

Topic: “The One with the Answers “

Thesis: Living for Jesus is the only way to live a victorious life today.

Text: (1st John 1:1-4).

Introduction:

- 1- The foundation of a building is the rock like certainty to which every dependant part of the building is attached. Without a foundation a building is insecure and short lived, being at the mercy of every blast of wind and storm,(Matt 7:23-28).
- 2- Life must have a foundation:
 - a- A central certainty from which all uncertainties receive strength and stability.
- 3- Without that foundation we become nervous about real living, often confused about who I am, where I came from and where I am going.
 - a- We become nervous about death; in fact our reason for the way we conduct our lives is misguided and we seem to have no answers, indeed even our eternal assurance is in question.
 - b- I bring before you what I believe is the **essential foundation for victorious living** and that is that the creator of this universe, God

Transition:

[. God intended for every person to **be joyful and successful in** living a full and abundant life here and in the hereafter.]

[Do you want an abundant, fulfilled life? Do you have a foundation for living victoriously? One has stated that you can be, *“successful in life and a failure in living, success in life is incidental, but success in living is crucial.”* I want to share with you a passage from the Bible that deals with victorious living. I assure you that I am not ashamed to say that after living on this earth for a while now I have found that: **Living for Jesus is the only way to live a victorious life today for He is the only one with the answers for today and the future.**]

[Do not stumble through life, half believing or half doubting. Live a complete life, a full life. The passage that we will read will point you to the only foundation upon which true victory is the result in the end.]

Discussion: Read text: (1 John1:1-4).

- I- **The fullness of revelation.** Read (1st John1:1-2).
 - A- The first part of the foundation to which John refers to is ‘Divine Revelation.’
 - 1- No one can face the responsibilities and rigours of life with meaning, assurance and true victory without his life being tied to a foundation that is stronger than life itself.
 - 2- Note that in (verses 1-2: of 1st John), the person about whom John writes and speaks of is greater than hardships, rebuffs, even death! What a foundation for life!
 - 3- John says that a supernatural person from beyond life has come to help us live life. Eternity has entered time; deity has touched humanity, (John1:14).

- B- The revelation of Jesus is concrete and complete. His coming was not obscure or vague, unapproachable or untouchable.
 - 1- John say's, "***That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled...***"
 - 2- Man heard him, saw him and touched him. Eternal life, the express image of God, lived and walked among us! Is more evidence necessary? How revelation could be improved for having an abundant life. Jesus came that you might have life and have it more abundantly, (John 10:10), I do not think there could be any improvement on that.
 - 3- Today we have the perfect Jesus revealed in His perfect word. You cannot discard this Jesus, find flaw or discredit him. Even in the times of John the best minds tried but His perfection remains intact.
- C- When we talk of 'fullness of revelation' as part of foundation, one of the great proofs of its validity is the content and nature of the revelation itself.
 - 1- Life may change—friends may leave, disease may come, and accidents may occur. But values and purposes, when grounded in this revelation, will remain unchanged.
 - 2- When you are anchored to the unchangeable the changes of life will not destroy you.
 - 3- How do we do this? We tie ourselves to the divine revelation and living by the words of Jesus and His inspired writers and by making His purposes our purposes.
 - 4- Folks, without this foundation the house of life will crumble into the dust. Jesus is the only one in whom there is real life and living.

II- THE FULLNESS OF FELLOWSHIP, (I John1:3).

- A- Fellowship in Christ is the second part of the equation of the foundation for victorious living.
 - 1- Man, a gregarious being, must have fellowship with others. It is essential to his happiness because we are made to be social beings.
 - 2- The fellowship of which John writes is the highest of all fellowships, the fellowship which is basic to a meaningful life. John says, "***What we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, that you also may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ***" (1:3). Such divine fellowship gives beauty and undergirding, it gives foundation to all legitimate human fellowships.
 - 3- The interesting thought with fellowship mentioned in verse 3 is two-pronged, a fellowship which reaches **up to God** and His Son and reaches out in Johns case ,and mine, **to God's family members.**
 - 4- It is at once a heavenly and earthly fellowship. Fellowship with God lifts us above the trivial plans and designs of this world; fellowship with God's family gives us strength and purpose when the temporary relationships of life dissolve.
 - 5- Fellowship **implies unity of thought and activity.** It is **joint participation in a common venture.** The fellowship of which John speaks is joint participation in God's eternal purpose with God and His church where true abundant living and life can only be.

- B- Two responses must be made to the fellowship presented in this passage. First, appropriation is necessary. Fellowship may be *available*, but it must be appropriated. The question is HOW?
 - 1- We enter it by faith, repentance, confession and baptism into Christ then faithful living, (Jo 8:24, Luke 13:3, Rom 10:10, Acts 22:16).
 - 2- What an opportunity! What a blessing! This spiritual fellowship is so basic to victorious living that unless it is at the very centre of your life your reach for true happiness, successful and abundant living will never be realised.
- III- Fullness of Joy, (1 John 1:4).(We live in a joyless world. Take a walk around town sometime).
 - A- Victorious living is based upon joy. Not a joy found in the world but found in Christ.
 - 1- Joy is the inner singing of the soul of the Christian. It is a Bible-based, deep-settled peace regarding the big issues of life. John says, “And these things we write, so that joy may be made complete” (1:4).
 - 2- Joy springs from a response and a relationship. A response to the revelation of God and a relationship with God.
 - B- . So many live joyless, unfulfilled lives always filled with uncertainty and anxiety. But look at John’s statement in (verse 4). He makes three implications regarding joy
 - 1- He implies the **reality of joy**. Early Christians had it; we can have it too, but we must always reach for it.
 - 2- He implies the **basis of joy**. Joy flows from Jesus dwelling in the heart. Joy does not dwell where eternal hope does not exist.
 - 3- Third, he implies the **beauty of joy**. John wrote this letter to bring joy. Joy is a desirable quality that is worth every effort and sacrifice made to receive it.
 - C- Anchored to the eternal and based upon God’s revelation, my joy is full and complete. It is grounded in a perfect revelation and springs from a relationship with the eternal, almighty God. Is not this real living? Isn’t this what abundant and successful living is all about?
 - 1- Ask yourself: “Do I have Scripture-grounded confidence about life’s major decisions?”
 - 2- If you must say no, you must settle the question at once by coming to God in gospel obedience or coming back to God in restoration to your first love.

Conclusion:

- 1- The joyful, abundant life must be built upon the right foundation. The foundation implied by these four verses is a three-part foundation that is steady and sure: the revelation of Jesus, fellowship with God, and the fullness of joy. No other foundation can give you that abundant living and hope.
- 2- Do not miss the order. **Revelation, relationship, rejoicing!** The proper response to the revelation brings fellowship with God and true fellowship produces **joy and the three together; a victorious life.**
- 3- When life is broken by sin a joke will not bring joy. The soul must be mended and the relationship with God restored. Once God’s revelation has been honoured and fellowship with God and His people regained, joy will follow.

- 4- Victorious living can be yours but it must be built upon the proper foundation. How about you? Are you seeking a joyful, abundant life? God invites you to His way, His life, and His joy.