

STUDIES IN 1 JOHN

"FELLOWSHIP WITH THE FATHER "

Key Verse 1:3: "That which we have seen and heard we are proclaiming also to you, in order that you also may be having fellowship with us; and the fellowship which is ours is with the Father and with His Son, Jesus Christ."

INTRODUCTORY MATERIAL:

1 John was written by John the apostle.

It was John the apostle whose life could be characterized before he became a Christian by the 3 WORDS:

1. ANGER,
2. AMBITION,
3. and ANTAGONISM.

Then Jesus Christ came into his life and all of this changed.

John as an author is recognized for his contribution in producing:

THE GOSPEL,

THE 3 EPISTLES,

and THE BOOK OF REVELATION.

John wrote the gospel 1st, and then while he was exiled to the isle of Patmos, he wrote the book of Revelation. It is believed that he wrote the 3 little epistles last when he returned to Ephesus from Patmos.

The gospel of John points to the PAST and records the life of the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God.

The epistles point to the PRESENT and how we might have fellowship through our relationship to Jesus Christ with God the Father.

The book of Revelation points to the FUTURE.

John's PURPOSE in writing the epistle is:

to equip Christians to have fellowship with the Father.

Some of the MAIN THEMES IN THE EPISTLE are:

MUTUAL CHRISTIAN LOVE,
 ABIDING IN CHRIST,
 HOW TO KNOW TRUTH FROM ERROR,
 THE CHILDREN OF GOD,
 THE CHRISTIAN AND THE WORLD.

You feel a real clear-cut distinction between the true and the false as you read through these chapters.

There are 7 MAIN CONTRASTS in the book:

1. LIGHT VS. DARKNESS,
2. THE FATHER VS. THE WORLD,
3. CHRIST VS. THE ANTICHRIST,
4. GOOD WORKS VS. EVIL WORKS,
5. THE HOLY SPIRIT VS. ERROR,
6. LOVE VS. PRETENSE,
7. THE GOD-BORN VS. OTHERS.

There are SEVERAL KEY WORDS in the book:

LOVE

KNOW

ABIDE

WORLD

LIFE

LIGHT

DARKNESS

In endeavoring to outline the book of 1 John there are numerous suggestions along this line. One of the simplest outlines is just 3 POINTS:

1. GOD is LIGHT,
2. GOD is LIFE,
3. GOD is LOVE.

This is a standard outline that is used by many, but it lacks in detail for the study which we are wanting to pursue. The outline for our study is going to be divided into 12 sections, and of these sections we will endeavor to grasp the truth which is here for us. I have called this series of studies:

FELLOWSHIP WITH THE FATHER.

The outline of the studies is as follows:

FELLOWSHIP WITH THE FATHER - Key verse 1:3

Study #1:Fellowship Is Restored by Jesus Christ -
1:1-4

Study #2:Fellowship Is Broken by Sin - 1:5-2:2

Study #3:Fellowship Is Nourished by Obedience - 2:3-11

Study #4:Fellowship Is Escalated by Growth - 2:12-17

Study #5:Fellowship Is being Educated by His Spirit - 2:18-27

Study #6:Fellowship Is a Rehearsal for the Future - 2:28-3:3

Study #7:Fellowship Is Apparent by Fruit - 3:4-10

Study #8:Fellowship Is Sacrificial Servanthood -
3:11-24

Study #9:Fellowship Is Preserved by Discernment -
4:1-6

Study #10:Fellowship Is Generating "Agape" Love -
4:7-21

Study #11:Fellowship Is Activated by a New Birth -
5:1-12

Study #12:Fellowship Is an Indication of Salvation - 5:13-21

Before we launch into this series of studies, let's endeavor to understand the meaning of the word "FELLOWSHIP."

The dictionary defines the word "FELLOWSHIP" as:

- "community of interest or feeling,"
- "communion as between members of the same church,"
- "friendliness,"
- "an association of persons having similar tastes, interests,"
- "a comradeship, companionship,"
- "a taking part with others,"
- "sharing,"
- "a group of people having similar tastes and interests."

Roy Laurin points out:

Fellowship is more than companion or comradeship. It means community of thought and interests, a state of unity and harmony.

INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDIES:

The problem of fellowship or feeling close to God and also close to our fellowman is universal. How often have I heard people express their true feelings in saying, "I just don't feel like God is there." Even Christians who have lived for some time in their walk with the Lord have said, "It doesn't make any difference; it feels like the heavens are brass and that I am just speaking to the silence."

It was God's original intention in the beginning that man be created for UNION and COMMUNION with Himself. It was because God longed for fellowship that man was created; and because God saw the same need in man, he created woman to come alongside as a helpmate.

God has designed us, then, for fellowship in a VERTICAL as well as a HORIZONTAL relationship.

You remember the story of MARY AND MARTHA in the gospel of Luke. Martha is deeply concerned over Mary's inactivity. Martha feels strongly that she should be busy in the kitchen. Our Lord said, "One thing is needful, Mary has chosen that good part which shall not be taken away from her."

ONE THING IS NEEDFUL.

We were not first chosen to serve Him, but rather TO BE WITH HIM. Out of this relationship there then comes a service for the glory of God.

Dr. Pentecost in his book, Design for Discipleship, says:

It is said in verse 39 that "she had a sister called Mary which also sat at Jesus' feet and heard his word." Notice the little word in this statement that we would be tempted to pass over that gives us a clue as to what our Lord is trying to convey. The little word "also."

That means that in addition to what Martha did, Mary did something else. This does not suggest that Mary was not busy in preparing for our Lord's physical needs, but in addition to what Martha did, in which Mary had a part, she added that ingredient that constituted her as an approved disciple. She sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word. Martha was occupied FOR Christ. Mary was occupied WITH Christ. That makes the difference. Involvement in service without being involved with the person who has commissioned us as his servants does not satisfy the heart of the Lord Jesus. Thus, His commendation was on Mary. He had to say, "Martha, Martha, you are careful to be a good hostess and provide for my bodily needs and you gave attention to all the details, but one thing is needful." The needful thing was not to put food on the table, the needful thing was to give attention to a person. Martha was doing FOR Him, Mary was receiving FROM Him. Although He did not come to be ministered unto but to minister, He did not come to be waited upon, He came to seek those who let Him minister to them. When Mary sat to hear words that enlightened her mind, that moved her heart, and brought her to obedience to Him, our Lord was satisfied, for He had found a true disciple.

It is so easy to get involved in service. Sometimes we feel like we can escape the close scrutiny that comes from fellowship through our sacrificial service.

There are many who are caught up in service, and they are doing a lot of things without a relationship.

When our minds are in harmony with the mind of the Master, our hearts respond to His love, and our will obeys His will, we can honestly say that we are in **FELLOWSHIP WITH THE LORD**.

Why did the Lord choose 12 DISCIPLES? We read in the scriptural record that He ordained 12 that they might be with Him and flowing out of that fellowship would be a ministry.

A group of logs burn brightly when they are burning together, but if you want the fire to go out, all you need to do is to separate them.

Guy King points out:

For us that growing acquaintance is acquired by the daily listening to his voice in his word; by the habitual speaking to him in prayer at his footstool; by the regular frequenting with him at his table; by the consistent walking with him in a life of plain, simple obedience.

It was Dr. Jack Mitchell who said:

If you can't fellowship with God's people, it's because you are out of fellowship with God.

If you are out of fellowship with God, there is 1 of 2 REASONS for it.

1. First of all, perhaps you are here and you have never received Jesus Christ as your own personal Savior. You do not know Christ. This is the whole basis for fellowship as we are going to see in this very first study.
2. Perhaps you are here and you are a Christian but you are out of fellowship. You and the Lord are not on speaking terms. Communication has been broken.

There is a BERLIN WALL that separates you from the Father because of some resistance in your life.

Someone said:

You and God feel at a distance. Guess who moved?

The reason for this can be pointed up in some areas of neglect in your life:

some sin which has not been dealt with,

some unwillingness to be obedient to truth that is taught in the word,

something that the Lord is waiting to reveal to a sensitive heart, but as yet, you have been unwilling to rely on Him to show you what is needful.

It is my prayer as we begin this series of studies together, the Holy Spirit might accomplish in each of our lives a deeper fellowship than we've ever known before, a fellowship with our Father that produces a deep fellowship with each other.

Frances Ridley Havergal has written a beautiful prayer of fellowship. I think it would be good for us to meditate upon these words as we prepare to begin this series of studies.

A PRAYER OF THE FELLOWSHIP

Master, speak! Thy servant heareth,
 Waiting for Thy gracious word.
 Longing for Thy voice that cheereth,
 Master, let it now be heard.
 I am listening, Lord, for Thee.
 What hast Thou to say to me?

Master, speak! Though least and lowest,
 Let me not unheard depart;
 Master, speak! for, oh, Thou knowest
 All the yearning of my heart,
 Knowest all its truest need,
 Speak! and make me blest indeed.

Master, Speak! and make me ready,
 When Thy voice is truly heard,
 With obedience glad and steady,
 Still to follow every word.
 I am listening, Lord, for Thee,
 Master, speak, oh speak to me.

Speak to me by name, O Master,
 Let me know it is to me,
 Speak that I may follow faster,
 With a step more firm and free,
 Where the Shepherd leads the flock,
 In the shadow of the Rock.

STUDY NUMBER ONE: Fellowship is Restored by Jesus Christ

1 John 1:1-4

Key Verse 1:2: "and the life was made visible, and we have seen [it] and we are bearing witness and we are proclaiming to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made visible to us"

TEXT:

v. 1 That which was from the beginning, that which we have heard, that which we have seen with our eyes, that which we beheld and our hands touched, concerning the Word of Life--

v. 2 and the life was made visible, and we have seen [it] and we are bearing witness and we are proclaiming to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made visible to us--

v. 3 that which we have seen and heard we are proclaiming also to you, in order that you also may be having fellowship with us; and the fellowship which is ours is with the Father and with His Son, Jesus Christ.

v. 4 And as for us, we are writing these things in order that your joy might be filled.

INTRODUCTION:

HEAVENLY FELLOWSHIP

From a bulletin: "The church dinner was like Heaven. Many we expected to see were absent."

(From InfoSearch 3.0)

SOMEBODY MISSED OUT

A small child attended church with his parents. When he knelt to say his prayers before going to bed that evening, he prayed: "Dear Lord, we had such a good time at church today. I wish You could have been there, too!"

(From InfoSearch 3.0)

HE LIVES

I serve a risen Savior.
He's in the world today;
I know that He is living,
Whatever men may say;
I see His hand of mercy,
I hear His voice of cheer,
And just the time I need Him
He's always near.

REFRAIN: He lives, He lives,
Christ Jesus lives today!
He walks with me and talks with me
along life's narrow way.
He lives, He lives, salvation to impart!
You ask me how I know He lives?
He lives within my heart.

In all the world around me
I see His loving care,
And though my heart grows weary,
I never will despair;
I know that He is leading
through all the stormy blast,
The day of His appearing
will come at last.

Rejoice, rejoice, O Christian,
 lift up your voice and sing
 Eternal hallelujahs
 to Jesus Christ the King!
 The Hope of all who seek Him,
 the Help of all who find,
 None other is so loving,
 so good and kind.

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(From InfoSearch 3.0)

I think it is vitally important for us to understand the difference between RELATIONSHIP and FELLOWSHIP.

When we come into relationship through the new birth in receiving Christ as Savior, we have an eternal relationship. He gives unto us eternal life. John tells us in:

John 10

we shall never perish, neither shall anyone take them out of my hand.

It is the Lord's desire that the #1 priority in our lives after that new birth experience is to grow in an ever deepening relationship with Him. It will be through that fellowship that our lives will become more Christlike.

(When You Can't Come Back by Dave & Jan Dravecky
with Ken Gire)

Another one of my problems was that I kept trying to keep score with God, just as I did when I was a ballplayer. To a professional baseball player, everything is tied to performance. Your batting average. Runs batted in. Number of errors. For a pitcher your ERA was the main statistic everyone looked at. The letters stand for Earned Run Average. It means the average number of runs you allow to score in nine innings. So if your ERA is three, that means on an average you let the opposing team score three runs in the course of a game. The lower the pitcher's ERA, the better chance his team has of winning. If I went nine innings and gave up a minimal number of hits, no walks, and maybe one or two runs, my manager and teammates would give me a pat on the back and acknowledge my performance. But all of a sudden, there was no scoreboard, no manager to pat me on the back and let me know how I was doing.

p. 100

(Laugh Again by Charles R. Swindoll)

A. W. Tozer pointed out rather graphically:

A real Christian is an odd number anyway. He feels supreme love for One whom he has never seen, talks familiarly every day to Someone he cannot see, expects to go to heaven on the virtue of Another, empties himself in order to be full, admits he is wrong so he can be declared right, goes down in order to get up, is strongest when he is weakest, richest when he is poorest, and happiest when he feels worst. He dies so he can live, forsakes in order to have, gives away so he can keep, sees the invisible, hears the inaudible, and knows that which passeth knowledge.

p. 160

Dr. Mitchell says:

The heart of God yearns for the fellowship of His people. We hear men speak of how we ought to have fellowship with God, and rightly so. But do we ever think that the Lord yearns and longs for our fellowship? This was why God created man, but man failed God. This was why God redeemed sinners, in order that He might have someone with whom He could have fellowship.

p. 9

In this epistle we have the wonderful truth concerning the family of God. The word "CHILDREN" is used many times. John emphasizes the fact of the fellowship in the family. It is not only fellowship one with another, but also with God the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

Paul, in writing to young Timothy, says in:

1 Timothy 2:5:

There is one God and one mediator also between God and man, and that is the man, Christ Jesus.

Jesus says of Himself, that He is "the way, the truth, and the life; no man comes to Father but by me."

It certainly is not strange then, that we would find that the restoration of a relationship to God is centered in the person of Jesus Christ. That's what we are going to see in these first four verses.

v. 1 That which was from the beginning, that which we have heard, that which we have seen with our eyes, that which we beheld and our hands touched, concerning the Word of Life--

John begins with Jesus.

I will always remember back in college when an old gentleman by the name of DADDY BIAS used to come to speak in chapel. He would speak all week on just one text of scripture, but he would start every service with the words of that great old song:

"My wonderful Lord, my wonderful Lord,
By angels and seraphs and heaven adored,
I bow at Thy shrine, my Savior divine,
my wonderful, wonderful Lord."

John does not follow the customary writing of the day in this epistle by giving the name of the author and greetings to those to whom are written. He just begins by describing Jesus Christ in this 1st verse. If it were not for Jesus Christ it would be impossible for fellowship or for a life of communion with the Father.

Romans 5:1, 2

Therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God.

The Bible Knowledge Commentary says:

The first 4 verses constitute its prologue. Here the writer affirms the tangible reality of the incarnation of Christ and announced that the goals of his letter were fellowship and joy.

"THAT WHICH WAS FROM THE BEGINNING."

In the word of God, there are 3 BEGINNINGS:

1. Genesis 1:1: "In the BEGINNING, God created the heavens and the earth."
2. John 1:1: "In the BEGINNING was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God."
3. the 3rd is here in 1 John 1:1.

J. Vernon McGee says:

"That which was from the beginning," which refers to the time Christ came into this world at Bethlehem. When He was about 30 years old, John became acquainted with Him. John and his brother James met Him in Jerusalem. Later they were with their father, mending nets, when Jesus came by and called them to follow Him. They left their father (probably a well-to-do fisherman) with the hired men and followed Jesus. Now John says, I want to tell you about Him, and he asserts the reality of the total personality of Jesus: (1) "We have heard" (through the ear-gate); (2) "we have seen" (through the eye-gate); (3) "we have looked upon" (literally, "gazed intently upon"); and (4) "our hands have handled."
p. 727

Jesus Christ is eternal.

John 8:58

Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am."

John 17:5

And now, glorify Thou Me together with Thyself, Father, with the glory which I had with Thee before the world was.

Because He is eternal, He is God.

"THAT WHICH WAS FROM THE BEGINNING, THAT WHICH WE HAVE HEARD, THAT WHICH WE HAVE SEEN WITH OUR EYES, THAT WHICH WE BEHELD AND OUR HANDS TOUCHED, CONCERNING THE WORD OF LIFE."

In these next statements, we see that this eternal God took on human flesh, in the person of Jesus Christ.

There are 3 SENSES that are spoken of here:

1. HEARING,
2. SEEING,
3. FEELING.

John 1:14:

And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us."

Wonder of wonders that God in Christ took on human flesh to accomplish in that action a restoration of fellowship with the Father.

Paul describes the reason in:

Philippians 2:7, 8

And he took upon him the form of a servant and was made in the likeness of men. And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

He was "HEARD":

on the Mount when he said, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you."

"I give unto them eternal life and they shall never perish!"

"Father, if it be possible let this cup pass from me, nevertheless, not my will, but yours be done."

"I am the resurrection and the life, he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live."

He was "HEARD" commanding the wind and the waves with authority when he said, "Peace, be still," and they obeyed Him.

He was "HEARD" saying, "'Lazarus, come forth,' and the dead came forth alive."

He was "HEARD" saying, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do."

He was "SEEN" confounding the theologians of the day in the temple when only twelve.

He was "SEEN" and recognized as the Lamb of God by John the Baptist at the Jordan river.

He was "SEEN" with an outcast woman by the well.

He was "SEEN" walking on the water.

He was "SEEN" hanging on a cross.

He was "SEEN" in the upper room and on the shores of Galilee in a resurrected body.

He was "SEEN" by two distraught disciples while he walked with them on the road to Emmaus.

He was "TOUCHED" by the hand of Peter as he was sinking in the waves and prayed, "Lord save me."

He was "TOUCHED" by Thomas. At the invitation of the Lord, "Reach hither your finger and put it in the prints of the nails, and reach hither your hand and place it in my side."

He was "TOUCHED" by John the author as he leaned upon his breast at the Last Supper.

He was "TOUCHED" by the woman with an issue of blood who was immediately made well.

