

Sermon ~ Sunday, January 3, 2021 by Pastor D. Benoit

Text: I John 1: 1-3, 6, 7; 2: 4, 9.

Title: "WHAT a FELLOWSHIP!"

It is the year 2021! I cut through the "thick" and encourage, "our Words and Actions *must* align!" We need not attempt great things, but good things, **GOD** things, done with Great *Love!* We *must* be sources of *Love, Light* and *Life*. How, you may ask? Through True FELLOWSHIP!

Notice, the verses again,

- I John 1: 3, "...that ye also may have FELLOWSHIP with us; and truly our FELLOWSHIP *is* with **The FATHER**, and with **HIS SON JESUS CHRIST**."
- I John 1: 6, "If we say that we have FELLOWSHIP with **HIM**, and walk-in darkness, we lie, and do not **The TRUTH**..."
- I John 1: 7, "But if we walk in **The LIGHT**, as **HE** is in **The LIGHT**, we have FELLOWSHIP one with another, and **The Blood of JESUS CHRIST HIS SON** cleanseth us from all *sin*."

"WHAT a FELLOWSHIP!"

Unlike, the passed 45th President of the United States of America, Mr. Donald Trump, per the Washington Post—July 13, 2020; made more than 20, 000 false or misleading claims. The Post reported, it took Mr. Trump 827 days to top 10, 000 to make false and misleading claims in the Fact Checker's Database, an average of 12 claims per day.

We (you and I; we ALL) must value **The TRUTH** more than anything else! The Apostle John points our 4 *lies* we often tell ourselves...

1. WE say we have FELLOWSHIP with **GOD** but walk-in darkness. (I John 1: 6)
2. WE say we have no *sin* and deceive ourselves. (I John 1: 8)
3. WE say we know **GOD**, but do not keep **HIS** commandments. (I John 2: 4)
4. WE say we are in **The LIGHT** but hate our brothers/sisters in **CHRIST**. (I John 2: 9)

Today, is a good Day, to check our FELLOWSHIP!!!

In verses 1-3, of I John, the Apostle speaks of this 'intimate FELLOWSHIP' he and the other 11 Apostles had with **JESUS**, while **HE** was here on earth with them (3 ½ years). Yet, I hear **JESUS** raising a question to them, in John 14: 9, "Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known **ME**, Philip? He that hath seen **ME** hath seen **The FATHER**; and how sayest thou *then*, how us **The FATHER**?"

But after **CHRIST**, *died* on **Calvary's Cross**, was *buried*, and *rose* from the dead. And, ascended to Heaven, and **The SPIRIT of GOD** descended and rested upon them, all that they had *seen*, and *heard*, and *handled* of **JESUS**, became a means of FELLOWSHIP, communion between **HIMSELF** and them. Then, they could really testify, "**HE**, which was before the beginning,

we heard **HIM**, we saw **HIM** with our *eyes of Faith*, we are *looking* right now at **HIS** works and working, we *felt HIS pulse* and **HE** ours; our *hands* because of **HIS Hands** holding ours, are working wonders as we handle, **HIS WORD of Life**. Ooooooh,

“WHAT a FELLOWSHIP!”

What is this FELLOWSHIP, with **The FATHER** and **HIS SON**, the Apostles shared, and will to share with us, and we with others? If we learn anything of **CHRIST**—if we have any enjoyment of **HIS Presence**—do know, it is not for self alone, but that *others* also may know **HIM** and enjoy **HIM**. The *key* is “*Believing!!!*” **JESUS** did declare, “...Blessed *are* they that have *not* seen, and yet have *believed*.” (John 19: 29d)

What is this FELLOWSHIP? Suppose that a great *Plague* raged in our world. It carried off some 300, 600 plus of our United States population, threatening another 10, 000 plus within months. Suppose you lived, in a City, with a Father and a Son, whose one care was, for the *healing* of others. While living with this Father and his Son, you saw this intimate affection existing between them, and you, in their council-chamber, heard them consulting together as to what they would do for the perishing citizens of that City.

You hear of the Son, saying, Father, I will make the sacrifice of myself, from day to day, by going into the homes of those who are smitten with the *plague*. Suppose you see the Son, and his Father with a smile on his face, as he goes forth daily, making this sacrifice of caring for the *plagued*. Because of the Son’s sacrificing, you witness, how the sick is plucked from the grip of this terrible disease, like brands from the burning fire. You watch the Father’s love, and the Son’s self-sacrifice, and you are filled with admiration of them.

Well, suppose you are living in such a house, the *first* thing necessary for FELLOWSHIP with the Father and the Son, would be “Mutual Communication.” To live in the house where they are and never speak to them, or to be spoken to by them, would be no sort of FELLOWSHIP. Merely to know that there were such persons in the house, and to know that they were engaged in such blessed work as this, and you would not commune with them, is not FELLOWSHIP!

We must speak to them, and they must speak to us; and the speaking, on both sides, must be kind, loving sort—not, on our part, that which would offend them; nor, on their part, that which would imply anger towards us. This is the beginning of our FELLOWSHIP with **The FATHER (GOD)** and with **HIS (SON) JESUS CHRIST**. There *must* be mutual communication between us. We *must* have heard **The Voice of GOD** in our hearts, and we must have spoken to **GOD** from our hearts. We cannot enjoy this FELLOWSHIP, whatever we say, unless our soul has learnt to speak with **GOD** through prayer and praise, and unless our ear has learned to listen to whatever **HE** says through **HIS WORD**, by **HIS SPIRIT**, through preaching-ministers, in creation, by **HIS Providence**.

