**Loving Our Neighbors**

**Listening to the Apostle of Love**

**Secure Love**

**Psalm 118:24** - *This is the day which the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.*

**Psalm 70:4** - *Let all who seek You rejoice and be glad in You; and let those who love Your salvation say continually, “Let God be magnified.”*

**Psalm 104:34** - *Let my meditation be pleasing to Him; as for me, I shall be glad in the Lord.*

**Psalm 34:1** - *I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.*

**Psalm 40:3** - *He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God; many will see and fear and will trust in the Lord.*

**Psalm 69:34** - *Let heaven and earth praise Him, the seas and everything that moves in them.*

**1 John 4:19** - *We love, because He first loved us.*

3 reasons to passionately praise our God

**I. The Assurance of Our Salvation**

**1 John 5:13** - *These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.*

A. The relationship of this verse to the Gospel of John 20:31

**John 20:31** - *but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.*

B. Why this mattered contextually

C. Rejoice because the Lord put it in writing

**1 John 5:13** - *These things I have written to you…*

**Romans 11:33-36** - *Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who became His counselor? Or who has first given to Him that it might be paid back to him again? For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.*

D. Rejoice because the Lord wants you to know that you know that you know…

”That you may know (eidete) means, both in word and tense, not that they may gradually grow in assurance, but that they may possess here and now a present certainty of the life they have received in Christ. They have been unsettled by the false teachers and become unsure of their spiritual state. Throughout the letter John has been giving them criteria (doctrinal, moral, social) by which to test themselves and others. His purpose is to establish their assurance. ‘This letter is to assure you that you have eternal life’ (NEB).” (John Stott, Tyndale, p. 187)

**2 Timothy 1:12** - *For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.*

E. Rejoice because the Lord provides eternal life

**1 John 5:13** - *These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.*

“Eternal life involves far more than merely living forever in a chronological sense. The essence of eternal life is the believer’s participation in the blessed everlasting life of Christ (cf. John 1:4) through his or her union with Him (Rom. 5:21; 6:4, 11, 23; 1 Cor. 15:22; 2 Cor. 5:17; Gal. 2:20; Col. 3:3-4; 2 Tim. 1:1, 10; Jude 21). Jesus defined it in His High Priestly Prayer to the Father: ‘This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent (John 17:3)’.” (John MacArthur, 1 John, p. 197)

**II. The Confidence We Have in Christ**

**1 John 5:14** - *This is the confidence which we have before Him…*

**John 7:13** - *Yet no one was speaking openly of Him for fear of the Jews.*

A. We live for and proclaim Christ openly

**2 Corinthians 5:18-20** - *Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.*

**John 11:14** - *So Jesus then said to them plainly, “Lazarus is dead…”*

B. We live for and proclaim Christ plainly – John 11:14

**Acts 2:29** - *Brethren, I may confidently say to you regarding the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day.*

C. We have settled convictions – Acts 2:29

**Acts 4:29** - *And now, Lord, take note of their threats, and grant that Your bond-servants may speak Your word with all confidence…*

D. We are willing to stand up to pressure – Acts 4:29

E. It is apparent to others that the ultimate source of our confidence is the resurrected Christ – Acts 4:13

**III. The Blessing of Answered Prayer**

**1 John 5:14-15** - *This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.*

A. This assumes that we are asking according to His will

B. We can have confidence that even our prayer requests please Him

**1 John 3:21-22** - *Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight.*