**God is Light**

**by Pastor Fee Soliven**

**1 John 1:1-5**

**Wednesday Evening**

**August 9, 2023**

**The Purpose**

To reassure Christians in their faith and to counter false teachings

**Author**

John The Apostle

**Audience**

This letter is untitled and was intended for any particular church. It was sent as a pastoral letter to various Gentile congregations. It was also written for all believers everywhere.

**Date Written**

Approximately A. D. 85 and 90 from Ephesus.

**Setting**

John was an older man and perhaps the only surviving Apostle at this time. He had not yet been banished to the island of Patmos, where he would live in exile. As an eyewitness of Christ, he wrote authoritatively to give this new generation of believers assurance and confidence in God and in their faith.

**Key Verse**

**1 John 5:13**

These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

**1 John 1:1-5**

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, concerning the Word of life-- 2 the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us—

3 that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. 4 And these things we write to you that your joy may be full. 5 This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

**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, concerning the Word of life—**

Saints, this letter is attributed to John, one of Jesus’ original twelve disciples. Along with Peter and James, he had a special relationship with Jesus.

This letter was written between A.D. 85 and 90 from Ephesus, before John’s exile to the island of Patmos.

**Revelation 1:9**

I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Jerusalem had been destroyed in A.D. 70, and Christians had been scattered throughout the empire.

Unlike the style of most letters at this time, this letter does not give the name of its writer at the beginning. Both 2 and 3 John begin with “the Elder” and follow with the name of the addressee.

This letter, however, includes no author’s name, except the understanding that this is an elder of the church writing to his “dear children.”

This unaddressed, unsigned letter was probably more of a written sermon or treatise sent to several of the churches in and around Ephesus that were under John’s care.

As the oldest living apostle, John was the “elder statesman” of Christianity; he had watched the church deal with conflict from within and persecution from without.

Plentiful false teachers were accelerating the downward slide of many away from the Christian faith. John wrote this letter to put believers back on track.

God (the one who existed from the beginning) came into the world as a human in the person of Jesus Christ. John and the other apostles (we) had heard, seen, and touched him.

When the Son entered into time, his fellowship with the Father also entered into time. Thus, to have heard Jesus was to have heard the Father speaking in the Son found in the chapters ahead like

**John 14:24**

He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me.

Also to have seen Jesus was to have seen the Father, and to have known Jesus was to have known him who was one with the Father.

**John 14:8-10**

8 Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us." 9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?

10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works.

**John 10:30**

“I and My Father are one."

**John 10:38**

but if I do, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, that you may know and believe that the Father is in Me, and I in Him."

John called Jesus the Word of life. In his Gospel, John had written, “In the beginning the Word already existed. He was with God, and he was God.”

As the “Word,” the Son of God fully conveys and communicates God. John’s use of the Word is a good title for the Son who both created the universe with God and then came to earth to be the perfect expression of God to humanity.

Jesus, the Word, reveals God’s mind to human beings. Not only is Jesus Christ “the Word,” he is the Word of life—of spiritual life. People may be physically alive but spiritually dead.

Jesus, however, as the express image of God himself, gives both spiritual life and eternal life to all who believe in him.

**2 the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us—**

Saints, Divine, eternal life resided in Christ, so John described Jesus as this one who is life from God and repeated the fact that we have seen him.

He, the other disciples, and thousands of other people had indeed “seen” Jesus. Jesus was more than just a human being.

John’s work during the many years since Jesus’ ascension had been to testify and announce to everyone that Jesus is the one who is eternal life. Because Christ is eternal life, those who trust in him also have eternal life.

In Greek, the phrase, he was with the Father, suggests that the Word was face-to-face with the Father. This common Greek expression indicated a personal relationship.

By using this expression, John was saying that the Word (the Son) and God (the Father) enjoyed an intimate, personal relationship from the beginning.

In Jesus’ intercessory prayer, recorded in John 17, he revealed that the Father had loved him before the foundation of the world.

**John 17:24**

“Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world”

Saints, the words then he was shown to us refer to the revelation of the Son of God in human form (see John 10:30; 14:7-10).

**John 10:30**

“I and My Father are one."

**John 14:7-10**

7 "If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him." 8 Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us." 9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?

10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works.

**3 that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.** Saints, the plural pronoun we, used throughout the prologue, refers,

at times, to John and the other apostles (for whom John was acting as spokesman) and also to John and any other believers who had seen Jesus Christ in bodily form.

These people had actually seen and heard Jesus Christ; they told about it so that others may have fellowship with them,

referring to the life (spiritual and eternal) that all Christians share in a living relationship or partnership.

When the disciples were regenerated by the Holy Spirit, they actually entered into fellowship with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.

Having been brought into this living union, the apostles became the new initiators—introducing this fellowship to others and encouraging them to enter into fellowship with them.

As an eyewitness to Jesus’ ministry, John was qualified to teach the truth about him.

The readers of this letter had not seen and heard Jesus themselves, but they could trust that what John wrote was accurate. Believers today are like those second- and third-generation Christians.

Though they have not personally seen, heard, or touched Jesus, they have the New Testament record of his eyewitnesses, and they can trust that these eyewitnesses spoke the truth about him.

**4 And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.**

Saints, just as the proclamation of the Good News was for others to join the fellowship,

so John was writing these things to encourage the readers’ participation in both the fellowship and the joy that he (John) and the other believers were experiencing.

Proclamation produces fellowship; fellowship produces joy. John’s joy would be complete if his readers remained in the fellowship and did not wander off into false teaching.

John, caretaker of the churches and “spiritual father” to many of the believers in and around Ephesus, would only be able to experience “complete joy” if his “children” were experiencing the blessings of fellowship with one another and with God.

In the book of Galatians, joy is a fruit or by-product of the Holy Spirit’s work in believers’ lives.

**Galatians 5:22-23**

22 “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law”

Joy also comes as the result of harmonious relationships among believers.

**Acts 13:52**

And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

**Philippians 2:2**

“fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind”

**5 This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.**

Saints, John’s message emphasized that God is light.

**John 8:12**

Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

**John 9:5**

“As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

Saints, light enables people to do their work. It produces growth in crops; it reveals beauty and provides safety.

Light represents what is good, pure, true, holy, and reliable. Light reveals; light shines.

**Psalm 139:12**

“Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You, But the night shines as the day; The darkness and the light are both alike to You”

God is so completely “light” that there is no darkness in him at all. “Darkness” represents what is sinful and evil.

**Psalm 92:15**

“To declare that the LORD is upright; He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him”

God is untainted by any evil or sin. Thus, “God is light” means that God is perfectly holy and true and that he alone can guide people out of the darkness of sin.

**1 Samuel 2:2**

"No one is holy like the LORD, For there is none besides You, Nor is there any rock like our God”

**Psalm 77:13**

Your way, O God, is in the sanctuary; Who is so great a God as our God?

**1 Peter 2:9-10**

9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; 10 who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

Saints, Soon and Very soon, Jesus is about to appear, we are almost out of here!

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

**1 Corinthians 15:50-54**

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

**Short Movie Slide>**

**Acts 2:38-39**

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

**Let’s Pray!**

**Benediction**

**"May The LORD bless you and keep you, May The LORD make His face shine upon you, May The LORD be gracious to you, May The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you His (Shalom) peace.” In Jesus Name**