

JESUS IS REAL

(1 John 1:1-4)

I. John reveals the demonstration of the reality of Jesus (1-2).

- A. John first points to the eternity of Jesus.
 - 1. The Word of life is from the beginning.
 - 2. Jesus always was and is.
 - 3. It is interesting that John says that which, not He who.
 - a. John wants us to understand more than that Jesus was a person.
 - b. He wants us to think of all that made up the Lord.
 - (1) His eternity.
 - (2) His characteristics, everything about Him.
 - 4. Notice how closely this resembles John 1:1.
 - 5. If Jesus was eternal, He was deity in the flesh and John wants his readers to understand this truth.
- B. John then points out how he and the other apostles (we) had evidence that Jesus was real.
 - 1. As we look at these demonstrations of the reality of Jesus, notice how they rise in value.
 - 2. First they heard Jesus.
 - a. As Guy N. Woods said, there is no personal contact in hearing.
 - b. You can do this from afar but it is a demonstration.
 - 3. He then reveals they had seen Jesus.
 - a. This is more valuable than hearing
 - b. However, your eyes can deceive you.
 - 4. He then gets stronger by saying we looked upon Him.
 - a. This word means to view attentively, to contemplate.
 - b. Have you ever studied a painting or picture to take in all of the images in it?
 - c. That is what this word indicates: a studying of the object under observation.
 - 5. He then goes to his strongest demonstration of the reality of Jesus - they touched Him.
 - a. Jesus was not some mere vision as some gnostics taught.
 - b. Jesus was able to be felt and touched.
 - 6. Three of the five senses are appealed to by John.
- C. John then says that Jesus was manifest or made known.
 - 1. Jesus was known to the apostles.
 - 2. He was also known to thousands He had fed, healed, helped even preached against.
- D. John proves Jesus is real by these demonstrations.

II. John gives the apostles attestation to the reality of Jesus (2-3a).

- A. He has just told us that Jesus was manifest to everyone and He now attests again to the fact that they had seen Jesus.
- B. Because of their seeing Jesus they could bear witness of Him.
 - 1. John and the apostles could testify to the reality of Jesus.
 - 2. They had studied Him and seen Him.

- C. This enabled them to show Jesus to the world.
 - 1. Show means to declare something to the world.
 - 2. They were not afraid to attest to Jesus because they had the demonstration of His reality.
- D. The word show in two and the word declare in three are from the same Greek word.
- E. We need to understand that until Jesus is real to us, we won't attest to Him in our lives.
 - 1. We won't show others by the way we live that Jesus is real to us.
 - 2. We can't give eye witness testimony because we weren't there to see the demonstration as John was.
 - 3. But Jesus can and must be real to us by faith.
- F. These people to whom John wrote were in the same boat we are.
 - 1. They weren't their either.
 - 2. But Jesus still had to be real in their lives or else they would fall for the gnostic doctrine.
 - 3. John wanted us to understand that Jesus was & is real.
 - 4. If He is not real to us we can go into the sinful lifestyle of the gnostics and justify it in our minds.
- G. Because of the demonstration of the reality of Jesus, John could attest to the fact that Jesus was real.

III. John reveals the divine expectations because of the reality of Jesus.

- A. Since Jesus is real, proven by the demonstration and the attestation of the apostles, there are some expectations.
- B. We can expect to have fellowship with the apostles and deity.
 - 1. Fellowship means partnership, joint sharing.
 - 2. When we truly believe Jesus is real we can enter into a spiritual relationship with God.
 - 3. When there is great faith in God, there can be communion in religion.
 - 4. We can experience, to a degree, the relationship the apostles had with deity when we believe Jesus is real.
 - 5. This belief in the reality of Jesus means more than just mere belief that He existed.
 - a. It is a belief that leads to action.
 - b. It is a belief that leads to love, which is expressed by obeying the commandments of Jesus.
 - 6. We must understand that whenever questions are brought up against Christ, our fellowship is threatened.
 - a. We cannot allow any questions about Jesus to affect our belief in Him.
 - b. When we do, our fellowship with Him is put in jeopardy.
- C. We can also expect that we can be joyful.
 - 1. Only when Jesus is real to us can we be joyful.
 - 2. True joy comes from Jesus.
 - 3. It is a joy brought about by the forgiveness of sins and the relationship we have with Jesus.

4. If there is no fellowship with Jesus we can expect no joy.
5. Full means to fill to the top, cause to abound.
6. There will be no room for sadness in the life of a Christian when he has fellowship with Jesus based on his belief in the reality of Jesus.