

2. This secret was to good to keep.

This was a motivating experience, he must tell it, he must be a missionary, it was eternal life and he was, this is the passion soul.

Preaching of the gospel was no a mechanical thing, the closer we come to Christ, the more will his passion of souls possess us, the more pleading note of our message, the joy of the christian life, is at its full, when it is giving itself with abandoned to the service of Jesus.

Attitude of heart

Reading the pages of history and seeing how men and women paid allegiance to earthly kings and to human leaders, I think how good is the allegiance we pay to Jesus Christ. You remember when Napoleon took his great army and marched to Russia? Four hundred thousand men started out on that great campaign, and only forty thousand bedraggled, starved, emaciated soldiers ever found their way back to Paris.

When he marched on Moscow, the Russians set fire to their city; and there was no alternative for Napoleon except to turn around and return to France. He went to Marshall Ney and said: "You are in charge of the rear guard. Keep the Russians back from my main army. Hold them back at any cost that I can get my men safely back with me to Paris." And Marshall Ney gathered his faithful troops around him and they fought their way back bit by bit. And the cold nights set in. These men loved Marshall. He would be down to sleep at night in a little improvised tent. One morning when he woke feeling warm, he found he had been covered with overcoats. When he stepped out of the door of his tent, there were two soldiers standing there stiff and erect on either side. They were

frozen dead. They had not their overcoats on. And when they made improvised bridges, some of the men plunged into the icy cold water and held up the parapets while the rear guard went over. As Marshall Ney went over, he pinned the cross of the Legion of Honor of France on the breasts of the dead men as they stood frozen in the icy water.

One day, away back in Paris, there were four young officers playing cards, and there appeared in the door of the room, an old, dirty, bear man. His tunic was torn, his hair was matted over his face, he was covered with dust from head to foot. One of the young officers jumped to his feet and said: "It is Marshall Ney." The other three rose to salute. They said: "Marshall, tell us, where is the rear guard?" The old soldier squared his shoulders, and said: "Sir, I am the rear guard." It was almost literally true, for he alone was left. —R. G. Lee, *Palpit Pleasings*. (The Broadman Press).

Change the Heart

There are those today who say: "Sin comes because of ignorance. Let us educate people and they will not sink down into sin." However, some of the gibber cranks in the country have been the best

"The Christ of Experience"
I John 1:1-4

Intro.

Isa. 9:6, 7 As Children we listen to the Adults tell of someone that they had known, and we were interested. This morning we want to listen to a man, who can tell us about Jesus.

I. Account of the person of Christ. 6/14 ~

1. Here is a promise of world redemption and the account of the promise fulfilled. Christianity is different from all other man made religions. Remove the founders and the systems remain, Christianity is based on the person of Christ. This Christ was born in Bethlehem, recognized of the Father, tempted in the wilderness, died on the cross. In these days of uncertainty, we need to see Jesus, as John saw him. As a divine saviour, as real, he was not just theory, but John dates the religion of Jesus Christ back to eternity with God.

2. Represented here as:

(A) The word of life, verse 1. He is called a word in John 1:1 and later on the life in John 1:4. He is a word of God, not merely local word, but a vital word, the word life.

(B) As eternal life. He was from eternity, he was from everlasting.

(C) As life manifested, verse 2, manifested to us in the flesh.

3. Christianity began with God. It dates back to eternity. John looked back through the windows of heaven, before time out into eternity, discovered Christ existed in eternity.

Dr. Wm. Ward 22, 1952 Am -

John evidently saw Him, as the begotten of the Holy Spirit, born of a virgin, becoming the second and last Adam, the redeemer of mankind, John saw him as a man, as flesh and bones. Yet He was one with the Father, Jesus Christ the divine because he said, I am the father again, if he be not the Son of God, he deceived us.

II. Authoritativeness of John.

There were sufficient demonstration of the reality of His presence here, the word of life, eternal life was manifest until he felt it. John feels that he is speaking as one with authority.

1. As to their ears, verse 1 and 3.

That which we have heard, they had heard him about three years, they attended His ministry, they listened.

2. As to their eyes, verse 1 and 3. That which we have seen. The word would become visible, they saw Him publicly, privately at a distance. Saw Him in His life, his transfiguration, hanging, bleeding, dying upon a cross. We saw Him after His return from the grave, and the resurrection.

Acts 1:21-22; II Peter 1:16

3. As to their hands. We have handled, he showed them His hands, and His sides, Thomas was given an invitation to touch Him.

4. This was wit of conviction. I love John because he tells us about Jesus. John knew Jesus best, he was a disciple whom the Lord loved, he describe him as a man. He describe him as a logos, he had heard Christ voice, he had talked with Jesus. He was present when he talked to Jesus and Elijah on the mount. He had heard Jesus say. John had seen Jesus with his own eyes. John was not content to observe Jesus from afar. But he had studied the old Testament with spiritual eyes. Therefore, John says my judgment, confirms, my heart feels it.

III. Assurance of fellowship. We would be poor without fellowship. This is the deep yearning of our hearts, to have fellowship with kindred souls. Where the fires of evangelistic burn low, worldly living follows. The devil is ever present, and where ever church attendance is low, there is a spiritual low, the community is low, churches do away with their mid-week prayer meeting because of the low spirituality.

Christian fellowship, is far greater than the world dreams of. Paul in his teaching, led the Christians together for fellowship.

2. John wanted them to have fellowship with Jesus Christ. He wanted them to be joined by the same body, and to have the same fellowship in life that he experienced. He had seen and heard Jesus, and he could testify, he had been in the upper room on the day of pentecost.

Christ had brought John into a new heavenly fellowship. Something had happened in his own life. There are people who live in the same house, work in the same shop, and yet between their minds there is scarcely a point of contact. Their are those who are separated by oceans, and yet their is a fellowship of kindred spirits.

Regeneration or conversion experience, makes this fellowship possible, we have surrendered to Christ for salvation. John says, I know I have experienced a change in my life. He knew something had happened to Him.

IV. Actions suggested, Verse 4.

1. The gospel fears not the light.

Acts 1:20 - John was pleading for believers to advance and the gospel ought to be a thing of joy, instead of gloom, it ought to be peace, rejoice in your happy relationship with God.