*“With the Master Before the Mirror of God’s Word”* by Susan Heck

A Ladies Bible Study on First John

Tuesday, October 9th, 2018

“*Why did John write this epistle?* Let’s look at 1 John 5:13 for **John’s purpose statement**: “These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.” ***John’s main purpose for writing this epistle is that believers might know for certain—without a doubt—that they are born of God.”*** (pg.4)

*John had other purposes for writing 1 John:*

1 John 1:4 “… that your joy may be full.” **FULL JOY!**

1 John 2:1 “… so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate…” **HOLINESS & HOPE!**

1 John 2:21 “…you know it (the truth)…” **ASSURANCE!**

1 John 2:26 “…concerning those who try to deceive you.” **DISCERNMENT!** (pg.4-5)

**Summary** of Chapter 1 – “Facts, Fellowship, and Fullness of Joy” – 1 John 1:1-4 (pg.’s 14-15)

*“The Facts of Christ* (vv 1-2) are this: He was from the beginning; He was seen, heard, and even touched; He was God in the flesh. He and He alone is the Word of Life and He and He alone provides eternal life.

Do you believe those facts?

Do you really believe those facts?

Do You believe that God came in the flesh as a baby and that He lived as a man and died for your sins and is now raised and seated at the right hand of His Father?

Do You believe that?

Those are the facts.

***“These words that John uses to begin his epistle are imperative because of the heresy which had crept into the church. He is setting the stage for the entire book which is centered on Christ and a genuine knowledge of Him…” (pg. 11)***

If you believe those facts concerning Christ and have committed your life totally to Him, then as John says you have *Fellowship with Christ* (v 3).

Are you now in partnership with Christ?

I would be negligent if I did not compel you as we begin our study of this wonderful epistle to make sure that you do indeed have fellowship or partnership with Christ.

Without partnership with Christ, His Word will not make any sense to you as you study it.

And lastly, if you understand the facts concerning Christ, and if you have fellowship with Christ, then I have wonderful news for you: your life is meant to have joy---and not just plain ole’ joy, but

*Fullness of* *Joy Because of Christ* (v 4).

Are you running over with calm delight and cheerfulness? If not, why not?

 *What an exciting beginning to a wonderful book! I pray you will continue with me for the entire journey as we feast on the riches of God’s Word through this little epistle****.* Be faithful, be prepared, and be ready for blessings abundant!**”