

**FOR THE BROTHERS:
A STUDY IN THE EPISTLES OF JAMES, JOHN, JUDE
AMEN BIBLE STUDY 2016-2017**

**John: The First-Hand Witness
I John 1:1-4
January 5, 2017**

I. Our faith is based on reliable witnesses.

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—

cf. Genesis 1:1; John 1:1, 14, 18; 19:35; 20:27; I John 2:13, 14; 4:14; II Peter 1:16; Luke 24:39

- Heard
- Saw
- Touched

Docetism = the belief that the Son of God appeared to come in the flesh.

“word of life” = a description of Christ

cf. John 1:4; 3:16; 5:24; 6:51; 8:13; 10:10; 11:25, 26

II. Reliable witnesses communicate what God revealed.

² the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us—³ that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you,...

- Saw
- Testify
- Proclaim

“eternal life” = a description of Christ

cf. 3:14; 4:9; 5:11, 16

III. What was communicated to us gives us fellowship.

A. with reliable witnesses

...so that you too may have fellowship with us;

B. with God

and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.

cf. John 17:20, 21

IV. Reliable witnesses of Christ receive great joy.

⁴ And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

cf. John 15:11; 16:24; Philippians 4:1, 4-6