



"And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also." 1 John 4: 21

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**Sunday –September 24, 2023**

## **To Know Christ...**

After our sins are washed away by Jesus' blood in baptism, how will we know if we have eternal life? Will it be a feeling, or will it be by faith in what the Lord has promised? Can eternal life be seen in others? Can eternal life be seen in you? Pause now and answer these four questions for yourself first...then continue.

The book of First John begins this way ... "**What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life—<sup>2</sup> and the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us—<sup>3</sup> what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.**" What is John talking & writing about here? THE WORD OF LIFE/ETERNAL LIFE! In being a companion of Jesus, the Apostle John heard, saw, looked at, beheld, and touched the Eternal Life that the Son of God lived during His time on earth. Was Eternal Life known by a feeling? Certainly NOT! Could it be observed by others? Most Definitely! John saw it every day in Jesus' words and actions! Eternal Life is about fellowship with God!

The fourth verse of First John brings the whole thought to the forefront, "**These things we write, so that our joy may be made complete.**" What would complete their joy? That you (we) share in this same Eternal Life with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ. Who have you seen Eternal Life within during your lifetime? (Be careful so we do not deceive ourselves.) Who in your life have you seen genuinely imitate the Light of Jesus, the Truth of God, and the Love of the Lord toward one another? This is Eternal Life in Christ Jesus! Who in your life would you say, "If you have seen this individual, you have seen the Eternal Life of Jesus"? Is that you? (Consider it again; Is that you?) "**If we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another [God], and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.**" (1 John 1:7) Can the fellowship of Eternal Life as we walk in the Light be seen in our daily lives? Don't be content with the answer of "it should be"! (Read 1 John 5:13)

- Carey Terry