

09.14.22 – A Weekly Word for Covenant Church

Title: “A Sensible Proclamation”

Scripture Reading: [1 John 1:1-4](#)

Reflection: Pastor Henry

One of the things that stood out to me in our text for this week is the “sensible” nature of the proclamation that John is making about who Jesus is and what Jesus has done. “Sensible,” not in terms of making good sense or being reasonable. But rather, “sensible” as a play on words. “Sensible” in terms of involving one’s senses. “Sensible” in terms of what someone can see, hear, and touch.

Notice with me how John roots his testimony about Jesus in these verses in what he (and others around him...the “we”) had heard, and had seen and looked at with his/their eyes, and had touched with his/their own hands.

What John is proclaiming to those reading this letter, including us today, is rooted in what he has seen and heard. It’s not theory. It’s not speculation. It’s not opinion. Rather, his testimony and proclamation, the things he will be talking about, are based upon physical, tangible, and actual events that could be touched, seen, and heard, by all those who were there.

Pastor Doug reminded us in his message that “When John spoke, people listened. His testimony was true. He had experienced it first-hand. The truth of the Christian faith rests on real, observable events that actually happened in human history.”

John’s focus on sharing and proclaiming what he had heard, seen, and touched in these verses got me thinking about my own sharing and proclamation about Jesus. This morning, I would invite us all to do the same.

What is the basis for our proclamation? What is the basis for what we are sharing about who Jesus is?

Is our proclamation based upon a series of “sensible” doctrines, theology, and beliefs that are reasonable and rational?

Or is our proclamation based upon a series of “sensible” (physical and tangible) experiences and encounters that we (and/or others) have had with the living God, with Jesus, and with the Spirit of God where we have been touched by God, where we have seen God at work, or where we have heard God at work?

Or is our proclamation based upon both?

John starts off his letter by reminding the readers that he is talking from his “sensible” experiences...what he has heard, has seen, and has touched.

Pastor Doug in his first sermon of this series encouraged all of us to do the same. Listen again to one of the

challenges Pastor Doug placed before all of us.

“Do you have a healthy relationship with Jesus? What have you experienced? Where have you seen him at work in your heart and life (lately)? First, we need an authentic experience like John, i.e., if you haven’t been with Jesus, don’t talk about him with others; don’t say you’re a Christian. First, spend time with him; first, learn to listen to him; first, join him where he’s working.”

Do we have a “sensible” experience with God that is based upon what we have seen, heard, and touched?

Prayer:

God, thank you for sending your Son Jesus to live and walk and talk among us and for providing us with physical, tangible, “sensible” encounters that could be seen, heard, and touched. Spirit of God, thank you for continuing to provide us with physical, tangible, “sensible” encounters in our own hearts and lives and also in the hearts and lives of those around us that we can see, hear, and touch. Help us to testify and proclaim and share what we have seen, heard, and touched with those around us each and every day. In Jesus' name, we pray. AMEN

Action Item for Day/Week:

Reflect on where you have seen, heard, and felt God at work in your life recently. Share with someone today one of these ways that God is at work in your heart and life.

Songs for today:

[Holy Spirit](#)