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Donelson Men in Christ

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- 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—that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. (1John 1:4 ESV)

1. A Witness to Christ (John 21:20-24; 19:31-35; 20:1-9; I John 5:20)
2. How to interpret I John
 - a. Historical approach – who are the false ones? 2:19-28
 - i. False teachers:1:6, 8, 10; 2:4, 6, 9; 4:20
 - ii. See I Timothy 1:3-7;
 - b. Anti-Docetism approach – was Jesus really a man
 - c. Literary Rhetorical approach
 - i. The Alethia approach (Ἀλεθεια)
 - ii. 1 John 4:6 We are of God. Whoever knows God listens to us, and he who is not of God does not listen to us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error. (1Jo 4:6)
 - iii. What is Truth?

3. The core:

1 John 2:7-8 RSV *Beloved, I am writing you no new commandment, but an old commandment which you had from the beginning; the old commandment is the word which you have heard. et I am writing you a new commandment, which is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining.*

NEB *Dear friends, I give you no new command. It is the old command which you always had before you; the old command is the message which you heard at the beginning. And yet again it is a new command that I am giving you—new in the sense that the darkness is passing and the real light already shines. Christ has made this true, and it is true in your own experience.*