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THAT YOUR JOY MAY BE FULL

I John 1:4

Introduction:

- A. Man constantly striving after joy and happiness.
- B. Some try many avenues.
 - 1. The street of pleasure.
 - 2. Turn down the avenue of liquor and dope.
 - 3. Down the lane of sex exploration.
 - 4. Others drive recklessly down the main street of materialism for they think at the end of the rainbow is the pot of gold, yet it eludes them.
- C. The Apostle, old and wise in years, says let us stop, look and listen. Here are some things that are worthwhile.
- D. Something of life and times of John.
 - 1. Apostle.
 - 2. Lived through a persecution.
 - 3. Write Revelation, Gospel, I John in that order.
 - a. In His Gospel he presents way of salvation.
 - b. Epistle, how to know you are a Christian and how to enjoy our Christianity.

I. THE ETERNITY OF CHRIST.

- A. One of primary sources of joy is security.
 - 1. Child that is insecure in parent's love is unhappy.
 - 2. Factor of unhappiness of aged is insecurity.
- B. Security must be anchored in something that is stable.
 - 1. One insurance company represents its stability by a picture of the Rock of Gibraltar.

C. The Christian's faith must be anchored in something stable.

1. "That which was from the beginning..."

2. In the beginning Gen. 1:1 Christ was there.

a. God said, "Let us make man"

b. John 1:1

"In the beginning was the word, and the word was with God, and the word was God."

3. Psalm 90:2.

"Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God."

4. Jesus, "I and my Father are one."

II. THE HUMANITY OF CHRIST.

"For the Word was made flesh and dwelt among men."

"Which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of Life."

A. The Apostles were reliable witnesses; if this were not true we are a people without hope.

B. John had his problem with the Gnostics.

1. Cerentianian, which said God adopted Jesus at his baptism. That Holy Spirit endowed Him then and left Him at the cross.

2. Dosetic, denied the humanity of Jesus, said he was only a ghost type.

3. John says not so, For we have seen and handled him.

C. Jesus after his resurrection had a body that could be felt.

1. Mary clung to him.

2. Thomas saw the scars.
- D. One of the cardinal doctrines is in a bodily, visible return of our Lord.
 - E. There are those who would prevent this teaching, yet it is Biblical.
 1. Mary Baker Eddy. Yes, I believe the Bible but let's add my little book of Science and Health. That denies the reality of sin.
 - a. Hell is a mortal belief, evil, lust, remorse, etc.
 - b. Baptism not a ceremony but a spiritual experience a purification from all evil.
 - c. Disease a mental concept.
 2. Mormonism, with its Book of Mormon.
 3. Jehovah Witness, with their new interpretations
 4. It is no wonder people are confused. John on more than one occasion says, "These are written that ye might know."
 5. Yes, Jesus is eternal for he is God, yet he came in the likeness of men.

I I I . C H R I S T A S E T E R N A L L I F E .

I John 1:2

"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"

- A. For the life was manifested (shown).
 1. Jesus said, "I am the way, truth and life"
 2. To know Jesus is to have eternal life. There is nothing more connected with it.
 - a. Thief on the cross a good example.
- B. Jesus as the Life and God are inseparable. "Which was with the Father and was manifested unto us."

IV. BEAR WITNESS OF CHRIST.

"That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you"

A. "Go show what great things he hath done for thee"

1. Here is genuine joy.
2. Joy-filled church is a soul-winning church.

B. Witnessing brings on fellowship.

C. Fellowship with fellow Christians.

1. "That ye also may have fellowship with us."

D. Fellowship with Father and Son.

1. Joy in heaven over one soul that repenteth.

V. "THAT YOUR JOY MAY BE FULL"

I John 1:4

A. These things written - what things?

Eternity of Christ, humanity of Christ, Eternal life, witnessing, fellowship. Do these not bring on fullness of joy?

B. Sinner, don't you want to have this fullness of joy

1. Acts 8:39

"And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the church saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing."