

Time in the Text
5 Minutes to Find God in His Word

This Week's Text: 1 John 1:1-4

Context of 1 John: In the latter half of first century Asia Minor, "antichrists" pretending to be Christians denied Jesus was the Christ and that He was God in the flesh (2:22; 4:3). As a result, some Christians doubted their salvation in Jesus, so John wrote this letter "so you may know that you have eternal life." (5:13). Unlike Paul's linear writing, John writes in a more cyclical pattern of repeated themes like light, life, and love from different angles to emphasize what "we know." ("We know" is used 13 times). In his gospel, he recorded signs to prove Jesus was the Christ so we might believe and have eternal life in His name (John 20:31). Here, he gives Christians signs for **how to know for sure** we have eternal life in Him (1:7; 2:3,24; 29; 3:14; 24; 4:2; 5:2; etc.). Not confident in your salvation? This letter is for you!

Main Point of 1 John 1:1-4: The early seeds of gnosticism taught that spirit is good and physical matter is evil, so there's no way God (good spirit) could have put on flesh (evil matter). John introduces this letter assuring them God has indeed been made manifest in the body of Jesus Christ, and that He is the key to our Christian fellowship.

1 What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life—

2 and the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us—

3 what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.

4 These things we write, so that our joy may be made complete.

The PATH to God:

Praise: What in this text makes you want to praise God?

Admonition: What in this text challenges you to improve?

Thanksgiving: What in this text makes you grateful?

Hope: What in this text gives you hope for the future?

Other Helpful Notes/Observations?

Compare the blue sections with John 1:1-4. This teaching isn't new; it's consistent with God's revelation of Himself in Jesus from the beginning!

Antichrists believed Jesus was a spirit/phantom and only **seemed** to have a human body. John says, "No! We heard, saw and touched Him!"

Eternal life was manifested, or made visible, in a way the apostles could see, hear, and touch! Sounds like John 1:14 doesn't it?

One of the best ways to know we have eternal life is to know the apostles met the Eternal Word of Life in the flesh and then proclaimed Him to us!

True fellowship with God is only possible through fellowship with the apostles and the Son they proclaimed (2:23-24)! It gives John no greater joy than to know we're in fellowship with God! We can have the same joy today!

Christ-Like Communication

Equipping Christians (And Our Children) for Deeper, More Selfless Conversation

According to Matthew Kelly in "The Seven Levels of Intimacy," after **cliches** in step 1 and **facts** in step 2, **sharing opinions** takes us to the 3rd level of conversational intimacy. Opinions increase intimacy because they increase risk and vulnerability. Facts about your life can't be rejected; opinions can. "I wore a mask to work today" is much less risky/controversial than "I don't think we should have to wear masks to work."

We don't always have to share our opinions (Prov. 18:2), but if we always stay sheltered in the safety of facts, we lose the opportunity to reveal more of who we are: how we think and why. It can be uncomfortable when someone disagrees with us, but it's better to be known and disagreed with than never known at all.

"... pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart" 2 Timothy 2:22

July 26th, 2020 - A Desperate Desire to Pray

Do you long to pray? Sometimes prayer can feel obligatory. Maybe we pray because it's our turn on the duty roster or because we feel guilty if we don't or because after failing to fix a hard situation ourselves we have no other option. What if we had a desperate desire to pray? Where we long from the bottom of our hearts to pray to our God? Psalm 63:1 says, "O God, 'You are my God; I shall seek You earnestly; My soul thirsts for You, my flesh yearns for You, in a dry and weary land where there is no water.'" Jesus got up before dawn to spend time with His Father in prayer (Mark 1:35) and sometimes spent all night praying (Luke 6:12)! He was so devoted to prayer the disciples were begged him to teach them to pray like that (Luke 11:1)!



I read a helpful and challenging book by Timothy Keller called "Prayer." He's helping me see prayer is a journey from duty to delight. It's about knowing God intimately and finding who I am in the process, which can be painful but leads to the ultimate pleasure of the soul. Prayer also empowers us to live the Christian life with full integrity. Here's an excerpt: "If we give priority to the outer life, our inner life will be dark and scary. We will not know what to do with solitude. We will be deeply uncomfortable with self-examination, and we will have an increasingly short attention span for any kind of reflection. Even more seriously, our lives will lack integrity. Outwardly, we will need to project confidence, spiritual and emotional health and wholeness, while inwardly we may be filled with self-doubts, anxieties, self-pity, and old grudges. Yet we won't know how to go into the inner rooms of the heart, see clearly what is there, and deal with it. In short, unless we put a

priority on the inner life, we turn ourselves into hypocrites. The seventeenth-century English theologian John Owen wrote a warning to popular and successful ministers: 'A minister may fill his pews, his communion roll, the mouths of the public, but what that minister is on his knees in secret before God Almighty, that he is and no more.'" (p. 22)

Owen's quote was aimed at ministers, but it's true of all Christians. We should desperately desire prayer not just to know God, but to become like Him from within! The Pharisees were hypocrites because they did all these external religious rituals but did not know God. Jesus told them, "I know you, that you do not have the love of God in yourselves." (John 5:42). And to God He said, "This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you've sent." (John 17:3) May God create in us a desperate desire to pray, to take the journey through duty to delight, because we desperately need to know Him better.

