

Liberation Part 3

1 John 4:9-10

9 In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. 10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

1 John 4:9, 10

Christmas is almost here – hopefully, shopping is all done.

A) Even with the ease of online shopping – some years trying to figure out what to get loved one's for Christmas – can be challenging

B) Especially the older that they get.

C) Well I read of one grandpa who was having that struggle – so he decided to just send his loved ones cards – with a check inside.

So he found a nice card – wrote a nice message – which included this message - "Buy your own present!" and mailed them off early.

A) Well Christmas came and went and he enjoyed all of the family festivities of the Christmas season.

B) But he noticed that he had received very few cards in return.

1) Puzzled over this, he went into his study, intending to write a couple of his relatives and ask what had happened.

C) It was then, as he cleared off his cluttered desk that he got his answer.

1) Under a stack of papers, he was horrified to find the gift checks which he had forgotten to enclose with the cards.

D) Well on the very First Christmas ever – God didn't forget the gift –

1) He gave the gift that was the perfect gift – solve man's greatest need.

E) He gave his son! - But Christmas has been so commercialized –

1) that sometimes in the midst of all of the Christmas parties, shopping, stress, we miss the point of it all.

December 17, 1903, was an important day in American history –

A) There were brothers from Dayton, Ohio, who found their way to the sand dunes of Kitty Hawk, North Carolina,

B) They were there to try out their "heavier than air machine," they called it.

C) They owned a bicycle shop in Ohio, and they put together this contraption because they had a dream that man could fly.

1) And on that date they succeeded with the very first flight as a part of their dream.

D) They flew—get this—for a long time, twelve seconds.

1) That was the airplane ride, twelve seconds, a hundred and twenty feet, that was it.

But it was so exciting that they sent a wire back to their sister Katharine in Dayton, Ohio, and the wire said: "We have actually flown one hundred and twenty feet."

A) And then the next line says, "We will be home for Christmas."

B) Well, Katharine got the wire, ran down to the newspaper, showed it to the editor, supposing he would be as excited as she was.

1) This was historic, this was monumental, and he looked at the wire and said, "Oh, how nice, the boys will be home for Christmas."

What? He just overlooked the most historic news of that time.

A) Mankind had flown; it was the news of the century, and he didn't pick up on it.

B) You know, that happens every year. Every year at Christmas time people overlook the real meaning of Christmas.

1) They overshadow the news of the century, the news of all history: that Jesus Christ, God's Son, was born into this world to atone for our sins.

C) There was a family who loved to go out every year at this season and go look at all the Christmas displays in town.

D)And there was always this church who had, the best nativity set ever.

This year was no different – and as the family stood there admiring all the life like characters, they all remarked, "Isn't that beautiful?"

A)Isn't that magnificent? Isn't that awesome? Look at the shepherds. Look at the wise men."

B)It was then that little granddaughter said, "Well, yeah, it's nice, Grandma, but why is Jesus the same size this year as he was last year?"

1)And then she gave the very astute follow up question: "When will Jesus grow up?"

Here's my question: When will Jesus grow bigger in our thinking, in our hearts as believers?

A)That's why this year for our Christmas series – we decided to take a little different look at the Christmas story.

B)Not at mangers and shepherds and angels and wise men with gold, frankincense, and myrrh, we've done all that in years past.

C)This year our studies have been in the book of 1 John – where we have noted that John used a significant word to describe why Jesus came – **Manifested!**

Manifested = to make visible, realized, to expose

A)To put on display to make clear or evident to the eye or the understanding; show plainly:

B)to prove; put beyond doubt or question:

God's love was manifested toward us –

A)In this the love of God was put on display, proven, beyond a shadow of doubt that He sent his only begotten son into the world

B)We called this series – Liberation because – on that first Christmas morning – **Jesus entered a world that was in a war zone.**

C)The forces of darkness – were wreaking havoc over the world

D)Jesus entered into this world on a seek and destroy mission, a rescue mission

1)and a mission to impart life – to the world

We saw the seek and destroy aspect of his mission in our first study

A)1 John 3:8 **Jesus was manifested** - To destroy the works of the devil.

B)Jesus was manifested - To destroy the stronghold the devil held over mankind for 1,000's of years

C)In our second study last week we saw the rescue aspect of the mission.

1)1 John 3:5 **Jesus was manifested to take away ours sins.**

D)Jesus rescued us from the penalty of our sins by taking the penalty for our sin upon himself
10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

E)Propitiation = satisfaction – Satisfied the requirement – salvation

He also rescued us from Sins presence – forgiven and forgotten

A)Sins power – freedom

B)Today in our text we come to the final aspect of the rescue mission when we read that Jesus was manifested –

1)**He sent Jesus into the World that we might live through him**

2) **Jesus was manifested to impart life to us**

C)Jesus was manifested to reveal to what life is really about and a new way to live!

