Assurance of Salvation (1 John 1:1-4)

Introduction

John the Apostle is the author of... the <u>Epistles</u> of John, the <u>Gospel</u> of John and the <u>Book</u> of Revelation.

The primary message: 1 John 5:13

"I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life."

The word 'Gnostic' comes from the Greek word 'gnosis', which means 'knowledge'.

- You could be saved and not have assurance.
- You could have assurance and not be saved.

The best position...

is to know that you are saved and have the assurance of it.

Are you sure of your personal salvation? Do you know you're saved?

John 5:24 - "Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life."

- How much you know and Experience Christ?
- Do you have a personal Relationship with Christ?
- Do you enjoy a warm Fellowship with the Apostle and fellow believers in Christ?
- Do you have a complete Joy?

The <u>first 4 verses</u> of 1 John are the basis of the entire letter.

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...we <u>proclaim</u> concerning the Word of life....(vs.1)
...we <u>proclaim</u> to you the eternal life....(vs.2)
...We <u>proclaim</u> to you what we have seen and heard....(vs.3)
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I. Reaffirmation of the Apostles' Proclamation (1:1,2)

1That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life.

² The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we <u>proclaim</u> to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us.

A. He is a Person "That which was from the beginning" (vs.1)

- 1. The beginning of creation.
- "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1).
- 2. The beginning that is eternal.
- "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (John 1:1).
- 3. "That which was from the beginning" (I John 1:1).

Christianity is based upon historical fact

Il Peter 1:16 - "For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty."

"He who has the Son has life; he who has not the Son of God has not life," (1 John 5:12 RSV).

"...which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched," (1:1b)

B. He is "The Word of Life"

- "this we proclaim concerning the Word of life" (1:1c)
- For the Jew, <u>God</u> was often referred to as the <u>Word</u>
- For the Greek, the Logos was referred to as the intelligence in the universe, the Ultimate Reason which controls all things.

"The life <u>appeared</u>; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us" (1 John 1:2)

C. He is "The Eternal Life"

"The Eternal life, which was with the Father" (1:2)

John 5:26 - "For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself."

John 11:25 Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die."

II. Reasons for the Apostles' Proclamation (1:3)

"We <u>proclaim</u> to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ." (1:3)

A. To Have Fellowship with the Apostles and fellow believers in Christ (1:3b)

"so that you also may have fellowship with us." (v.3b)

What is fellowship?

Greek word "koinonia" – sharing, communion, common bond and common life.

Acts 2:44

"Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common."

B. To Have fellowship with the Father and with his Son (1:3c).

"and our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ"

(v.3c)

Acts 2:42

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."

III. Results of the Apostles' Proclamation (1:4)

That Our Joy Will Be Complete (1:4)

"We write this to make our joy complete" (v.4).

"And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full" (KJV)

What are these things?

- the deity and eternity of Christ...
- the truth of his humanity...
- that eternal life and salvation...
- the saints' fellowship <u>one with another</u>, with God the <u>Father</u>, and with <u>Jesus Christ</u>.

"to make <u>our</u> joy complete"

"that <u>your</u> joy may be full" (KJV)

The best editions of the Greek
 Testament now read "your joy"

"I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete." (John 15:11)

Conclusion

- The Christian faith is based upon that which is <u>historical</u>.
- It is <u>verifiable</u>.
- The apostles affirm through their <u>eyewitness</u> testimony that Jesus was God in the flesh.
- Jesus came to bring eternal life to all who believe and obey.
- We have <u>fellowship</u> with God and the Son by being in fellowship with the <u>apostles</u>.

 True Christianity is essentially Jesus Christ

Which category are you in?

- A. You could be saved and not have assurance...
- B. You could have assurance and not be saved...

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven." Matthew 7:21

C. You know that you are saved and have the assurance of it.

"Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life." John.5:24