



12 JULY 2026 AM

1 John 1:1-4

TRIBE-1

= a close-knit community with shared identity

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. And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.

1 John 1:3-4

INTRODUCTION

A DECLARED TRUTH **verses 1-4**

NOTE: this series came out of a conversation with a new believer...Gospel of John? Romans? 1 John!

- First John was written by the same man who wrote the gospel that bears his name

The Disciple Whom Jesus Loved 5x

- this letter was written about 95 AD, when John was almost 100 years old...his gospel in 90 AD

Jesus died ~32 AD

Paul and Peter died ~68 AD

James, his brother was dead **Acts 12:2**

the Roman War in 70 AD destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple complex

nine Roman emperors have come and gone

chronologically, the last time John was even mentioned in scripture was at the Jerusalem Council **Acts 15 Galatians 2:9**

forty years of his life are totally unknown to us...

Ephesus? with Mary?

- near the end of his life, John wrote this letter...a very personal letter...in which he clarified what was important to him

TRUTH...black and white; good and bad, etc.

- in our text this morning, John begins with Jesus...the Way, the Truth, and the Life

John 14:6

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

knowing Jesus...

1. PROHIBITS EXTREME OPINIONS vs 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;

throughout the course of the first century, many strange ideas and bad theologies had come into the church concerning Jesus

1 John 4:1

Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

Jude 4

For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 2:1

But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

some taught Jesus was only a spirit...
He was God, but not man

God cannot die for our sins

some taught Jesus was only a man...
but He was not God

thus, He would have had a sin nature
even today, there are strange things taught
concerning Jesus

the brother of satan...Mormonism
a man who obtained godhead
a community organizer, good teacher,
gender neutral, etc.

but notice John's eyewitness testimony:

verse 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...

we have **HEARD** Him

John 21:20 ...the disciple whom Jesus
loved...which also leaned on his breast at
supper, and said, Lord, which is he that
betrayeth thee?

we have **SEEN** Him...raise the dead, heal, etc.

we have **DISCERNED** Him...looked intently

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.

we have **HANDLED** Him...to touch or feel

Luke 24:39 Behold my hands and my feet,
that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a
spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see
me have. **3**

along with Peter, John's witness of Jesus had not dimmed at all over the years

2 Peter 1:16

For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty.

notice, John called Him **THE WORD OF LIFE**

John 1:14 ...the Word was made flesh

thoughts and ideas have their expression in words

Jesus was/is the complete expression of the Father...THE eternal life

John 14:9

Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? He that hath seen me hath seen the Father...

Philippians 2:16

Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither labored in vain.

Hebrews 1:3

Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person...

knowing Jesus...

2. PROVIDES EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITIES

vs 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;)

more than John's personal truth in **verse 1**, John added the obvious testimony of the life of Jesus (thus, the parentheses)

manifested = to appear;
to make obvious

Jesus walked this earth for 33 years; John and the other Apostles had a front-row seat

John saw **MIRACLES**

John saw **MINISTRY**

John saw **MULTITUDES**

John, and others, had the opportunity to **BEAR WITNESS** of the life of Christ

martureo = martyr

John gave his own life so as to live out the testimony of Jesus before others

verse 3 declare = to make known;
to deliver a message

Revelation 1:9

I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Romans 1:16

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

John had experienced this eternal life...it was revealed to him personally...and he used every opportunity to show it to others

knowing Jesus...

3. PRODUCES EXCITING OUTCOMES vs 3-4

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. And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.

the outcome of **FOREVER LIFE**

notice how John used WE and YOU: we were there, you were not; we know this to be true; you do not...

NOTE: in John's gospel, he set forth the life of God in Christ; here, he sets forth the life of God in us

John 20:31

But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

see also **1 John 5:11-13**

it is possible to know that you are saved,
that your sins are forgiven, and that you
have eternal life in Heaven

the outcome of **FELLOWSHIP**

koinonia = partnership

notice that it is a partnership with God the Father
and with God the Son

one of John's main purposes in writing this
letter was to cultivate fellowship among the
believers

verses 6-7 If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: 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.

the outcome of **FULL JOY**

= full to over-flowing; crammed full

he did not say **HAPPINESS**...because that always depends on what happens

chara...from the Greek word *charis*,
meaning 'grace'

John 15:11

These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.

Acts 13:52

And the disciples were filled with joy,
and with the Holy Ghost.

1 Thessalonians 1:6

And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost: