

Countdown Video Snowflake Christmas
Music Video: Angels You Are Emmanuel
Slide Background: The Last Hour
Video Illustration: ` The Light

Sermon Series: Book of 1 John 1:1-10

Title: Deceleration of Fellowship

John writing to Christians is stressing the assurance of the existence of the of Jesus and through his personal testimony he want to assure the early day Christians. John was one of the twelve, he walked, he talked, he touched, he ate with Jesus. He personally witnessed many of the miracles Jesus did. Johns focus is to strengthen the fellowship and faith between believer's and Jesus. As a believer we must have a certain amount of certainty about what we believe. We have been called to be witnesses ourselves. Witnesses who can and will share the love of Jesus with others and if we are unsure of our own belief how can we tell other, and how can we have fellowship with our Heavenly Father if we are unable to have complete assurance that Jesus is the Son of God. John points out the we can have (1) Fellowship with the Apostles, (2) We can have Fellowship with the Father, (3) and we can Fellowship with One Another.

While faith is a absolutely essential for salvation, faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God.

Text Illustration:

"No one can be a member of the Christian fellowship who does not acknowledge Jesus as Christ and the Son of God and who does not love the brothers in obedience to the Lord." --H. Richard Niebuhr, Christ and Culture, Harper Collins, p.47

Sermon Text: 1 John 1:1-10 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. 6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us. NKJV

1. Fellowship With Apostles (vs. 1-4)

1 John 1:1-4 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. NKJV

- a. The apostle John open his letter by declaring that from the beginning he has declared to us. He points out that he has personal knowledge of Jesus. That his knowing Jesus is founded upon what he had heard, what he had seen, and what he had touched. Another words he was a personal witness of the in the life of Jesus. However, not only the life of Jesus but as a result of being a witness of Jesus he declares that in Him is eternal life.
- b. The Book of Acts declares that it Jesus that can save and no other. There is no other name under heaven where by men can be saved but Jesus

Acts 4:12 Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved. "NKJV

- c. James express and air of absolute assurance when he says to us. "We have handled Him," heard with our own ears, seen with our own eyes; handled with our own hands, and tested with our senses, and now we appreciate Him as Saviour. He has saved us -- we feel it, we know it. As such, we present Him to you; we appreciate Him as able to do all things for us: what He has done, guarantees ability to do all that is needful. Being justified by His death, we shall be saved by His life.

John 1:14 And the Word became 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.

Acts 1:3 to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God. NKJV

Acts 4:20 For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard." NKJV

2 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.
NKJV

1 John 4:14 And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world. NKJV

John 5:26 For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, NKJV

1 John 5:7 For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one. NKJV

Rev 19:13 He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. NKJV

2. Fellowship With The Father (vs.4-7)

1 John 1:5-7 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. 6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. NKJV

- a. John declares that he heard it from "Him", John is not repeating gossip or the words of some enlightened philosopher, he heard it from Jesus Himself. And illustrates this truth with the illustration If light and darkness. The righteousness of Jesus illuminates the darkness which is in this world. John chapter 1 states the He is the light of the world and in him is no darkness.

He points us to the light as he states that there is no darkness in Jesus and we claim to have fellowship with Jesus and walk in the darkness of this world we are a liar and the truth is not in us. Therefore we cannot have fellowship with the Son and if we have no fellowship with the Son there is no fellowship with the Father.

Text Illustration: CHILDREN'S SERMON

I once heard about a confrontation between a young boy and his mother. The mother asked her son, "Young man, there were two cookies in the pantry this morning! May I ask how it happened that there's only one now?" The boy didn't flinch but said, "It must've been so dark I didn't see the other one." Living in sin is often portrayed as "living in darkness." Just like the boy who missed the other cookie, we too miss out on many of God's blessings when we refuse to walk in His light.

John 1:4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. NKJV

John 1:9 That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. NKJV

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." NKJV

John 9:5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." NKJV

John 12:35 Then Jesus said to them, "A little while longer the light is with you. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you; he who walks in darkness does not know where he is going. NKJV

James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. NKJV

3. Fellowship With One Another (vv. 8-10)

1 John 1:8-10 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.
NKJV

- a. John declares we deny the having sin in our lives we are deceiving ourselves. There many people in the world today who refuse to admit the sin that is in their life. It is like carrying a deadly virus in our bodies which one day will take our life. And even though there is a cure for the virus people refused to take the cure. Today many people are subject to getting "Shingles" while there is a cure for the virus the cure must be acquired before the virus causes them the grief and anguish. In the same way if a person refuses to acknowledge their sin it to will destroy our opportunity for eternal life.
- b. There is a cure for effects of sin and that cure is called Jesus. A person must acknowledge their sin and asked forgiveness and God promises to not only forgive us but also cleanse us.
- c. We can only have fellowship with others who have also acknowledge their sin and that fellowship can only be accomplished by confessing our sin and gaining forgiveness and no longer walking in darkness.

Text Illustration:

LETTING GO OF SIN

Men who trap animals in Africa for zoos in America say that one of the hardest animals to catch is the ring-tailed monkey. For the Zulus of that continent, however, it's simple. They've been catching this agile little animal with ease for years. The method the Zulus use is based on knowledge of the animal. Their trap is nothing more than a melon growing on a vine. The seeds of this melon are a favorite of the monkey. Knowing this, the Zulus simply cut a hole in the melon, just large enough for the monkey to insert his

hand to reach the seeds inside. The monkey will stick his hand in, grab as many seeds as he can, then start to withdraw it. This he cannot do. His fist is now larger than the hole. The monkey will pull and tug, screech and fight the melon for hours. But he can't get free of the trap unless he gives up the seeds, which he refuses to do. Meanwhile, the Zulus sneak up and nab him.

We must let go of our sin and turn to Jesus!