

the Gospel according to

JOHN



SESSION 03:

Prologue – pt 2

Prologue

Overview:

The first eighteen verses of the gospel of John are the introduction to the book. These verses contain key information and understanding that will be opened up in the rest of John. These verses contain truths that are very deep and are certainly difficult to grasp the first time reading through. This passage must be read over and over through-out your years as a Christian to really begin to get a full understanding of them. However, in this lesson, we will try to identify and open up some of the key points that will help you to know who the true God is, his work in the world, and how a person can become his child.

JOHN 1:9-13

- “That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.
- He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.
- He came unto his own, and his own received him not.
- But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:
- Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”

❖ NOTE: What are some of the key words in this passage?

KEY POINTS:

- **You must receive HIM!** You cannot accept part of him for only what you want to gain from him... this option does not exist. You either receive “HIM” (all of him) or you don’t receive him (reject him). No in between.
- **Those who receive the true Light are given POWER** by him to become the sons of God. This is serious power! We receive him by believing on his name.
- **This is a new birth.** It is not physical (flesh and blood), and it cannot happen by the will of the flesh or the will of man. It is spiritual and it is only of God! (See John 3:5-6 and 4:24).

JOHN 1:14-18

- “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.
- John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me.
- And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace.
- For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.
- No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.”

❖ NOTE: What are some of the key words in this passage?

KEY POINTS:

- **The Word was made flesh!** The eternal Word from the beginning became flesh and lived with the apostles. He was full of grace and truth, and the apostles saw this glory. This glory of his personhood clearly revealed him to be the only begotten Son of the Father.
- **John the Baptist even pointed him out and understood who he was.** Even though John was physically 6 months older than Jesus, he knew that Jesus had preference above him and that Jesus was before him.
- **All the apostles received of Christ's fulness.** Jesus was the fulness of the Godhead bodily (see Colossians 2:9). And now we can receive of his fulness. We can receive of the nature and the grace that he had so that we can walk in this divine nature and have grace for others.

KEY POINTS:

- **The Old Covenant (law) is in contrast to the New Covenant (grace and truth).** The law was given by Moses, a man who was a servant of God. The law is good and has a purpose. However, the grace and truth of the new covenant has come by Jesus Christ (the Word made flesh)! Grace and truth is far greater than the law in all aspects.
- **The only man to ever see God was Jesus.** He is the only begotten Son of God. He is in the heart of the Father. And he came to reveal the Father to us. Only through the Son, can we know and see the Father.

CONCLUSION & MOVING FORWARD

John will reveal the Word made flesh (Jesus Christ). He is not just a man. He is the Creator from the beginning. His life, words, and works will be a light that shines in the darkness of Israel. We will see men rejecting and abandoning him because of their love for darkness. However, we will see men and women who will receive him and become God's children through his power. He will bring grace and truth so that Israel may see and know their God. And ultimately, John will write these things so that through Christ, all nations may know the true and living God.