no, no! I've come to bear WITNESS – I'm not. I'm not Jesus Christ. I'm not Isaiah, I'm not the prophets. I've only come to bear witness of that True Light: that One that was before me, He was preferred before me. Oh God! *"...we have seen it and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)"* He came out from God! Now here He is – we've seen Him, we've heard Him! **Verse 1** says we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled of the Word of Life. That's that Eternal Life, folks. That's The Person of the Lord Jesus, the Son of the Living God that He hath Fellowship with the Father and He was manifested to us. Now **Verse 3**: *"That which we have seen and heard..."* You know something? It's wonderful to have seen and heard, because when you have truly seen and heard, you've got something to tell! You've got something to manifest, to show forth. And that's what he said, *"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."* See it's no longer just with the Father and the Son. He saw that, and it was all there. But what? That now this Fellowship is come to us: this

same Fellowship of the Father and the Son, Jesus Christ has given to us: made known to us. **4:** *“And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.”*

Talk about “the joy of the Lord”? The joy. What is your strength this morning? The joy of the Lord! Who and what is the joy of the Lord? It’s HIM! It’s HIM! My God, it’s HIM, brothers and sisters! The joy of the Lord is CHRIST IN YOU – that joy: that your joy may be full! Jesus said, “Not as the world gives, giveth I ... Let not your heart be troubled. “ This then is the message which we have heard of Him. See, they heard. John said we heard it of Him. The One that came – The One that was manifested. The One that we’ve heard and The One we’ve seen: that Word of Life, that we have handled with our own hands. He says in **Verse 5:** *“This then is the message which we have heard of him...”* Oh my God! Do you see how important it is to hear HIM? See HIM? Know HIM? When we’ve seen Him and heard Him, then he says now we can declare Him! We can declare it unto you. My God! *“... that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.”*

Oh my Father! I know I am beside myself this morning. Folks I’m telling you I am bubbling over with this joy! Oh God, this joy! Peter said it like this: he said it is joy unspeakable and full of glory! He’s full of Glory – The Glory of The Father is in Him, and that very same Glory of the Father that is in Him, is in you and in me: in His Body. Now look at this. **I John 1:6:** *“If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: 7: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.”* Not just part of it – all sin. And what happens here? We walk in the Light as He is in the Light. Who was He in the Light of? He had to be in the Light of the Father. All that God was, all the fulness of the Godhead

bodily dwelled in Him. So as we walk in that Light, we walk in that Truth that He is... then what? Here's our Fellowship. Folks I'm telling you, we don't just throw away one another because we see one another in the flesh. But our Fellowship really isn't in the flesh. Our Fellowship is in The One, glory to God, that is far beyond the flesh, and that Fellowship is Light and Life that has brought you and I into Himself!

Oh how powerful that is this morning folks. How powerful it is that it goes beyond any existence of your flesh and my flesh this morning. It brings us into the very essence of Life. **2 Corinthians 5** again, Paul brings it out. *"Oh, the love of God constraineth us..."* There is a constraining of the Love of God. *"... we thus judge that if one died for all, all were dead."* And then he goes on to say *"we have known Him after the flesh. But henceforth we don't know Him no more after the flesh, and we know no man."* I'm telling you that's exactly what Paul said in 2 Corinthians 5:14,15,16 tells us. We've known Him after the flesh but henceforth... And this goes, I'm telling you yes, 1 John says John saw Him in the flesh. He was manifested. He came from God and we have seen Him and have heard Him. But He said this is the message that we are sharing with you. It goes far beyond just seeing Him. But this is Eternal Life, this is Life, this is Fellowship that we have now with Him. Oh Mighty God, it goes beyond the flesh this morning. It goes beyond The One that just hung on The Cross. Yes, He hung on The Cross – He did. The One that walked the shores of Galilee – yes, He did. The ones that walked down the street of Jerusalem and they broke off the palm branches, brothers and sisters, and they cried Hosanna! Hosanna Hosanna to the King! Yes, He was King.

