

Week of December 9-15

EYEWITNESS

Scripture Reading: Read 1 John 1

As finite human beings, we are limited by time and space. We can't be in two places or two time periods at the same time. We can't be here and there. We can only be here and now. While we may dream of what can be in the future and we can remember events from our past, we only have now in which we experience life. What we know of the past of those before us is only possible when others have shared it with us verbally, in print, or through some other medium of communication.

For example, although I was eleven when Harry S. Truman passed away, I never met him in person. My mother, however, had met him personally when she worked in Washington D.C. as a young woman. She shared her recollections with me of her interactions with then President Truman. Her eyewitness account of the man, supported by others who knew him and worked with him, combined with print and television reports, convinced me that President Truman actually existed as a person even though I never knew him or met him.

The same case could be made for President George Washington. None of us alive today ever met the man and, yet, no thinking person would deny the fact that Washington not only lived and died but also had a powerful impact on our country's establishment. We take at face value that he lived. Why? It's because there were eyewitnesses at the time who had met him, talked with him, and worked with him. There are speeches that he made, letters that he wrote, and actions that he took that were recorded and passed on from generation to generation. Even though we weren't there at the founding of our country, because of eyewitness accounts and additional written evidence, we accept his existence.

How much more, then, should we trust the multiple eyewitness accounts of Jesus Christ like that of John in the opening verses of today's chapter reading. *"That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched--this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard..."* Even though we weren't alive in the 1st century, John was! He knew Jesus. He listened to him speak and watched him heal. He saw him die. He was a witness to his resurrection and he gave us an eyewitness account of his life. This account, along with other written accounts of what he said and did, support the same truth: This Jesus was no fable or cleverly invented story. He was flesh and blood, the Word of God incarnate, and through him, salvation is available to all who call on his name including you!

Action Step & Prayer Focus: Skim through the sermons and speeches of the first few chapters of Acts. Look at how often the disciples claim to give an eyewitness account of the facts. Pray for the Lord to solidify in your heart the truthfulness of the gospel given and shared by eyewitnesses so you can trust it fully and share it confidently.

Take-a-way: *Trust an eyewitness. Jesus is real and God in the flesh.*