

the Gospel according to

JOHN



SESSION 01:

Introduction & Overview

If ye continue in my word, then are
ye my disciples indeed;
- Jesus Christ (John 8:31)

- **If YOU... (conditional & personal)**
- **CONTINUE IN... (desire & perseverance)**
- **Jesus' word... (not man's word)**
- **CHRIST's disciple... (know & follow HIM)**
- **INDEED (in reality, in action)**

MANY “CHRISTIANS”

- **Many Church goers...**
- **Many denominations...**
- **Many people have been through “discipleship” courses/programs...**
- **Many “disciples” & “leaders” of movements, organizations, ministries...**

❖ **But how many “disciples of Jesus Christ” are there indeed?**

Importance of the Gospels!

- **SEE CHRIST himself.**
- **HEAR his DOCTRINE.**
- **SEE his works & miracles.**
- **OBSERVE how he dealt with people.**
- **WATCH the reactions of people.**
- **Come to KNOW HIM & HIS Spirit.**

CHRIST REVEALED through the GOSPELS:

- **MATTHEW: His KINGDOM (doctrine)**
- **MARK: His WORKS (miracles/deeds)**
- **LUKE: His WISDOM (judgment & grace in dealing with people)**
- **JOHN: His REVELATION of HIMSELF, the FATHER, & the SPIRIT (directly unveiling truths about the IDENTITY & work of GOD)**

Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. - 2 John 9a

- **WHOSOEVER** (no matter WHO...)
- **TRANSGRESSES** (outward crossing of line)
- **Does not ABIDE** in... (not dwell/continue in)
- **The DOCTRINE of CHRIST!** (His instruction)
- **Don't have God!** (Don't know him)

...He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. - 2 John 9b

- **HE that (absolute no matter who...)**
- **ABIDES in (dwell/continue in)**
- **The DOCTRINE of CHRIST! (His word)**
- **He HATH (you have/possess)**
- **BOTH... (package deal)**
- **The FATHER & the SON (presence)**

OVERVIEW of JOHN

Basic Info:

- **AUTHOR:** John the apostle (not Baptist)
- **DATE:** Written around A.D. 60
- **PURPOSE:** To bring people to true faith in Jesus Christ so that they might have life. (John 20:31)
- **AUDIENCE:** Lost people & believers.

OVERVIEW of JOHN

Summary:

John shows Jesus as the Word made flesh. It shows his deity (God-nature) more clearly than any other gospel. It shows him as the eternal Word and Light of God. Throughout the gospel it confirms his deity through his words and his works. Those who receive the truth of his words and works become sons of God, and those who reject his words and works are left in darkness. In John, we see Jesus revealing who the Father is, who the Son is, and their relationship more clearly than any other book in the Bible.

OVERVIEW of JOHN

Summary (cont'd):

John is unique from all other gospels as it is the only book that focuses quite a bit on Jesus' time spent in Jerusalem at the feast days throughout his 3-and-a-half year ministry. John also is the only gospel that reveals Jesus' private instruction to the 11 true apostles in the "Upper Room" where he opens up some very important truths about himself, the Holy Ghost, and his Father in heaven. John is written to the whole world to show them that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that anyone may have the gift of eternal life through faith in him.

OVERVIEW of JOHN

Key Themes:

- The Father and the Son (and the Spirit).
- The light and the darkness.
- The words and works of Christ.
- The will of God and the will of man.
- Faith (believing) and Unbelief.
- Receiving Christ or Rejecting Christ.
- Grace, truth and love.
- Life (eternal) and death.

OVERVIEW of JOHN

Interesting Facts about John:

- a fisherman who left everything to follow Christ.
- a disciple of John the Baptist before he followed Jesus.
- probably the closest disciple to Jesus; referred to himself as 'the disciple whom Jesus loved' (13:23).
- the only one who knew Jesus' eternal name: 'the Word' (1:1).
- the only one that knew Judas was the betrayer before the betrayal (13:23-26).

OVERVIEW of JOHN

Interesting Facts about John (cont'd):

- the only apostle of the 12 that followed Jesus all the way to the cross and was given the responsibility to care for Mary (19:25-27).
- the only one who believed that Jesus was alive before actually seeing him resurrected (20:1-8).
- the only one who received the 'Revelation' of the end-times.
- the only apostle of the 11 that was not martyred and was able to live to an old age and die naturally (according to tradition).

OVERVIEW of JOHN

Outline:

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| 1:1-18 | Introduction/Prologue:
~ the Word; the Light; the Word made flesh. |
| 1:19-34
(& 3:23-36) | The Ministry of John the Baptist:
~ his message; his baptism. |
| 1:35 – 4:54 | The Early ministry of Jesus:
~ gathering disciples; his first miracles & messages. |
| 5 – 12 | Jesus' Ministry of Controversy:
~ more miracles & messages; strong opposition. |

OVERVIEW of JOHN

Outline (cont'd):

13 – 17 The Upper Room:

~ last supper; instruction to the 11 true disciples; prayer to the Father.

18 – 19 Jesus' Passion:

~ his betrayal, trial, crucifixion, & burial.

20 – 21 Jesus' Resurrection & Appearances:

~ resurrection appearances, final miracle, fellowship, & final words.