Mitchell says:

The Epistle of John starts with the Incarnate Word of God. "That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen. . ." This was the beginning of our Lord's life among men, as a Man in the midst of men. This is comparable to the fourteenth verse and the first chapter of the Gospel of John: "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father), full of grace and truth." Therefore, both the Gospel and the Epistle of John give to us the revelation of the Incarnate Son of God.
p. 22

Blaiklock says:

This strong affirmation is without a doubt that which makes John's letter so relevant today with the current tampering with the truth of the historic Jesus, who was also the Christ of God. We have "heard" Him, he says, remembering a loved familiar voice. We have seen Him "with our eyes." And lest this is not enough he adds the stronger, more emotive verb of the prologue. We "beheld His glory." Then he remembers Thomas, in a scene burned on his mind. The disciples touched, handled, felt him, no phantom as the foolish Docetists said, but flesh and bone. He lived, God made flesh, real, real, real.
p. 18

1 Samuel 3:9, 10

So Eli told Samuel, "Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. The Lord came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!"

Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

Isaiah 30:21

Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it."

He is "HEARD" today speaking to us through His word.

He is "TOUCHED" today through our prayers.

He is "SEEN" in our lives as we become more and more Christlike.

He is "HEARD" by others as we in turn speak His word.

Luke 24:39

See My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself; touch Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.

Acts 17:27

that they should seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us;

Our 1st verse concludes with the words:

"CONCERNING THE WORD OF LIFE."

The Bible Knowledge Commentary says:

Thus John was saying that his subject matter in this epistle deals with the original and well-attested verities that concern the message about life, that is, about God's Son who is Life.

Mitchell says:

I want you to know that He can be as real to you as He was to His disciples. My friend, you may not know much about doctrine, but if you have received the Saviour, you can have a real experience with God, just as these men did. You can experience His presence. You can rejoice in His fellowship. You can revel in His strength and power and can have full joy in Him. You can know His tenderness, His love, His comfort.
p. 23

v. 2 and the life was made visible, and we have seen [it]
and we are bearing witness and we are proclaiming to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made visible to us--

"THE LIFE," "THE LIFE," "THE LIFE."

It is "the Word of life" in verse 1,

and now it is "THE LIFE" manifested and the eternal life that is mentioned here in verse 2.

Mitchell says:

Why did Jesus Christ become manifest in the flesh? So that you might have life: real life, eternal life, satisfying life, resurrection life! Where can this life be found? It can be found in Jesus Christ, God's Son, the Incarnate Word of God. I plead with your heart today, using the words of our Saviour when He said, "Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest" (Matt. 11:28). Again, "Him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out" (John 6:37).
p. 26

In verse 1 we have a majestic picture of Jesus Christ--God coming in human flesh. What does He come to bring?

In verse 2 we see that the life of Jesus Christ "WAS MADE VISIBLE" and "WE HAVE SEEN IT" and now John says:

"WE ARE BEARING WITNESS, AND WE ARE PROCLAIMING TO YOU THE ETERNAL LIFE."

Before we can have fellowship we must have "LIFE" through relationship.

Before a man can have fellowship with the Father he must have "LIFE" residing within him. This "ETERNAL LIFE" is the Son Jesus Christ.

Once Jesus Christ becomes my personal possession by faith, I then have eternal life which begins instantaneously in fellowship with the Father.

If you do not have Jesus Christ residing within you, you do not have eternal life. This is the biblical pattern for preparing oneself for eternity.

I was blind but now I see.
 I was lost and have been found.
 I was far off and now I am near.
 I was under God's wrath and now I am in His favor.
 I was His enemy and now I am His son.

2 Timothy 1:12

For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.

John goes on to say that this "ETERNAL LIFE":

"WAS WITH THE FATHER AND WAS MADE VISIBLE TO US."

This is our KEY VERSE to Study #1:

"Fellowship Is Restored by Jesus Christ."

Genesis 3:8-10

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?" He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."

Blaiklock says:

Evil divides, scatters, shatters the fellowship of man with man. C. S. Lewis' imaginative picture in the fantasy of The Great Divorce, envisages the more demonic of the damned in eternal and accelerating flight from all others. In the "grey town" they move apart, disintegrate, hate. Christ draws together, unites, fuses each with each. Passions melt. The world sweetens. Would God the whole world did. It could "in Christ." That would be joy.
p. 19

Amos 3:3

Do two walk together
unless they have agreed to do so?

John 9:25

He therefore answered, "Whether He is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I do know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see."

Acts 4:19, 20

But Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to give heed to you rather than to God, you be the judge; for we cannot stop speaking what we have seen and heard."

Before a holy God can have fellowship with sinful man, something must be done about the sin problem.

That sin problem was taken care of on Calvary's cross when Jesus Christ was made sin for us.

Fellowship was broken when the Father turned His back upon the Son. The orphan cry of the Son came from the cross: "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?"

Now Jesus Christ offers:

REDEMPTION,

RESTORATION,

and RELATIONSHIP.

Relationship must precede fellowship.

The question we are asking ourselves in this very 1st study is:

Have we established a basis for fellowship by coming to know Jesus Christ as Savior?

v. 3 that which we have seen and heard we are proclaiming also to you, in order that you also may be having fellowship with us; and the fellowship which is ours is with the Father and with His Son, Jesus Christ.

This is the 3rd time that the words "WE HAVE SEEN" have occurred in the text:

1. It was back in verse 1 when John says:

"WE HAVE SEEN WITH OUR EYES,"

2. in verse 2:

"AND THE LIFE WAS MADE VISIBLE, AND WE HAVE SEEN [IT],"

3. and now here it is again in verse 3:

"THAT WHICH WE HAVE SEEN AND HEARD WE ARE PROCLAIMING ALSO TO YOU."

Whereas in verse 1 we have a majestic picture of Jesus Christ God's son,

in verse 2 He has come to bring eternal life,

and in verse 3 we see issuing from that relationship will come a fellowship with the Father and with the Son Jesus Christ that will also issue in a fellowship with each other in the body of Christ.

Love is like the spokes of a wheel: when you get close to the axle you get close to each other.

"Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love."

Mitchell reminds us that:

Sin did not keep God from the appointment, but it did keep Adam from it. We have an appointment with God, and sin keeps us from meeting with God.

Mitchell says further:

The great yearning of the heart of God is that we should have fellowship with Him. The purpose of redemption is not just to free us from sin nor simply to get us to heaven, but rather to fit us for eternal, unbroken, wonderful, personal, intimate fellowship with the living God Himself. This is beyond all human comprehension. To accomplish this He sent His Son into the human family for the purpose of redeeming out of the human family those men and women with whom He can have fellowship.

Guy King says:

How amazing it is that, being what we are, we receive a welcome into fellowship with Him, being what He is--the atom consorting with the Almighty; the Holy One and the unholy conversing together through the appointed media of Bible and Prayer. Such godly friendship has always been open to those who, whatever their circumstances, have been willing to pay the price of utter fidelity to Him. In a difficult age "Enoch walked with God", Genesis v. 22; in a degenerate era Noah did the same, Genesis vi. 9. A like privilege is available to us--on the same terms!

p. 16

Van Gorder says:

The word "fellowship" is from a Greek word which means, "a relationship between individuals involving a common interest, and a mutual participation in that interest." That God and the believer could have anything in common is almost unfathomable! Yet we have been made partakers of the divine nature. This necessarily means that we will love holiness and hate sin, and we will strive to please Him in all we do.

Our fellowship with the Father and with His Son also makes possible a fellowship with all believers. The apostle John said, "that ye also may have fellowship with us." Paul wrote, "God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord" (1 Corinthians 1:9). You and I as believers have been called into a joint participation with God's Son. This unique relationship is shared by all of God's children. Jesus is the "firstborn among many brethren," and we are "joint heirs with Christ."

pp. 17-18

J. Vernon McGee says:

Before we get into that, let me say a word about the word "fellowship." Fellowship is the Greek word koinonia, and it means "having in common" or "sharing with." Christian fellowship means sharing the things of Christ. To do this we must know the Lord Jesus, not only know about Him, but know Him as our personal Savior.

The Bible Knowledge Commentary says:

The readers were already saved, but they needed this letter if they were to enjoy real fellowship with the apostolic circle to which the author belonged.

The purpose in proclaiming these things which he has seen and heard is stated in the next phrase:

"IN ORDER THAT YOU ALSO MAY BE HAVING FELLOWSHIP WITH US."

One of the great fundamental truths of the Christian faith is that we are saved not for isolation but for fellowship. A community whose nature will make for joy and pleasure in all who really belong.

Psalm 16:11b

in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

We really do need each other. We are not to be "forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is." We are to be "bearing one another's burdens, and so fulfilling the law of Christ."

Guy King points out:

Our outlook on the level is often so restricted. The higher we climb, the wider the vista. How true this is of the spiritual scene. To live in the earthlies or in the worldlies is to get a very poor and often faulty view of things. But in the heavenlies, we see our circumstances, our road, our problems, our future from God's point of view. Let us try to get out of the habit of looking at things from the low plane of this world and let us make our own that word of Song of Solomon 4:8: "Look from the top." How illuminating and how enheartening it would be if we adopted that as the customary attitude of our lives.

God has designed fellowship:

- 1.with Himself so that we can learn to see things from His point of view.
- 2.and with each other so that we might grow through these relationships.

Life in verse 2 issues in fellowship on the horizontal level as well as on the vertical here in verse 3.

In the last phrase of verse 3 we read:

"AND THE FELLOWSHIP WHICH IS OURS IS WITH THE FATHER AND WITH HIS SON, JESUS CHRIST."

We have the wonderful privilege of becoming intimate with the Infinite and to have fellowship with the family.

(Confidence: How to Succeed at Being Yourself
by Alan Loy McGinnis)

"Can you cure loneliness?" Charlie Brown asked his nemesis, Lucy, who was lounging behind her booth that said, "Psychiatrist, 5 [cents]."

"I can cure anything," she assured him.

"Can you cure deep-down, bottom-of-the-well, black-forever loneliness?"

"All for the same nickel?" she asked.

Some of us in the counseling business feel a little like Lucy at times. Our clients have deep-seated and long-standing problems, and simple answers will not suffice.

p. 30

(The God-Players by Earl Jabay)

We sent God into exile. We then made our fellows either opponents or stepping stones. In the case of the first, we knocked people down; in the second instance, we built people up; but in either case, it was always with our self-elevation in mind. Inevitably the consequence, however, was loneliness.

p. 122

(The Body by Charles Colson with Ellen Santilli Vaughn)

Or, as Charlie Chaplin remarked after he was told there was no life on Mars, "I feel lonely."

p. 161

(The Making of a Christian Leader by Ted W. Engstrom)

Here are some suggestions to help you in communication:

1. Stop talking!

You cannot listen if you are talking.

Polonius (Hamlet) "Give every man thine ear, but few thy voice."

2. Put the talker at ease.

Help him feel that he is free to talk.

This is often called a "permissive environment."

3. Show him that you want to listen.

Look and act interested. Do not read your mail while he talks.

Listen to understand rather than to reply.

4. Remove distractions.

Don't doodle, tap, or shuffle papers.

Will it be quieter if you shut the door?

5. Empathize with him.

Try to put yourself in his place so that you can see his point of view.

6. Be patient.

Allow plenty of time. Do not interrupt him.

Don't start for the door or walk away.

7. Hold your temper.

An angry man gets the wrong meaning from words.

8. Go easy on argument and criticism.

This puts him on the defensive. He may "clam up" or get angry. Do not argue: even if you win, you lose.

9. Ask questions.

This encourages him and shows you are listening.

It helps to develop points further.

10. Stop talking!

This is first and last, because all other commandments depend on it. You just can't do a good listening job while you are talking.