Sunday Worship Services

9 a.m. Lord's Supper Service
9:45 a.m. Bible Class
10:45 a.m. Praise & Preaching

Elders

Herb Hinely 407-339-4805
Jeff Hunt 407-739-5266
Joe Rimmer 407-414-7393
Dave Weaver 407-782-1112
Tim Welsh 407-670-8279

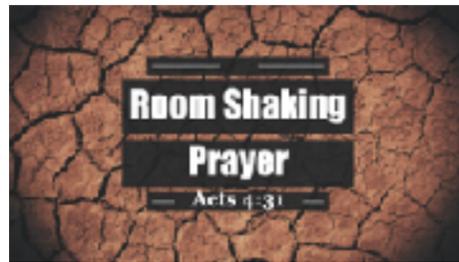
Deacons

Matt Hinely, Terry Petty
Erik Quist, Rory Salimbene
Jack Thomas, Terry Tokash
Emory VanCleaf

Evangelist

Brian Messerli 407-300-2517
620 Palm Springs Drive
Altamonte Springs
407-831-3230

Wednesday Bible Classes 7:30 p.m.



Announcements

July 26th, 2020

Please email all new announcements to announcements@psd.church by Saturday evening so we can print them

Room shaking prayers focus on the _____ of the Room Shaker to take action for His _____ and _____.

1. Room Shaking Prayers Start by Acknowledging the Room Shaker's _____

- v. 23-24 - They start with God's power, not their _____. (Isaiah 13:13; Haggai 2:21-22)
 - A) Puts our problems in perspective
 - The bigger God is to us, the smaller our problems become.
 - B) Re-oriens our hearts toward Him
 - Psalm 37:4
 - Praising God re-orders our disordered _____.
 - Psalm 27:1-4

2. Room Shaking Prayers are Rooted in Knowledge of the Room Shaker's Purposes

- v. 25-28 - Prayer is our response to God's revelation about His _____ and purposes in Scripture.
 - 2 Samuel 7:18-29
 - "The Bible does not present an _____ of prayer; it presents the _____ of prayer." - Edmund C.
 - "It is not simply a belief in God that conditions the prayers of the Bible, but a _____ of God." - Eugene P.

3. Room Shaking Prayers Ask the Room Shaker to Help His People Accomplish His Purposes

- v. 29-30
 - Their understanding of God's power and purposes _____ their requests.
 - They want God's purposes in Psalm 2 to continue being fulfilled through them.
 - Psalm 2:7-12

SICK/HEALTH ISSUES:

- Our dear brother **Don Van Cleef** passed from this life peacefully in his sleep this morning around 5:30 a.m. Let's reach out and surround the Van Cleef's with love as they grieve. Carol simply requests that no flowers be sent to her since she has nowhere to put them. Cards and calls are welcome. The family is happy he can now be with the Lord.
- **Kerianne Park's father Alan Canetti** has a staph infection in his ankle. Ryan and Kerianne will be in Daytona for the next few days to be with him in the hospital.
- **Mary-Ann Rubright's sister Mindy** is having knee-replacement surgery tomorrow.
- **Doris Kerrigan** has been moved to a long term rehab facility and she is not doing well.

TRAVELING:

- **Mary Burns** will be leaving for Memphis this evening to visit her new grandson Julian and family for 2-3 weeks.
- **Brian Messerli** will be on vacation this week traveling to Tallahassee to pick up his younger brother (who will be living with him now) and to Cape Coral to visit Mom.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Chloe Blevins** has now moved to Gibsonton FL. We'll have an address soon.
- The **Willingham and Waterhouse families** are no longer living in this area, so we have updated their current address and will continue to leave them in the directory so that you may contact them if you would like to do so.
- The **Worship Duties for August** have been created on the psd.church website and have been printed and are available in the lobby. Please check to see if you have been scheduled for a worship duty, for which you may not be available. If so, please notify us immediately by logging into the website and click on "Duties" and then "Replacement Request."

SHUT-IN:

- **Anne Dickson**
- **Geny Harrison**
- **Peggy Hunt**
- **Thurman and Lynna Davis**
- **Pat Steele**
- **Patsy Holt**
- **Irene Geiger**



Questions for Self-Reflection and Personal Growth

1. What specific changes can you make to your prayers to become more room shaking like the Acts 4 apostles?
2. What are some great things to pray for during this COVID crisis?
3. What are some practical ways to more closely incorporate Scripture into our prayers?