HIS Voice is sounding everywhere; and to FELLOWSHIP with **HIM**, we *must* have the ear that hears, the heart that *believes* what **HE** says, and, we *must* have a tongue that responds to **HIS Voice**, for there can be no true communion without mutual communication.

Second, while living in this house, suppose you become sick of the plague, yet, suffering in this house where the one business carried on is the healing of the sick, and you refuse to put yourself under the care of the Son, who is **The Great Physician**. If you despise **HIS** remedies, or delay receiving them, you cannot be said to have any true FELLOWSHIP with the Son nor the Father.

You show no appreciation of **HIS** efforts on behalf of others; you show no gratitude to accept **HIS** services on your account. It is **HIS** business to *save*, yet you are not *saved*. **HE** is quite close to you, and **HE** is able, with a single touch of **HIS Hand**, to heal you, yet you will not permit **HIS** sacred skill to be exercised upon you. Clearly, you do not believe in **HIM**, you desire not to submit to **HIM**, and clearly you have no FELLOWSHIP with **HIM**.

If we are to have any FELLOWSHIP with our **LORD JESUS CHRIST**, we *must*, surrender our souls to **HIM**, and we must go to **The FATHER** and say to **HIM**, "**FATHER**, I am a *sinner*, I have *sinned*, and by Faith, upon **The Atoning Sacrifice of JESUS on Calvary's Cross**, I confess **HIM** as my **LORD** and **SAVIOR**! Please accept me, as I put my trust in **JESUS** along!
This is essential to true FELLOWSHIP!

Thirdly, suppose while living in the house with this Father and Son, desiring to have FELLOWSHIP with them, you are not aware of the *self-denials* to which this well-beloved Son has exposed himself, or of the bountiful heart of this generous Father, who was willing even to open his house to you, while enduring all the perils of *the plague* for the sake of those who were smitten by it. If you do not know as much as this, we cannot have anything like full FELLOWSHIP with the Father and the Son.

Do you believe the report?

"There was nothing beautiful or majestic about **HIS** appearance, nothing to attract us to **HIM**. **HE** was despised and rejected—a man of sorrows, acquainted with bitterest grief. We turned our backs on **HIM** and looked the other way when **HE** went by. **HE** was despised, and we did not care. Yet it was our weaknesses **HE** carried; it was our sorrows that weighed **HIM** down. And we thought **HIS** troubles were a punishment from **GOD** for **HIS** own *sins*! But **HE** was wounded and crushed for our *sins*. **HE** was beaten that we might have peace. **HE** was whipped, and we were healed!"

Do you believe the report?

"For **GOD** so loved the world, that **HE** gave **HIS** only begotten **SON**, that whosoever *believeth* in **HIM** should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Fourthly, think of the *plague*-stricken people who the Father and the Son, allows to come and howl and rage against him under his very window; yet, all the while, he is *living* for them. In the madness that follows this diseased *plague*, they seek the life of his Son, **The Great Physician**, nevertheless, the Son is ready to lay down **HIS Life**, for haply **HE** may save them. If you can see this grand design of **GOD**, to make **HIS foes**, **HIS friends**; **HIS** desire to change rebels into loyal

courtiers; ingrates into Sons and daughters, and to lift the heirs of wrath to Kings and Priests, you have entered into FELLOWSHIP with **The FATHER** and **The SON**, and all **The Saints of GOD!** Finally, we know we have FELLOWSHIP with **GOD**—our **FATHER**, not lying, while walk-in darkness, but walking in **The TRUTH**.

We know we have FELLOWSHIP with **GOD**—our **FATHER**, for we walk in **The LIGHT**, as **HE (JESUS) is The LIGHT**, and we have FELLOWSHIP one with another, and The Blood of **JESUS** cleanseth us from all *sin*.”

We know we have FELLOWSHIP with JOHN and the other Apostles and ALL **The Saints of GOD**, when we like **The FATHER** and **The SON**, during this time of the *plague*, answer The Master, “**LORD**, when saw we **THEE** an hungered, and fed **THEE**? Or Thirsty, and gave **THEE** drink? When saw we **THEE** a stranger, and took **THEE** in? or naked, and clothed **THEE**? Or when saw we **THEE** sick, or in prison, and came unto **THEE**? And **The KING** shall answer and say unto us, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done *it* unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done *it* unto **ME**.”

What a FELLOWSHIP, what a JOY divine, Leaning on **The Everlasting Arms**;
What a blessedness, what a peace of mine, Leaning on **The Everlasting Arms!**

O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way, Leaning on **The Everlasting Arms**;
O how bright the path grows from day to day, Leaning on **The Everlasting Arms!**

What have I to dread, what have I to fear, Leaning on **The Everlasting Arms**;
I have blessed peace with my **LORD** so near, Leaning on **The Everlasting Arms!**

Leaning, leaning, Safe and secure from all alarms;
Leaning, leaning, Leaning on **The Everlasting Arms!**

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