

## 1 John 1:1-4

### “Meaning in the Manifestation”

#### **Introduction**

There is somewhere between 100-400 billion stars in the milky way galaxy. There are estimated to be 100 billion planets in the milky way galaxy. There are 100 billion galaxies, so you can imagine how many stars and planets there are altogether. Genesis 1:1 says, “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.” Every star, every planet, and every galaxy that we know about and that remains unknown to us was created by God. Think for a moment about the creative power of God. There was nothing, He speaks and there is everything. That is power. That is God’s creative ability. John wrote in the first line of his epistle that Jesus Christ, the one who created the heavens and the earth was from the beginning. This is not to say that Christ had a beginning but shows that Christ was before the beginning. Think of that. A God who not only has the power to create the word but One who has existed eternally. He has no creator, He has no beginning, and He has no end.

Then John says something more amazing than an eternal God creating the entire world. John says that this eternal God has revealed Himself to mankind by becoming one Himself. Now, think about that! Eternal God becomes earthly man.

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John says that which was from the beginning has been manifested. This is one reason that John is writing this epistle. Notice V.2, “For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and **SHOW UNTO YOU THAT ETERNAL LIFE**, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us.” How was God or that which was from the beginning or the eternal life that was with the Father manifested? He was manifested in the human person of Jesus Christ. He says in V.3 “**THAT** which we have seen and heard declare we unto you.”

Do you remember what we said last time about the error that was an attack against personhood of Christ? Two basic groups, one group that is believed to have developed into what is known as **Gnosticism** and the other a **Docetists**. The Docetists taught that because matter was evil that Jesus’ body was not real and that it only appeared real. This error is immediately corrected by John’s personal testimony. He states that he is bearing witness or confirming something based on personal knowledge. He bears witness and testifies to the physical manifestation of God in Christ several different ways. It is interesting that each way appeals to a sense. Hearing, Seeing and touching.

1. John says he has Heard the Word of Life
2. John says he has Seen with his eyes the Word of Life

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3. John says he has Looked Upon the Word of life

4. John says he has Handled with his hands the Word of Life

John refers to what he hears, sees, and handles as the Word of life. If you remember last time we referred to John's Gospel where he wrote, "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God. In him was life; and the life was the light of men" (John 1:1,4). Gary Burge writes, "He is making a compelling appeal; he is offering a testimony...to a living Word, Jesus Christ, whose reality is the principal reference point of his life."

John is not writing about any Word. John is not writing a word about life. No, he is writing about THE WORD OF LIFE who is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ Jesus is the way, the truth, and the LIFE and John is telling us about Him who is Eternal life because He has heard, seen, examined, and handled HIM! Turn to Luke 24:36-40.

"Luke 24:36 And as they thus spake, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. 37 But they were terrified and affrighted, and supposed that they had seen a spirit. 38 And he said unto them, Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts? 39 Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have. 40 And when he had thus spoken, he shewed them his hands and his feet."

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When John heard, saw, and touched Jesus he was hearing, seeing and touching the Eternal Word of God! John has heard the voice of the One who said Let there be with his own ears. He has looked upon the *invisible*

“No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared *him*” (John 1:18).

John writes in his gospel that Jesus has “declared” the God who no man had seen. To declare means to expound or explain. So it would read, “No man has seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he has explained Him, he has expounded Him.”

John MacArthur notes that the word declared translates a form of the verb exegeomai, and that is where the English word “exegesis” comes from. **Exegesis is the method or practice of interpreting Scripture.** John was saying that Jesus exegeted or interpreted the Father! Matthew 11:27 says **“No one knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.”**

John writes in his gospel 1:14, “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.” **Eternal God had become earthly man! While never sacrificing or changing His Deity, Jesus takes to Himself a human body becoming forever the God-man. Jesus remains eternally God, unblemished Deity, sinless and perfect while becoming a man. Jesus**

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**while completely Divine is now also fully human.** Jesus has two natures. One divine, one human. The theological term for this is the Hypostatic Union. Matt Slick writes, “Jesus’ two natures are not mixed together, nor are they combined into a new God-man nature. They are separate yet act as a unite in the one person of Jesus.” Jesus is God in flesh, the second person of the trinity.

**Jesus is God’s full and final word to man about Himself.** Listen to what the Hebrew writer wrote, “God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person” (Heb 1:1-3)!

What is John trying to say? Let’s use the words of the Apostle Paul as commentary to shed light on the meaning of Christ’s manifestation.

2 Timothy 1:8-10, “Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God; Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, But is now made manifest by the appearing of our

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Savior Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel!”

Through the Word of Life, the Lord Jesus Christ, God has spoken clearly about how He has saved us, showered us with grace, and delivered us from death into eternal life! It is through Jesus Christ that we are saved! His perfect obedience on our behalf! His sacrificial death in our place! There is the meaning in Christ’s manifestation. It is all about God making known to us His saving plan in Jesus Christ. The manifestation of God in Christ is about God making Himself known to us and making known how He has saved us!

## **Conclusion**

Father, thank you for making yourself known to me through the incarnation and manifestation of your Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ. Help us to appreciate the length you went to make yourself known. Help us to value your Word to us, the Word of life, the Lord Jesus. Help us to make known this saving Word to others just as John did to us. Thank you Jesus, that you the Eternal Son of God became a son of man that sinful sons of men could eternally become sons of God.