(Living by the Book by Howard G. Hendricks
& William D. Hendricks)

Many Christians are like poor photographs--overexposed and underdeveloped. They've had plenty of input from the Word of God, but what difference has it made in their lives? Spiritual growth is a commitment to change. And yet, the human heart resists nothing as strongly as it resists change. We will do anything to avoid it.
p. 292

The psalmist repeats "His love endures forever" no less than twenty-six times in this psalm. Why? Did he have nothing else to say? No, he was emphasizing the fact that God's love endures forever. By the time you get through the psalm, you know the bottom line: "His love endures forever." In effect, the psalmist is saying, "What else do you need to know?"
p. 149

Shortly after I became a Christian, someone wrote in the flyleaf of my Bible these words: "This book will keep you from sin, or sin will keep you from this book." That was true then, and it's still true today. Rusty Bibles always lead to dirty lives. In fact, you are either in the Word and the Word is conforming you to the image of Jesus Christ, or you are in the world and the world is squeezing you into its mold.
p. 9

(The Existence and Attributes of God by Stephen Charnock)

When you beg of him the melting of your rocky hearts, the dashing in pieces your strong corruptions, the drawing his beautiful image in your soul, the quickening your dead hearts, and reviving your drooping spirits, and supplying your spiritual wants, consider him as one 'able to do abundantly,' not only 'above what you can ask,' but 'above what you can think,' Eph. iii. 20.
p. 444

Mitchell says:

Such fellowship has ever been the desire of the Lord from the beginning. Even our Lord expressed it to His disciples in John 15:15, "Henceforth, I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his Lord doeth; but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father, I have made known unto you." This is not only relationship, but intimacy of fellowship. It is the great desire of the heart of God that we should know something of how He wants our fellowship.

This is the heartbeat of the Epistles of John. In chapter 1:3-4, "Truly our fellowship (partnership) is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full."

May our Lord by His Spirit, through His Word make this very real to you, personally and individually, and may He bring you unto Himself in such sweet fellowship. What does He desire? Our fellowship.

Psalm 27:4

One thing I ask of the Lord,
 this is what I seek:
 that I may dwell in the house of the Lord
 all the days of my life,
 to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord
 and to seek him in his temple.

Psalm 27:8

My heart says of you, "Seek his face!"
 Your face, Lord, I will seek.

JUST A CLOSER WALK WITH THEE

I am weak but Thou art strong;
 Jesus, keep me from all wrong;
 I'll be satisfied as long
 As I walk, let me walk close to Thee.

REFRAIN:

Just a closer walk with Thee,
 Grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
 Daily, walking close to Thee,
 Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

Through this world of toil and snares,
 If I falter, Lord, who cares?
 Who with me my burden shares?
 None but Thee, dear Lord, none but Thee.

When my feeble life is o'er,
 Time for me will be no more;
 Guide me gently, safely o'er
 To Thy kingdom shore, to Thy shore.

(From InfoSearch 3.0)

v. 4 And as for us, we are writing these things in order
 that your joy might be filled.

Let's see the progression in these verses now:

In verse 1 we have presented to us the Person of Jesus Christ--God in human flesh.

He brings eternal life through a relationship to Him in verse 2.

In verse 3, this eternal life issues in fellowship with God the Father and with others.

And in verse 4 this fellowship brings us joy.

THE PERSON OF CHRIST + ETERNAL LIFE + FELLOWSHIP = JOY.

John 15:11

These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may be in you, and that your joy

may be made full.

Acts 8:39b

but went on his way rejoicing.

2 Corinthians 6:10

as sorrowful yet always rejoicing, as poor yet making many rich, as having nothing yet possessing all things.

Philippians 4:4

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!

This is a "JOY" that is not dependent on outward circumstances, but is a fruit of the Spirit and a product of fellowship with the Father.

The chorus says it so well:

"If you want joy, real joy, wonderful joy,
Let Jesus come into your heart."

"Joy is the evidence that the King is in residence."

Who can measure the joy that comes from right relationships?

- 1.a right relationship to God
- 2.a right relationship with each other.

Bishop in his book, The Spirit of Christ in Human Relationships, tells this story:

A young farmer with a vengeful spirit had a very mean method of gratifying his spite. If displeased with a neighbor, he would seek to get even by getting a dead cat and throwing it into the neighbor's well. On occasion he developed a grudge towards a man who lived at quite a distance. As was his usual practice, he killed a cat and went one night to the distant place to throw it into the man's well; but lo, as soon as he threw the cat in, it was washed out by the force of the overflowing water. This was an artesian well. One whose heart is filled with the joy of the Lord is like that. Satan may attempt to inject bitterness, resentment, and other uncleanness of spirit, but the overflowing joy will keep the heart

pure, the spirit sweet and clean.

When we are out of fellowship with the Lord, the 1st thing to go is our joy. We can grieve the Holy Spirit by sin; we can quench the Holy Spirit by resisting Him. We literally turn off the faucet and the joy of the Lord goes.

Have you ever thought that possibly the absence of joy in your life is an indication that you are out of fellowship with the Father and your fellow man? It is impossible for you to be in fellowship with the Father and out of fellowship with your fellow man who also loves Jesus Christ.

Psalm 51:10-12

Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me from your presence
or take your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

John 16:24

Until now you have asked for nothing in My name; ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be made full.

John 17:13

But now I come to Thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy made full in themselves.

1 Peter 1:8

and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,

Psalm 16:11

You have made known to me the path of life;
you will fill me with joy in your presence,
with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

"AND AS FOR US, WE ARE WRITING THESE THINGS IN ORDER THAT YOUR JOY MIGHT BE FILLED."

Like a ship's sail is filled out by the wind, so the believer filled with the Spirit manifests it in joy.

Ephesians 5:18

And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit,

Acts 4:31

And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak the word of God with boldness.

Acts 5:40, 41

And they took his advice; and after calling the apostles in, they flogged them and ordered them to speak no more in the name of Jesus, and then released them. So they went on their way from the presence of the Council, rejoicing that they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for His name.

3 John 4

I have no greater joy than this, to hear of my children walking in the truth.