All of that He was, but oh, I'm telling you it goes beyond that this morning. It comes into the very essence of Spirit and Life

and Light that He is in us. And you could go so many ways this morning. Yes, we have seen Him, we know all of that was true, but see, this Gospel, this Eternal Life, this Gospel goes beyond the flesh. We know Him no more – no more after the flesh, and we know no one: no one that is in Christ – we know them no more after the flesh but after the Spirit. And Paul takes that very thing into **2 Corinthians 5:17**: *“Therefore we are a NEW Creation, are New Creatures in Christ.”* We have no confidence in the flesh, but the confidence we have is in The Work of that Cross – that Cross: the death, the burial, the resurrection of the Lord Jesus that accomplished all of this. No wonder he was able to say what he did in **Revelation 1:18**. He said, *“Behold, I am He that liveth and was dead. But am alive forevermore, and have the keys of hell and of death.”* What power, what authority over hell and death. Oh my God, He comes out triumphant, triumphant over hell and death: over sin, over all that is there in the first creation, and comes forth my God victorious! Victorious, that you and I also could come forth and be victorious. How? By faith!

By seeing, by hearing the Words that are Words of Eternal Life. Words of Life! Oh, I hear them this morning ringing over and over and over in my spirit. Oh, what is that song? ‘Words of Life, Words of Life, Words of Life’. Can’t even get it straight but it’s ringing in my soul! ‘Sing them over again to me, wonderful wonderful words of Life!’ Oh my God, folks, that’s the Eternal Life. That’s The One that came out from the Father from before the foundation of the world. He has come to bring and to gather up into Himself all that would come and all that would believe. Wonderful, wonderful words of Life. It’s Him. It’s not just words written with ink; but it’s The Word of Life that HE IS that goes far beyond what we can see, touch, taste, feel or hear this morning in the natural. It goes far beyond that: That One that come to be a Living Reality in a people that had passed

from death come unto Life. Hallelujah to God!

It's so wonderful! It's so wonderful I don't have words to go any farther this morning. I don't have words. They are Words of Life, they are Words of Spirit, folks. Only the Holy Spirit can minister those wonderful Words that He is, that wonderful Life that He is. Only the Holy Spirit can minister that to us today. Yes, Hallelujah.

In John chapter 1 we were talking about John the Baptist. In **John 1:6**: *"There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7: The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. 8: He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. 9: That was the True Light, which ligheth ever man that cometh into the world."* You and I are not that Light this morning but God has brought us to bear witness of that Light. You and I are not that Life this morning, but we've come to bear witness of that Life. I'm telling you it's the Lord Jesus Himself. *"I am the Way, I am the Truth, I am the Life."* Hallelujah, what Fellowship! John declares that He has come that you might have that same Fellowship with the Father and with His Son, Jesus Christ – the same Fellowship. Don't exclude yourself! It's the same Fellowship that the Father and the Son; the same Oneness that they had, that he says you have. This is the message, and that is so important to catch. This is the message that we come to say: *"That which we have heard of Him. I declare it to you that God is Light, and in Him is no darkness: not at all."* And we try so much in our flesh and try to use the scriptures you know, to make us fit there, and when we do we become so confused. It's like over in 1 John 3: *"He that is born of God does not sin or can not sin, for his seed remains."* Automatically we take that thing and try to bring it upon ourselves and say that it's Him. There is no darkness and there is no sin. It is Him. It is Him that come from

the Father, sent – sent, came out of the bosom of the Father, came into the world, and now He has come in a people. It's Him. Quit trying to see yourself and see HIM! Get beyond ourselves and see Him, and to know Him. That's where it's at – it's all about HIM! Hallelujah. And we're just a vehicle, a vessel for Him to shine: for Him to be a Light, and all that you can say. The City, whatever it is – it's Him. In Him is no darkness at all! And we try to just so mix the flesh and the Spirit together, and then we become so confounded and so confused, so distorted in our thinking because we try to mix ourselves there and we just find it's all Him. *"In the dispensation of the fulness of time, He might gather together all things in One, both that which is in heaven, and that which is on earth, even IN HIM."* I don't know if I fully understand all that, but I believe it because I don't see nothing beyond Him! I see no promise, I see no hope, I see nothing beyond Him. I just see that God wants to open the eyes of our understanding to know it's Him. And we have Eternal Life because it's Him who is Eternal Life.

God Bless you – I've got to quit. Hallelujah! What joy, what joy, what a Fellowship!

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