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Youth E.D.G.E. Sunday School

Back to the Basics: A Study of I John - Part I

YOU STAND ON A ROCK-SOLID GOSPEL

I John 1:1-4

- I. **Because you stand on a rock-solid gospel, you must understand that the gospel is reliable (v. 1-2).**

Against the cultural backdrop of insecurity and un-surety, it is stunning to study a letter whose very theme is that of Christian surety.

A. The gospel is enduring (v. 1).

“That which is from the beginning” is the gospel. It has not changed, and it won’t!

B. The gospel is experienced (v. 1-2).

John, the apostle, had experienced the gospel in the person and work of Jesus! He wasn’t about to cave to the pre-gnostic teachings that doubted Christ’s incarnation.

C. The gospel brings life (v. 2).

Verse two is crucial to our understanding of this entire book. The message of the gospel brings life, and that life bears witness to the person and work of Jesus!

- II. **Because you stand on a rock-solid gospel, you must understand that the gospel brings fellowship (v.3).**

A. Gospel fellowship is horizontal (v. 3).

Christian fellowship is more than a potluck dinner, or pie after church on Sunday. It is partnership in gospel ministry. The gospel provides fellowship in Christ.

B. Gospel fellowship is vertical (v. 3).

“This statement of the apostolic objective in the proclamation of the gospel, namely a human fellowship arising spontaneously from a divine fellowship, is a rebuke to much of our modern evangelism and church life.” - John Stott

- III. **Because you stand on a rock-solid gospel, you must understand that the gospel brings joy (v. 4)**

Verse four could be better translated, “joy for us.”

A. The gospel brings joy now (v. 4).

John is concerned for his people. If they miss the gospel, they miss the ultimate source of joy and satisfaction!

B. The gospel brings joy later (v. 4).

Joy that is “complete,” or “full,” involves joy now, but it is certainly more than that!

Though the winds of change blow, the rock-solid gospel to which we cling is always reliable, it brings consistent fellowship, and it must be our ultimate source of joy. Nothing else will do.