(Stories I Couldn't Tell While I Was a Pastor
by Bruce McIver)

My late friend, Grady Nutt, often said, "Laughter is the hand of God on the shoulder of a troubled world." It is, Grady; it really is.
p. 2

(Better Homes and Jungles. Renamed Family Survival in the American Jungle by Steve Farrar)

When Sally O'Malley of County Clare won the Irish Sweepstakes, she decided to treat herself to some of the finer things in life. "I've nivver had a milk bath," she told her milkman one morning. "Wouldja be bringin' me ninety-six quarts o' milk tomorrow?" "Whattiver ye want, mum," answered the milkman. "Will that be pasteurized?" "No," said she. "Up to me chest will do."
p. 158

(Prop Up the Leanin' Side by Margaret Jensen)

During my sister Doris's visit to our beautiful city by the sea, we made a happy decision to take the girls out to lunch. Sarah, then 8, and Kathryn, 6, dressed up, even to lace socks and pocketbooks dangling from their shoulders. This day they were young ladies going out with Grammy and Aunt Doris.

We laughed and talked, enjoying our lunch. For a while Doris and I got involved in adult conversation, but then our attention was drawn to the girls. They looked at each other, giggled, and again became quiet. Without a word their eyes met and they started giggling again. They couldn't stop. We chuckled to ourselves just watching them.

Suddenly Kathryn threw up her hands and with the abandonment of joy exploded, "Oh, it's so fun to be a child!"

Later that night I found myself before a staid, reserved church group. The message I had prepared seemed to lack something and then it came to me: It is pure joy to be a child! I told the story of our lunch giggles and moved into my message with the reminder that joy is the mark of the child of God.

Jesus came that our joy might be full, and we are reminded that the joy of the Lord is our strength. How often we confuse happiness with joy. Happiness depends on happenings that are pleasant. For the obedient child of God, there can be joy and peace in the midst of difficult circumstances. Joy is of the spirit.

How the children must have loved Jesus--I can almost hear them laughing and saying, "It's so fun to be a child." He must have laughed with them for He sometimes disregarded the concern of His disciples, and He even encouraged those disciples to become like children.

Older people and children can laugh and giggle together, but we older ones also can let the passing of the years remind us to sometimes become children ourselves again.

We can cut away the sham and pretense, laugh at squirrels scurrying with their nuts, watch noisy bluejays squabble over a crust of bread, cheer the cat who outwitted the dog by climbing a tree, and enjoy the frantic efforts of the frustrated canine hunter. We know that golden autumn leaves aren't for raking alone but also for play. Empty cardboard boxes become mighty fortresses. A magnolia tree becomes a house.

"Grammy, could I have my lunch up here?" asked 4-year-old Kathryn from her "house" in the magnolia tree.

When I was younger I probably would have said, "That's ridiculous!" Now I laugh and say, "Sounds great to me." A tray is hoisted up and the crusts fall to the birds.

"Maybe I could take my nap up here?" she asks next.

"I'm afraid you'll fall out, but we'll have a party later," I decide.

"I hate naps! Only Grammy likes naps." How true that one is!

So when life becomes competitive, the market place seems like a jungle, and I need a little proppin' up, I'll try to stop long enough to hear two joyful little girls giggling, "It's so fun to be a child!" I may even take one of them someplace.

pp. 77-79

(Laugh Again by Charles R. Swindoll)

It was G. K. Chesterton who wrote:

I am all in favor of Laughing. Laughter has something in it in common with the ancient winds of faith and inspiration; it unfreezes pride and unwinds secrecy; it makes men forget themselves in the presence of something greater than themselves; something (as the common phrase goes about a joke) that they cannot resist.

p. 170

There is an old gospel song I seldom hear anymore. Its chorus states what I'm trying to communicate:

Holy, holy, is what the angels sing,
 And I expect to help them make the courts of heaven ring;
 But when I sing redemption's story, they will fold their wings,
 For angels never felt the joys that our salvation brings.

When we acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord and begin to release our cares, our disappointments, and our heartaches to Him, we not only keep our equilibrium, we also keep our sense of humor. Joys multiply when we have Someone to bear our burdens.
 pp. 87-88

(Pack up Your Gloomees in a Great Big Box, Then Sit on the Lid and laugh! by Barbara Johnson)

A good laugh can lift your spirits when you're tired and a little cranky. Recently, my good friend, Lynda, and I were driving to Yucaipa, California, about ninety miles away, for a weekend conference at a Baptist church. I had gotten up feeling a little weary that morning and was thinking how much fun it would be to just have a weekend off for a change, when Lynda asked me, "Do you ever get tired of spreading your joy and sharing your story?"

"Well, yes, I sure do," I admitted. "Sometimes I think I can't go over the SAME story, the SAME events, the SAME details, ONE MORE TIME. In fact, I'm so tired of spreading joy I just wish I could stay home and never have to tell my story again."

As we turned off the freeway onto the road to Yucaipa, Lynda and I discussed what it was like to have the symptoms of burnout. I felt as if I had been experiencing just about ALL of them. Then, as we rounded a curve, a huge highway billboard loomed up on the right-hand side and on it were printed only three words in gigantic letters about twenty feet high:

SPREAD YOUR JOY!

In smaller letters near the bottom of the sign was the notation, "Paid for by First Baptist Church, Yucaipa"--the very place where I was going to speak! Talk about SOMEONE sending me a message! We both burst out laughing simultaneously and then drove on down the road to the church where we had one of the best conferences ever.

My joy was abundant that day and the results were 110 percent. Many women came forward for prayer, and several decisions were made to come to the Lord. Some might say the sign appeared when it did by pure coincidence; but isn't it strange how "coincidences" happen? Afterward, I realized again that in spreading my joy, God had restored ME. MY JOY WAS FULL! As soon as I had a moment to myself, I told God I was sorry for my petulant outburst and I thanked Him for His reminder that as we pour out ourselves for others we ourselves are renewed!

I found a little poem called "Boomerang" that sums up my "spread your joy!" experience perfectly:

When a bit of sunshine hits ye,
After passing of a cloud,
When a fit of laughter gits ye,
An' yer spine is feelin' proud.
Don't fergit to up and fling it
At a soul that's feelin' blue,
For the minute that ye sling it,
It's a boomerang to you!

pp. 196-97

JESUS CHRIST, verse 1

+ ETERNAL LIFE, verse 2

+ FELLOWSHIP, verse 3

= JOY, verse 4.

