



**WELCOME
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OF
GRACE**

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**The Eternal Life
with
The Father
was made
Manifest to Us.**

(1 John 1:1-4)

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect

Eternal Life

With the Father was Made Manifest to Us.

- **1 John 1:1-4:** That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—² the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us—³ that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.⁴ And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

Some use the words, "That which was from the beginning," to support the mistaken theory that Jesus was with God from the beginning of creation, but the focus of John is, "The 'eternal life' which was with the Father" (v2). Certainly, Jesus was in the eternal mind of God from before the foundations of the world and the centre of God's eternal plans, purposes and promises to be the Saviour of all mankind. Much like parents who mindfully plan the birth of their child long before their baby is born and even makes the necessary changes to prepare their home for the arrival of their new born child and decorate a room while the child is still growing in the womb. In the same way Jesus was in God's eternal mind and his eternal plan for mankind's salvation long before Mary gave birth to him. It is in this sense that Jesus was with God in the beginning. Sadly many of those who believe Jesus is God, teach that those who only claim him to be the most glorified and beloved Son of God are not Christians yet there is not one verse in the entire Bible that states people must believe that Jesus is God to be saved, but there are literally multitudes of verses that state:

- Whoever believes that Jesus is the Son of God will be saved.

Added to this there is not one verse that says: -

- Whoever believes that Jesus is God the Son will be saved.

Surely if it was important to believe that Jesus was actually God, Christ would have told the apostles at least once in his discourses with them and in his messages of salvation, but all we find in the Scriptures is Jesus and the apostles proclaiming that people must believe that Jesus is the Son of God to be saved.

- Jesus said, "This is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent" (John 17:3).

THAT WHICH WAS FROM THE BEGINNING

That which was from the beginning refers to eternal life it was eternal life that was with God at the beginning not Jesus as many teach. Jesus was resurrected to eternal life from the dead and John and the apostles heard him talk, saw him with their own eyes, touched him with their own hands, and even ate with him. They saw the promised eternal life in Christ's resurrected immortal and eternal body.

The words:

- Concerning the word of life (v1).

Refers to God's promise of eternal life from the beginning which Peter and the apostles have seen in Jesus resurrected body. It is this eternal life that Peter says was made manifest to him and the apostles and it this eternal life that was with God from the beginning that they have seen and testify of.

CONSIDER: the entire glory of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ is the promise of eternal life which was with God from before the foundations of the world. The message Jesus, the apostles and Peter proclaim to us is that we through faith and God's grace can be partakers in the eternal life which was with the Father from the beginning and was made manifest in Christ to Peter and the apostles in the resurrected body of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The words:

- That which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you (v3).

Refer to the resurrected eternal body of the Lord Jesus Christ. This eternal life is the Spirit of God and clearly was with God from the beginning. God the Father is the source of all life he is eternal life and gave that life to the Lord Jesus Christ who gives it to all who belong to his family. Peter and the apostles proclaim the message of eternal life that was with God in the beginning and that was manifested to them in the resurrected body of the Lord Jesus Christ so that whoever believes in Christ may also have fellowship with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.

The words:

- We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete (v4).

Show us the following two things:

1. That Peter and the apostles joy is not produced by the things of this world, but by their fellowship with God the Father and His Son the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. As great as their joy is in being in a devotional relationship with God the Father and His Son the Lord Jesus Christ it is made fully complete when people who do not know of this devotional relationship with the Father and His Son discover it through their ministry.

Every faithful servant of the Lord Jesus Christ will relate to this statement of Peters, for all who belong to the family of Christ there is not greater joy in this world than the joy of another finding eternal life in Christ and being united to his heavenly Father because of their testimony.

THE IMMORTAL AND ETERNAL JESUS APPEARS TO THE DISCIPLES

Prior to Jesus death and resurrection, he told his disciples that:

- The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him. And when he is killed, after three days he will rise (Mark 9:31).
- The chief priests and the scribes, will condemn him to death and deliver him over to the Gentiles and they will mock him and spit on him, and flog him and kill him. And after three days he will rise" (Mark 10:33-34).

The following Scriptures show that the disciples had not fully understood the things concerning Jesus death and resurrection when he told them that he would be killed and rise again after three days.

- On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." ²⁰When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord (John 20:19-20).
- Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, "Peace to you!" ³⁷But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. ³⁸And he said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹See 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." ⁴⁰And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" ⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³and he took it and ate before them. (Luke 24:36-43).

- Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe." ²⁶Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe" (John 20:24-27).
- Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. ¹³Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish. ¹⁴This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead (John 21:12-14).

When Jesus appeared to his disciples in his immortal, eternal resurrected body they did not believe it was him until after they had handled and touched Him and seen him with their own eyes and eaten with Him. Their doubt and lack of understanding was only natural since no one had ever seen or heard of anyone being raised from the dead to eternal life. Certainly, Jesus raised a certain few from the dead, but they were only raised to mortal life not eternal life. The disciples at that glorious time were looking at the manifestation of eternal life that was with Jesus heavenly Father from the beginning manifested in a body resurrected from the dead. It is this same eternal life that every faithful brother and sister in Christ will inherit when God raises those sleeping in Christ from the dead and the faithful who are alive to be with the Lord in eternal glory.

After the disciples had handled and touched Jesus, seen his hands and side and eaten with Him, they finally understood the things that he had spoken to them before the resurrection concerning eternal life. Now everything Jesus had spoken about eternal life was manifested before their own eyes. The resurrection was not just words anymore, but became a visible reality as they handled him, touched him and saw his resurrected, immortal and eternal body. Had Jesus not appeared to them after the resurrection they would have been left as orphans and been like deserted children it would have been the end for them and for us, we would have been left without hope. It was seeing the resurrected body of Jesus and the ascension into heaven that comforted the disciples and should comfort every faithful brother and sister in Christ today.

This is the promise that he made to us—eternal life (1 John 2:25).