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life—

2 the life **was manifested**, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and **was manifested to us**—3 that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. 4 And these things we write to you that your joy may be full. 1 John 1:1-4

Notice that John refers to Jesus as the Word of Life!

A) I love that description

On that fateful day September 11, 2001, when one of those terrorist planes crashed into the Pentagon, Officer Isaac Ho'opi'i was nearby, he quickly rushed to the scene.

Upon arrival Immediately, officer Ho'opi'i began helping people straggle out of the building – in some cases, carrying them out. But Ho'opi'i wanted to do more.

Wearing only his short-sleeved, blue, police uniform – no mask, no protective coat, not even a handkerchief – he ran into the inky blackness of the Pentagon. **Someone yelled at him to stop. “We gotta get people,” he shouted back.**

Suffocating on smoke, Ho'opi'i heard the building cracking. He called out, **“Is anybody in here? Anybody here?”**

Wayne Sinclair and five coworkers were crawling through rubble and had lost all sense of direction when they heard Ho'opi'i's voice. They cried out, and Ho'opi'i responded. **“Head toward my voice. Head toward my voice.”**

So following his voice, Sinclair and the others soon made their way out of the crumbling building. Ho'opi'i's words were literally “words of life” to those people.

In an even greater way, Jesus Himself IS the Word of Life!

A) He came to impart life -He ran into our world that had been hit by an attack

B) And – to those who were trapped under the rubble of the fall of man –

1) Trapped in a life – bound by sin separated from God.

C) Jesus didn't just speak words but he gave his life to impart life to us

John says – he is the Word of life – and he was manifested to us.

A) John is reminding us that he is not sharing some philosophy he's come up with. This is not some theory that he is espousing.

B) This is his personal testimony -He is telling us what he saw and learned from the Jesus of History.

C) John drew a number of conclusions about Jesus because He saw Jesus heal the sick, restore sight to the blind, and make the lame walk

- He listened to the wisdom of His words
- He was with Him on the Mount of Transfiguration- GLORY

He was in the boat when Jesus walked on water and again when He calmed a raging storm with a word

A) He was present when he took the five loaves and two fish and fed nearly 5,000 hungry people.

B) He was there at His crucifixion and remembered that Jesus had predicted it would happen

C) More than anything, He saw the resurrected Jesus.

1) Three days after he was dead and buried, John was having dinner with Jesus!

He had a chance to question him and learn from him those forty days after His resurrection.

A) As a result of what John witnessed and heard from Jesus he drew some conclusions about this real person, Jesus.

B) That Jesus is “the Word of Life”.

C) When John calls Jesus “the Word of life ” it is an encompassing description that Jesus is the One who fulfilled the promise of God.

1) He is the One who expresses the heart of God. He reveals the mind of God.

D) He imparts the very life of God to man!

#2 Jesus was manifested to impart eternal life 2 the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us

A) Eternal life -Quality of life as well as longevity of life.

3 And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. John 17:3

There's a great old story that comes to us from Persia, from ancient Iran,

A)There was a king, a shah, who was fond of putting on peasant clothes, workmen's clothes,

B)and going among his people and talking to them, and just sort of listening to what they were like and what they needed. - He loved to do that.

C)On one occasion he went to the lowest worker in his palace, who tended to the furnace down in the basement.

1)And with the clothes of an ordinary peasant, he sat with this man, they hit it off.

D)The King really liked this man so he kept visiting him and had a relationship with him.

1)They ate food together, shared stories but all the while the king didn't reveal who he was.

E)The peasant thought he was just another peasant, another worker come to tend the fires.

One day the king revealed himself as his king, and then he said to this newfound friend, this peasant worker down in the basement,

A)"Now that you realize who I am, you realize what I can do for you. I can make you rich. I can make you famous. I can give you a city. I can make you a ruler."

B)The tender of the furnace bowed his head slightly, he said, "You left the palace of your glory to come visit me in this dark and dreary place.

C)You brought joy to my heart. To others you may give your gifts, **to me you have given yourself."**

That my friends of the beauty of Christianity

A)Not primarily about blessings or how can Jesus make my life better.

B)It is about a relationship – Jesus made a way for us to be able to know God and live in relationship with Him

1)THAT IS ETERNAL LIFE

C)Jesus also spoke of offering abundant life –

The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. John 10:10

A)That is the tendency of the enemy of our souls – he is bent on destruction, taking, using –

B)He is bent on destruction

But in Contrast to that – Jesus declares - I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

A)The Greek word for “abundant,” perissos, has a mathematical meaning and generally denotes a surplus or

B)It is translated overflow

C)In this sense it is used of the twelve baskets of food that remained after Christ’s feeding of the 5000

1)Picture of there was more than enough – Even Leftovers

So the life that Jesus imparts to us is one that meets our greatest need – Relationship with the Father

A)But it includes – even more than that!