Yes, "FELLOWSHIP IS RESTORED BY JESUS CHRIST."

CONCLUSION:

What are some of the lessons that we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: Relationship must precede fellowship with a holy God.

LESSON #2: It is possible to be in relationship and out of fellowship.

LESSON #3: Fellowship with God is restored by Jesus Christ.

LESSON #4: When John speaks of Jesus Christ, he speaks of someone he has heard, he has seen, and he has touched.

LESSON #5: The longing of God's heart is for fellowship with us.

LESSON #6: God kept His appointment with Adam and Eve in the garden even after their sin.

LESSON #7: Jesus Christ + eternal life + fellowship = joy.

LESSON #8: Joy is the evidence that a person is in relationship and in fellowship with his heavenly Father.

My questions to you at the conclusion of this study are:

Have you had an experience of receiving Jesus Christ and life eternal? And from that experience does there now flow fellowship with the Father and the Son and others of like precious faith issuing into a well of joy flooding into your life?

ARE WE ACCEPTABLE TO GOD?

To be sure that you are right with God, ask yourself these questions: 1) Is your conversion true and acceptable to God? 2) Are you following the calling God extended to you? 3) Is your life acceptable, including prayer and daily devotional time? 4) Are your message and your delivery acceptable? 5) Do you have compassion for others? 6) Are your relationships with other Christians acceptable? God asks us in Scripture to ". . . love one another . . . serve one another . . . be patient with each other . . . be courteous to one another . . . set an example to each other . . . forgive one another . . . not to judge each other . . . be subject one to another . . . edify one another . . . pray for one another."

"Are we acceptable to God?" by Billy Graham. Decision, Jul/Aug 1989. Pages 1-3.

(From InfoSearch 3.0)

Charles Wesley says it well in his great hymn:

"And Can it Be That I Should Gain?"

Long my imprisoned spirit lay
 Fast bound in sin and nature's night;
 Thine eye diffused a quick'ning ray,
 I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
 My chains fell off, my heart was free;
 I rose, went forth and followed Thee.

Amazing love! How can it be
 That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me.

(The New Church Hymnal, 1976, Lexicon Music, Inc., #270)

(The Wounded Healer: Ministry in Contemporary Society
 by Henri J. M. Nouwen)

The painful irony is that the minister, who wants to touch the center of men's lives, finds himself on the periphery, often pleading in vain for admission. He never seems to be where the action is, where the plans are made and the strategies discussed. He always seems to arrive at the wrong places at the wrong times with the wrong people, outside the walls of the city when the feast is over, with a few crying women.

A few years ago, when I was chaplain of the Holland-America line, I was standing on the bridge of a huge Dutch ocean liner which was trying to find its way through a thick fog into the port of Rotterdam. The fog was so thick, in fact, that the steersman could not even see the bow of the ship. The captain, carefully listening to a radar station operator who was explaining his position between other ships, walked nervously up and down the bridge and shouted his orders to the steersman. When he suddenly stumbled over me, he blurted out: "[Blank, blank], Father, get out of my way." But when I was ready to run away, filled with feelings of incompetence and guilt, he came back and said: "Why don't you just stay around. This might be the only time I really need you."

p. 86

(Victory through Surrender by E. Stanley Jones)

A man and his wife were at cross-purposes. Each was standing on his or her own rights. She felt she had a right to stay in bed in the mornings and let her husband get his own breakfast. So she stood on that right, or rather, she lay on it. She came to one of our Ashrams and made her surrender to Christ and was converted. When she asked: "What shall I do when I get home?" she was told that she should go and tell her husband that she was the cause of all their troubles. "Oh," she replied, "I couldn't do that! That is the point at issue. I say he is the cause and he says I am." "Well," we said, "you go and pray about it." She went home and got up the next morning and prepared her husband's breakfast, which intrigued him. But he couldn't help his usual dig: "Well, Miss High and Mighty, what did you learn at the Ashram?" She replied: "I learned that I've been the cause of all our troubles." She got up from her chair, came around beside him and knelt, folded her hands and said: "Please forgive me. I'm the cause of all our troubles." Telling about it afterwards she said: "He came near upsetting the table to get down on his knees beside me. He blurted out, 'You're not the cause of all our troubles--I am.'" There they met each other--and God. Each surrendered to God, then they surrendered to each other and were free! Now that couple, instead of pecking at each other, is one. They are now a team going out and witnessing to others as to what surrender to Christ can mean, and they are winning many to the Way. They both found victory through surrender.

Whether it is a once-for-all surrender in a life crisis or a day-by-day surrender of the problems of life as they come up, the way out is--victory through surrender.
pp. 127-28

(Visionary Leadership: Creating a Compelling Sense of Direction for Your Organization
by Burt Nanus)

There is an old Chinese proverb that says that unless you change direction, you are likely to arrive at where you are headed.
p. 3

As the wise old proverb of Italian sailors stated, "Who will not be ruled by the rudder must be ruled by the rock."
pp. 18-19

As Yogi Berra is reported to have said, "If you don't know where you're going, you might end up someplace else."
p. 30

(The Existence and Attributes of God by Stephen Charnock)

He spared not him, that he might spare us; refused not to strike him, that he might be well pleased with us; drenched his sword in the blood of his Son, that it might not for ever be wet with ours, but that his goodness might for ever triumph in our salvation. He was willing to have his Son made man, and die, rather than man should perish, who had delighted to ruin himself.

p. 581

IN THE GARDEN

I come to the garden alone,
While the dew is still on the roses;
And the voice I hear, falling on my ear,
The Son of God discloses.

REFRAIN:

And He walks with me, and He talks with me,
And He tells me I am His own.
And the joy we share as we tarry there
None other has ever known.

He speaks, and the sound of His voice
Is so sweet the birds hush their singing;
And the melody that He gave to me
Within my heart is ringing.

I'd stay in the garden with Him
Tho the night around me be falling;
But He bids me go--thru the voice of woe,
His voice to me is calling.

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(From InfoSearch 3.0)

STUDY #1 - 1 John 1:1-4

What are some of the lessons that we can learn from this particular study?

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