

Light in the Darkness **1 John 1:1-7**

“Why are you here?”

“Why did you come to church today?”

Some potential answers:

- I am here because of **Jesus!**
- I am here for **fellowship!**
- I am here because it gives me **joy!**

If you are here b/c of Jesus, then what other things have become less important? _____

If you are here for fellowship, then who have you made connections with lately? _____

If you are here to experience joy, then what are the things bringing you joy this morning? _____

Which of these responses align with your reason(s) for being here?

The right answer should be all of the above!

- Encountering Jesus historically, personally, and relationally changes us – our perspective, our identity, and our priorities!
- Experiencing true Christian fellowship with one another, and with God Himself, is **nothing short of a miracle!**
- Joy, overwhelming joy, naturally flows from encountering a good God, a loving Savior, a changed life, and the opportunity to share all of this with others!

The Apostle John experienced all these things personally himself, and **this letter of 1 John is a testimony of those experiences!**

John was forever changed by being with Jesus, by being in fellowship with the Father & with his newly formed family because of what Jesus made possible, & by experiencing the joy of not only being a recipient of a transformed life, but also being a spokesman of it to others! **1 John 1:1-4**

John speaks of Jesus here in vs. 2 as **“life”!** Not that He has life, or that He is the giver of life, but that He is life!

If we encounter the true historical, personal, and relational Jesus we will encounter this true life – & **it’s not just a temporary life, it’s an “eternal life.”**

But is it possible for us to experience this in the same way John did, who walked with Jesus for 3 years on this earth? Is it too far removed for us?

John declares that it is in **receiving this proclamation of what he heard, saw and touched in Christ, that we too can be partakers of it – vs. 3!**

True fellowship, with John, with the Father, with the Son Jesus Christ, and with each other, **is accessible to us thru the “Word of Life”** (the gospel)!

And where this gospel is proclaimed and received, there too will exist a shared joy with all who have been partakers of this life that is Jesus Christ!

And it’s not partial, it’s complete! “that our joy may be complete”– vs. 4!

John is writing this letter right after a major widespread persecution of Christians took place! How is it that he can speak of “life” & “joy” in Jesus, when it is the name of Jesus that brought on such persecution and death?

The only answer is that He is seeing through a different set of lenses! **His eyes were opened,** the light switch was turned on, and that which he could not see before, the things of God, were now brought to light in Christ!

This is John’s message in this letter – **“God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all” – vs. 5.** John saw the light, do we? (“I Saw the Light” song)

John made the connection that Jesus is God’s light here on earth, do we? (“Once and for All” song)! **This connection changes everything!**

Though Jesus was no longer on earth, John now understood that His light & life were forever a present reality because of the gospel (this Word of Life)! The question was now, would he walk in this light? Will we? (“In the Light” song)

Why is it that we are here today? Why is this time together so important?

Because it’s a time where we are proclaiming & claiming the “Word of Life”, and **it is preparing us to “walk in the Light”** & be in fellowship with God, with Christ, and with one another as we seek to be the light in this dark world!

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