**The Word of Life has Come**

**1 John 1:1-4 (ESV)** 1  That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—

2The life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us—
3  that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.
4  And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

**Verse 1** - John is identifying the fact that Jesus Christ has always existed when he uses the phrase “from the beginning.” Thus he indicates that Jesus is God the Son.

John is also indicating his very close relationship with Jesus for some 3 ½ years as a disciple while Jesus was on the earth and as follower and Apostle to the present time. He has seen Jesus, talked with Him and listened to Him, physically touched Him with his own hands. John can personally testify to the fact that Jesus was a real flesh and blood person just as we are.

**Verse 2** - John here identifies directly that the word of life was made known to him (Jesus proclaimed to the disciples who He was and demonstrated it with miraculous power and wisdom), attests that He was with the Father, and again emphasizes that God revealed Him to them(the disciples).

**Verse 3** – John proclaims the message (which he knows his readers have already heard, but he is setting the stage to begin addressing the problem of false doctrine) and emphasizes the fellowship that comes only from knowing Jesus Christ.

**Verse 4** – It is only when the true message of Christ is understood and embraced that His followers can have the fulness of joy in fellowship that Christ desires for all believers.

**Walking in the Light**

**1 John 1:5-10 (ESV)** 5  This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.
6  If we say we have fellowship with him while we 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 his Son cleanses us from all sin.
8  If we say 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 we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

**Verse 5** – John begins to declare the message that was given. It deals with the nature and character of God. God’s holiness and righteousness is characterized as light, which identifies God the Father and Jesus the Son as holy and righteous since he has previously grouped the Father and the Son together. He further emphasizes the purity and perfection of that light, while at the same time introducing the characterization of sin (disobedience to the will of the Father) as darkness.

**Verse 6,7** – John here introduces how a person’s life is classified.

To walk in the light as Jesus walks in the light, (obedient and submissive to the Father’s will), is to have fellowship with God and other believers because the blood of Jesus His Son has cleansed and is cleansing us from sin.

If one walks in darkness (sin), even though he says he has fellowship with Jesus Christ, he is lying, and is not practicing the truth.

**Verse 8** – God has declared in His word that there is “none righteous; no, not one.” Even if a person is living a “good” life (honest, just, moral, kind, ….), he cannot honestly say that he never rebels against and disobeys God’s will.

If one says this and believes it, he is deceiving himself and is not truthful and honest.

**Verse 9** – We have all sinned and all of us will continue to sometimes sin as long as we are in this carnal body of flesh.

However, just as God previously forgave us our sins when we confessed, – (Confession here also implies repentance.) – He is faithful and just to continue forgiving us our sins and cleansing us from all unrighteousness because of the blood of Jesus.

To be cleansed from all unrighteousness means that we are counted as pure and righteous in God’s eyes.

**Verse 10** – All have sinned and missed God’s mark of perfection. If we say we haven’t, we are saying that God is a liar. Instead, we are the ones lying and not listening to God’s truth which He has manifest to us.

**Christ, Our Advocate**

**1 John 2:1-2 (ESV)** 1  My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.
2  He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

**Verse 1** – John is writing this to his “little children” to remind them not to sin, that God doesn’t want them to sin.

If anyone does sin, he has an advocate who intercedes for him before God. It is none other than Jesus Christ, the righteous Son of God Himself.

**Verse 2** – John reiterates that Jesus Christ has the right to do this for us because He died for us and paid in full the penalty for our sins.