

THE MESSAGE FROM GOD'S LIFE-BUILDING WORD

Maximum Joy: Eyewitnesses

April 5, 2015

1 John 1:4 (New International Version 1984)

We write this to make our joy complete.

INTRODUCTION: Easter Perspective.

Maximum Joy: Eyewitnesses

1. FAITH: Maximum joy builds on the factual reality of the Word of life.
 - 1 John 1:1 *That 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.* – (New International Version 1984)
 - John 20:8-9⁸ *Then the disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in, and he saw and believed--⁹ for until then they still hadn't understood the Scriptures that said Jesus must rise from the dead.* – (New Living Translation)
 - 1 John 1:2 *That life was made visible; we saw it and are giving our testimony, declaring to you the eternal life, which was present to the Father and has been revealed to us.* – (GOD'S WORD)
2. FELLOWSHIP: Maximum joy joins God and people together in doing life.
 - 1 John 1:3 *We proclaim to you what we ourselves have actually seen and heard so that you may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.* – (New Living Translation)

- 1 John 1:6-7 ⁶ *If, then, we say that we have fellowship with him, yet at the same time live in the darkness, we are lying both in our words and in our actions.* ⁷ *But if we live in the light--just as he is in the light--then we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from every sin.* – (Today’s English Version)
3. FRUIT: Maximum joy shares Jesus with others.
- 1 John 1:4 *Our motive for writing is simply this: We want you to enjoy this, too. Your joy will double our joy!* – (The Message)
 - John 20:18 *Mary Magdalene found the disciples and told them, “I have seen the Lord!” Then she gave them his message.* – (New Living Translation)

CONCLUSION: Maximizing Joy: Atlas or Jesus?

Maximize: Maximum Joy

1. Daily Lectio Divina – Divine Reading through 1 John
2. Weekend Worship & Messages
3. Weekly Life Group and/or Personal Study

Easter Offering Give Away

1. Local: Teen Challenge / teenchallenge.org/centers/san-diego-county/
2. Local: ECTLC East County Transitional Living Center / ectlc.org
3. World: World Vision Chickens & Umpteen Eggs for hungry children / donate.worldvision.org/ways-to-give/by-category/animals/2-chickens
4. World: Adult Literacy Mission India / missionindia.org/al

G.P.S. Grow. Pray. Study.



Things I'd like to remember from today's message:

Get each day's GPS downloaded to your computer/phone/etc. by going to this link <http://www.clcm-gps.com/> or subscribing through Feedly.com (or other RSS Reader) to receive daily updates.

Monday: *Read 1 John 1:1-3.* In the original Greek, these 3 verses are one sentence. The subject and verb don't appear until the third verse (although some translations add it to verse one). The subject and verb are "we proclaim." What does John proclaim? What do you proclaim about Jesus? About your faith? About Christians?

Tuesday: *Read 1 John 1:1.* Why is it important for John to emphasize his senses (hear, see, touch) in Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection? What does that mean for us today? How do you speak of your personal faith and experience with Jesus?

Wednesday: *Read 1 John 1:2 and John 17:3.* How do John and Jesus speak of eternal life? How is the idea of Jesus being your eternal life different from reincarnation or other ideas of eternal life you have heard?

Thursday: *Read 1 John 1:3.* What comes to mind when you hear the word “fellowship”? Why? What does John emphasize with fellowship in this verse? What specific steps can you take this week to grow deeper in your fellowship with other believers? (HINT: Life Groups are a great opportunity to develop adult faith relationships!)

Friday: *Read 1 John 1:3.* Pray about your fellowship with God and others. How do you already reflect partnership in your thoughts and actions? How could you show it better? Talk with some other Christians about how you could put fellowship into practice.

Saturday: *Read 1 John 1:4.* Why does John write this letter? In what way do you think John’s joy is complete? In what way is your joy complete?

Going Deeper

Book: *The Case for Easter* by Lee Strobel

Read: All 5 chapters of 1 John and then ask

1. What did I hear?
2. What do I think?
3. What will I do about it?

Fellowship Practice: Sign up for a Life Group!