

## EPISTLE OF FIRST JOHN

### "An Apostolic Life"

#### Introduction

1. That John the Apostle is the author of this epistle has never really been disputed by orthodox believers. Although unnamed in the book, his imprint is seen everywhere (cf. 1:1-3; 4:14).

2. Communion or fellowship with the Lord is the dominant note struck in the book. One might readily ask: what kind of a man would write such an epistle under the guidance of the Holy Spirit? To this matter, let one's attention be drawn.

3. Here are descriptions of John which cry aloud that he was one who really enjoyed the communion of the Lord,

#### 1. AS A DISCIPLE John 1:37, 40; 20:2.

To be a disciple involves:

- a. John as a believer. Every disciple of any person is really an adherent.
- b. John as a follower. Disciples are those who follow the one to whom they adhere.

What a blessed thought: to be personally attracted to the Holy Son of God, Christ Jesus our Lord!

#### 2. AS A FISHERMAN Mark 1:17, 19, 20.

Note this included:

- a. A promise. "I will make."
- b. A process. "to become." Greek verb is more than a mere copulative verb.
- c. A privilege. "fisher of men." Cf. Luke 5:10 where verb means to "catch alive" or "catch for life." Praise the Lord.

3. AS AN ASSOCIATE Mark 5:37; 9:2; 14:33.

This occurred in:

- a. Resurrection. Mark 1:42.
- b. Transfiguration. Mark 9:2.
- c. Affliction. Mark 14:33-42.

How intimate John was with our Lord. He traced the steps of glory and grace with Him.

4. AS A MISSIONARY Luke 9:54; Acts 8:14.

The hatred which Jews had for Samaritans was patent (cf. John 4). Yet, to a despicable people an apostle of love was sent! A true lover of the Lord will be altruistic in his very being! Love for the Lord is not selfish, but for the sake of others.

5. AS A SUFFERER Rev. 1:9.

The imprisonment of John at Patmos notes his filling up of the sufferings of Christ (Col. 1:24). He was there on account of:

- a. The Word of God.
- b. The testimony of Christ.

6. AS A WORSHIPPER Rev. 1:17.

The vision of our blessed Lord was overwhelming for John. His only reaction: prostration in His holy and divine presence. It is the last picture of John!

Conclusion

These are selected descriptions of the life of John the Apostle. They point up the kind of man he was. Men of this caliber are needed in the church of Christ today. Would to God we might have them filling our assemblies.

"It is so sweet to know  
My whole life long  
Thy loving plan for me  
Cannot go wrong.

I know that Thou wilt choose  
The best for me.  
And I can rest  
And trust in Thee."

- Selected -

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