

Cultivating Joy | 1 John 1:1-4

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--the 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--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. And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

Who is Jesus?

1. Historical
2. He is God
3. Personal
4. Transformational
5. Public Proclamation

→ What the gospel IS v. What the gospel ISN'T

- "It will be counted to us who believe in him who raise from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification." (Romans 4:24-25)

What is He for?

1. Joy: Our anchor in God's promises despite our circumstances.

How can joy be cultivated for the Christian?

1. Assurance of faith

- "Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart." (Jeremiah 15:16)

2. Fellowship with the people of God

- "If we do not give thanks daily for the Christian fellowship in which we have been placed, even where there is no great experience, no discoverable riches, but much weakness, small faith, and difficulty; if on the contrary, we only keep complaining to God that everything is so paltry and petty, so far from what we expected, then we hinder God from letting our fellowship grow according to the measure and riches which are there for us all in Jesus Christ." - Dietrich Bonhoeffer

3. Fellowship with God

- "...since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confessions of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful." (Hebrews 10:21-23)