

October 1, 2023

The Word of Life

by George Slover

“the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us— (1 John 1:2)

The introduction to John’s first letter stirs the imagination. The potential and the possibilities of God living in the flesh and living among men thrills the soul. John, in simple language, sets before his readers this profound truth.

A key word in this context is “life.” (vs. 1,2) The focus of the letter and of John’s ministry is the “word of life.” (vs. 1) The gospel is personified. It is more than mere commands. It is about a person! That person is Jesus and he is God in the flesh! (John 1:14).

John says the “Word of Life” was from the beginning. God has no beginning and no end. He was before all creation; indeed he is the Creator of all things!

(John 1:3) The “Word of Life” existed intimately with the Father before time began. He is timeless in existence.

However, this “life was manifested” i.e. he entered the realm of time in human form. He moved from the realm of the invisible to the visible. The life was manifested through the earthly ministry of Jesus, and gloriously exhibited by his death and resurrection. It is difficult for the finite mind to conceive of such a thing! Yet, to entertain the possibilities

engenders hope!

To add to the excitement John makes a bold claim. We saw him. We gazed upon him. We touched him! They beheld his glory (John 1:14), heard his voice, and witnessed his mighty works as he stilled the sea and raised the dead. They saw him die on a cross. They touched his body of flesh and bones after his resurrection. (Luke 24:39) It was more than a quick glance. It was a steadfast gaze in which John tried to fully discover this mystery. He is qualified to testify of this marvelous life.

John does not keep this marvelous story to himself. He makes a declaration so that others can enjoy the same fellowship and joy. No other relationship can compare with the communion of man with God. This fellowship involves enjoying the compassion, strength, and sympathy of a heavenly Father. It means God has forgiven the sinner! The contemplation of such possibility brings joy!

We owe a debt of gratitude to the apostles who took great pains and gave their lives to make their testimony known to the world that we might believe and have life in God.

Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends.

We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.

Important Dates

Gospel Meeting - Benchley, October 8-11

Ladies’ Class - Tuesday, October 9 at 10 a.m.

If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.

Give Thanks to the Lord

Psalm 138

I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise;

I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness, for you have exalted above all things your name and your word.

On the day I called, you answered me; my strength of soul you increased.

All the kings of the earth shall give you thanks, O LORD, for they have heard the words of your mouth,

and they shall sing of the ways of the LORD, for great is the glory of the LORD.

For though the LORD is high, he regards the lowly, but the haughty he knows from afar.

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life; you stretch out your hand against the wrath of my enemies, and your right hand delivers me.

The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands.

Prayer Requests

Jack Wilson is still struggling with pain and limited mobility.

Jerry Richardson's lymphoma has returned and is undergoing chemo.

Dinah Williams continues to have mobility issues.

Don Simmons is still struggling with his breathing; he is on oxygen at all times. **Alene** is having hip issues.

Lisa Mullen (Darrell's sister) is undergoing chemotherapy.

Vicki Stevens has cancer and is undergoing treatment.

Debbie McMurray is undergoing immunotherapy.

Mike McMurray will be undergoing triple bypass surgery, scheduled for October 9.

If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.

“praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making s application for all the saints,”
(Ephesians 6:18 ESV)

The Oaks West church of Christ is a group of individual Christians who have been added to the Lord's body through baptism (Acts 2:38, 47; Gal 3:26, 27), and have joined themselves together (Acts 2:42ff) in an effort to do the Lord's will.

We are not a part of any larger organization - we do not follow any man-made creeds and we do not answer to anyone other than the Lord.

Our standard of faith and practice is the Word of God. We believe in the God of revelation (Eph 3:1-7; 2 Tim 3:16-17) and follow his instructions in an effort to have an ongoing relationship with him (1 John 4:7-11; 5:3).

Our times of study and worship are open to all, and our members are happy to meet with interested individuals or families for study.

Evangelist

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