

9/17/23- 'TRUTH AND DECEPTION'

PASTOR LEE

The Word:

1John1:1-4— - That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our own eyes, which we have looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—-(2) 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—
(3) that with 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.

John - Truth
Over Deception

- John was addressing teachers/believers who were confused and who, over time were beginning to distort 'The Good News'. John's intent is to communicate the Truth to them. The struggle toward truth is something we, today, can relate to/appreciate (a struggle exaggerated by the digital age...mountains of data...often conflicting...even polarizing). And also... just like in John's time, we are susceptible to deceit.

Truth and love
Permeate
John's Writings

- Step back to John's background....John was prominent in the NT-mentioned 50 times and was loved by Jesus. Along with his brother James and guided by their father Zebedee, they became skilled/successful fishermen. As early as his 'mid-teen' years, Jesus singles John (and James). out and says 'follow me'. Based on his experience and God's inspiration, he goes on to write 5 books of the NT (Gospel of John, 1,2,3 John and Revelation).....and the only Apostle not martyred.....about 90 years old as he writes 1John. Highly respected/influential teacher in early Church.....known as 'The Apostle of Love'.....this feeling of love filtered through the entire Book.SO DOES THE FEELING OF TRUTH.

Today's Struggle:
Truth vs. Love

- Today, most typically in our culture, if you're a 'truth teller', you're not exuding love (and vice versa). Ie.....the truth can hurt/offend. In contrast, John was able to perfectly project both truth and love.

John/Jesus:
Best Friends

- Background note: John was loved by Jesus...was in His inner circle (with Peter and James) and was among Jesus' 'best friends'. Pastor Lee notes that thriving in life is enhanced by having a 'best friend(s)'....blessing. Relational connections so important (eg. Church small groups)....life-giving! When fellow-shiping around the love of Jesus, life is enriched... don't miss out.

Love of Jesus
= Enriched
Life

- John's invites all (then and today) to an intimate relationship with Christ. John is effectually saying in V3-4, that we (then and now) can have that same friendship/relationship with Jesus..... in which John would take great joy. Earthly friendships are great/valuable but THE friendship you absolutely need is with Jesus.

Truth: Jesus
Eternal/
God

- Back to V1-2, John references the "beginning" and is speaking of Jesus and paralleling John 1: "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God". John was very aware of his best friend's (Jesus) God nature and that He was eternal in the past/present and future (the Word revealed to us).
- Then, ".....which we have "HEAR, SEEN, LOOKED UPON, and TOUCHED.....the life was made manifest and we have seen it and testify to you and proclaim to you the eternal life....."....etc . He is speaking as a direct and most credible first hand, personal witness to the amazing unfathomable miracles and all that occurred in Jesus' public life....even Jesus' ascension into Heaven! He heard Him, saw Him, touched Him.
- Because of this very personal experience, John was able to mightily proclaim (V3)....first hand....that Jesus is God AND that we have eternal life!!! This surety extends to us today as believers and changes everything! No confusion/debate about the essentiality of the Cross....or good works....or baptism or anything else. In his day, John....at 90-100 years old, already saw the various confusions bought on by outside, false teachers and the progressively flawed information that fed on itself as generations passed info/understandings on.

John:
Eye Witness!

John Instructs
& Corrects

- The Resurrection, at the time it happened...was huge news and a certainty to witnesses and believers. If there was a way to disprove it, then was the time for that to happen....but there wasn't. The core belief about Jesus continued for 70 plus years.....many people saved....but new teachers try to bring their own flavor to the faith (eg..that Jesus wasn't fully God and fully man....that the Cross was unnecessary, etc.). These topics were pivotal to faith....John knew that and took action.
- The core faith of the early Church surrounded Jesus, His teachings, redemptive death and resurrection.....John reminded them boldly.and it hasn't changed....that's why we are a Christ First Church!
- John was profoundly changed by Jesus....he wanted ALL of the people (and us) to have that same relationship with Jesus....and to feel the LOVE of Jesus.

Jesus Is
the Core!

Acceptance
Begets
Friendship

- Our Church, rooted in our faith in Jesus.....and seeing all that it produces, exemplifies and sets us apart as a church. Pastor Lee invites those who have yet to put their faith and trust in Jesus.....to hear John's words....shed their confusion and misinformation.....hear the truth and come to Jesus.....and realize the sheer joy (V4) that John felt (and would feel if he were witnessing today).
- This faith begets friendships amongst believers and the 'ultimate friendship' with Jesus!

Joy (In Christ)
Prumps
Tribulation

- Question: What is your level of 'joy' right now??? Pastor Lee symbolically introduces us to 3 'faucets'1. pain (always on!); 2. happiness (always on); 1 and 2 may invert depending on the other. John 16:33 - "...in me you may have peace...in this world you will have tribulation, but be good cheer for I have overcome the world." So, thereby faith, Faucet 1 and 2 are superseded/blanketed by: 3. A joy faucet. Jesus says...in the midst of tribulation He will bring peace and joy.

Spread That
Joy!

- Assignment.....lets connect and share with each other (and outside the Church)....the faucets...the pain...the happiness...but most of all the joy that comes from faith in Jesus.