

1st John # 16

“How Important is the Word of Life to you?”

1st John 1:1

God

designed true joy to be permanent and stabilized to provide mastery over any area of confusion, deception or discouragement in life.

God’s will for us is His expectation for those in perfect standing with Him and it begins with Him saying: “I’d like you to have the same joy that I have!”

For believers in Christ, sorrow and persecution are temporary but joy is permanent!

Everything we’re suffering now leads up to a time of complete joy that no one can take from us!

The joy that Jesus wants us to have in good or bad circumstances is the fulfilling joy He experienced in doing His Father’s will.

If we

don't have fellowship with the apostles, we can't have fellowship with Jesus Christ, so the only way to have fellowship with Christ is to believe and apply the right doctrine because the wrong doctrine means no fellowship.

The Christian life is not just behavior, it’s belief and application of that belief and that’s what’s being attacked in John’s day as well as ours.

Biblical fellowship is meditation on or occupation with Jesus Christ followed by behavioral activity that’s centered on the mind of Christ by abiding in and with Him based on His Word.

John like Paul, Peter, James and Jesus, teaches that the order of success in the Christian life is understanding our positional relationship with Jesus, followed by experiential abiding fellowship with Him which leads to sharing His joy.

The theme of 1st

John is to know and avoid the false by abiding in Jesus Christ and His truth and then we’ll experience the pure inner happiness or joy of unhindered fellowship with our Creator and Redeemer, our God!

John speaks of that which was true of Jesus Christ from the beginning.

‘Was’ is in the imperfect tense in 1st John 1:5, referring to an existing state in past time, so John is speaking of things that were true of Jesus Christ since the beginning of everything that had a beginning.

Revealed biblical truth is the

basis for all fellowship with God and for true fellowship with others.

If we depart from the original truths the Lord revealed to His choice witnesses, we’ll depart from true fellowship with God.

John’s emphasis is on life and not word in verse 1, yet many mistakenly relate 1st John 1:1 with John 1:1 where the emphasis is on the Word.

John emphasizes principles of the incarnation which relate to our experiential abiding spiritual walk with Jesus Christ.

Joy is

related to the essence or character of God who always possessed perfect happiness in

eternity past as a part of His nature.

God is not only perfect but He possesses perfect eternal joy and He's also happy with His perfect plan of grace and so, grace is the expression of His joy.

Therefore, grace is the source of our joy and joy is acquired through daily learning and applying the Word under the filling of the Holy Spirit producing the character of Christ in us resulting in much fruit!