

The Weary World Rejoices – 1 John 1:1-5

*“We pursue being a disciple making family: surrendered to Jesus, transformed by the gospel, and **saturated in His word.**”*

The Apostle John writes most likely to the churches in Asia Minor (modern day Turkey) so that they may know they are saved. He writes around AD 80 – 95. He is wanting to help believers who have doubts know they are secure and also to warn those who believe themselves to be secure who are living a lie and not really saved. John deals head on with the evil belief of Gnosticism that is spreading among people. Let's take a look at a couple of questions.

Discussion Questions* -- *do not feel the pressure to cover them all

1. John starts off his writing pointing out the deity and the humanity of Jesus. Why would he make this point so foundational? How can one lose sight and go astray if both of these truths are not held? This is a difficult doctrine but foundational for Christianity. How have you experienced others disbelief or alternate views of this foundational truth? What does John give us to help us engage this disbelief?
2. There is a call to have a real relationship with Jesus. John pointed out his physical interaction with Jesus by hearing, seeing, and touching Him. Though that is important it is of utmost importance to have a spiritual relationship with Him and to be known by Him. This relationship should lead to joy. It is an overflowing of joy from God to us, that the creator desires relationship with the created should bring us joy. That God would do the work to bring that relationship to fruition should humble us and lead us to thankful praise. This relationship will create a community built on this relationship. “Koinonia” or fellowship derives from this relationship. How much of our “fellowship” or “groups” are based on this common divine relationship and not just personal preference? Is it possible in a church gathering to have this joy even though we may not find an affinity group with which we connect? Why or why not?
3. We see that John points out that they can't help but proclaim the good news of Christ. The desire to share the good news and the assurance of His rescue to those who believe consumed them. How should our relationship with Jesus and the rescue fuel missions? What are some ways in the past year you have seen God move in your own life where you just had to tell someone? How can our focus on our rescuing relationship spur us to share the good news of the gospel with the lost? What hinders us from sharing this same attitude as John and the other apostles? (i.e. fear, lack of care, our theology)

4. The Westminster Catechism points out that the chief end of man is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever. How can the joy John speaks of be found in our everyday lives even when we grieve, even when we hurt, or when we suffer loss? How do you find joy in difficult times?