

October 2005: Some Thoughts On "First John"

by Aaron Greenway

A month ago, I was reading the book of First John and it was such a tremendous blessing, I wanted to share some of it with all of you. Here is what I learned:

1That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched-this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. 2The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. 3We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. 4We write this to make our joy complete. (1:1-4)

One thing that the Lord always desired was to reveal Himself to man, to make Himself known. The way in which the Apostle John spoke about Christ throughout the Bible has made me draw the conclusion that between the communion and the knowledge of God there is very strong link. John had seen the Lord with his own eyes. He had heard the Lord with his own ears. He had touched the Lord with his own hands. How is this possible? It is possible because the Lord had revealed Himself to John. God is not seen unless He chooses to be seen.

These things were written that our joy may be "complete." This phrase is crucial. Just by knowing God and hearing the Good News of Jesus Christ, how could this be enough to give me joy and contentment? Just because of the Good News?? Just because of what the report says? This alone could bring me happiness? Oh yes! But it wasn't just enough for Christ to die and to save us, but that Christ would actually reveal Himself to us. God came down to live among us! For without the revelation of the Word, there is NO salvation. Without God, the Son, having revealed Himself in the flesh, there would be no human connection to God and the cross would be obsolete. It is not just about the message of Salvation alone, but also that God wanted a

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relationship with us, so much so, that He came to die. For this reason, finally, I can have communion with God. Finally, I can spend time with Him where as before I couldn't talk to God because of the crimes I had committed against His holy law.

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The Apostle continues.

5This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. 6If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. 7But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. (1:5-7). Walking in the light, in that communion with God also means having communion with others and being forgiven of all sin. How? When we walk in the light, we cannot stand being out of that communion. We always want to have that intimacy with God. To have communion with others is not just going to what we call in Spanish "Una Parrillada". Many Christians go to someone's house, eat dinner with them and call that "fellowship" when the name of Jesus was never even mentioned once except when they said the blessing over the food. Even the world can do this. Are we embarrassed to talk about God or something? This doesn't mean that we shouldn't go and spend time with other Christians in the church, but walking in the light compels me to share it with my brother.

8If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 10If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives. (1:8-10) Lastly, the Bible says that He is "faithful" and "just" to forgive. I always used to believe that God was faithful to -condemn-. But with the accomplished work of Christ on the cross, because the Son of God forever intercedes for me, because of the blood that was poured out, and because of the revelation of God to man (Jesus Christ), when we come before Him, God would now be "unjust" if He did not forgive in the face of the price that has already been paid for my redemption. When I come to the Father through the

Son, He has to accept me, otherwise He would be violating His own Word. This is why it says that God is faithful and just to forgive, because Christ tore down the wall that was standing between us and our Creator. In this, I can hope in the fact that He will forgive me, and not just forgive me, but also clean my wounds and heal me too. It takes us back to that communion that God wanted so badly with us. He has made it all possible so that we would continue in that intimate relation with Him. May we never forget!

Something to ponder...and thanking you for letting me share.

Your brother,
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