B)The longer we walk with Jesus – the deeper we grow in our understanding of who He is

C)the more we come to understand – Our greatest needs are met in Him

A man named Sam had a special ministry in his church. Good photographer –

A)He would take a picture of some scene & attach to it a verse, a hymn or a poem that seemed to capture the essence of that scene .

D)Picture of Niagara falls wanting to communicate the sufficiency of God’s grace attached to it an old Hymn sung by Ira Sankey

Have you on the Lord Believed ?
Still there is more to follow !

Of His Grace have you received ?
Still there is more to follow !

Oh the grace the father shows
Still there is more to follow

Freely of His grace He bestows
Still there is more to follow

More & more & more & more
Always more to follow

Oh His matchless boundless love
Still there is more to follow !!!!!

D)It is not that the Christian life is free of problems – but there is an endless supply of God’s grace to carry us thru them.

Eternal life – abundant life – is a growing life – we live in relationship with Jesus now –

A)Discovering who he is and who he wants to be in our lives on a daily basis

B)Two more things about this life – our text

The life that Jesus imparts is a life that is meant to be shared 3 that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

A)Fellowship = to share in common

B)Most of us enjoy sharing special moments in our lives- social media

1)People who care about those things like and comment

Sports fans – Love to share in the Joy of their team winning – high fives – gather to watch games

A)My dad and I have always connected through sports –

B)Sometimes I will DVR a play and wait for him to come over – check this out –

1)relive this moment together - Watch a game together so fun – Bowl games this week

C)Others share in their love of a movie – or a good book or even good coffee.

1)A great sale at a store -

But guys the most wonderful thing that we have ever experienced is the life – comes through Jesus

A)That life is meant to be shared! – Tell someone.

B)Go tell it on the MT – favorite Carol – go tell mt over the hills and everywhere

C)That should be our attitude

Personally I think that one of the funniest things about being a Christian is when opportunity to tell someone about Jesus

A)Share the gospel or share about what Jesus has done in your life.

B)It can be a little nerve racking – heart starts pounding – palms sweating

C)But nothing better than when that person responds in a positive way.

Angie, a Christian college student, was on a flight from Chicago to Lincoln, Nebraska, sitting next to a 19-year-old Saudi Arabian guy. His name was Ali, and he was on his way to the University of Nebraska.

They struck up a conversation, and Angie learned that he had never been in the United States before. **That’s when she felt Jesus tugging at her heart.** – Tell him about me!

They talked about his feelings on being so far away from home, and Angie asked what he knew about American culture.

That’s when Angie told him that she was a follower of Jesus and asked about his spiritual background.

She told him that he'd probably meet a number of people in Nebraska who are Christians, and said it'd probably be helpful to understand a little of where they're coming from. **Then she pulled out a 4 Spiritual Laws booklet and read through each point with him...**

They talked a little bit more, and then she went to reading her book. He went back to the booklet and read it from cover to cover!

Angie says, “I could hardly concentrate, I was so excited. I prayed for him as he was reading it, thankful to have been reminded this morning in the Word that God is the one who works, convicting people of their need for him.”

After he finished reading, Angie asked him what he thought, and he said it was very interesting.

As they landed, she told him she'd pray for him... then was convicted that she should do it right there. Scary!!!

What would this Muslim think? She asked if she could pray for him, and he immediately said yes.

So At the baggage claim, she went over and met his cousin and invited them both to an American culture event: **Christmas Eve service at her church!** – **They agreed to come!**

She writes: “This is why I love being a Christian—it's heart-pounding-scary at times and exhilarating when I see someone that I know Jesus wants to come to him, and I have the choice to step out in faith or stay in security.

The Life is meant to be shared! – People are more open than we think

The Life that Jesus imparts results in fullness of Joy!

A)Happiness is based on happenings

B)Joy is a state of mind and an orientation of the heart-

1)It is a settled state of contentment, confidence and hope.”

C)Joy is an inner sense of confidence and hope that finds it's satisfaction in Jesus above all else

Rick Warren adds his own definition: “Joy is the settled assurance that God is in control of all the details of my life, the quiet confidence that ultimately everything is going to be alright, and the determined choice to praise God in every situation.”

¹¹ These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. John 15:11

D)The secret of Christian joy is not found in a problem-free world, because that world doesn't exist.

1)It is found in a living relationship with Jesus