

That You May Believe and Have Life: A Study in John

John 1-3: The Word

Introduction

1. Who is John? (John 21:24, Mark 5:37, 9:2, 12:33, John 13:23, 19:26, 20:2, 21:7)
2. Why did John write the Gospel of John?

"These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." (John 20:31)

3. How does this Gospel differ from the other 3?
4. What is the goal of this study?

John 1:1-5

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

5. Why does John call Jesus "the Word?" What does this title say about Jesus?
6. What does this first sentence reveal to us about who Christ is?
7. What is the meaning of "life" and "light" here?

John 1:6-34

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to his own,¹ and his own people² did not receive him. ¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'") ¹⁶ And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God; the only God,¹ who is at the Father's side,² he has made him known. ¹⁹ And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰ He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." ²¹ And they

asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No."²² So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"²³ He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight' the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said."²⁴ (Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.)²⁵ They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?"²⁶ John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know,²⁷ even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie."²⁸ These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.²⁹ The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"³⁰ This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.'³¹ I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel."³² And John bore witness: "I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him."³³ I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.'³⁴ And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."

8. What was unusual about the fact that John was baptizing Jews?
9. Why did they want to know if John the Baptist was Elijah?
10. Who does John say that he is? How do his baptisms relate to making straight the way of the Lord?
11. What name does John the Baptist call Christ?

"Christ certainly bestows other blessings upon us, but the chief one, on which all the others depend, is that by appeasing the wrath of God He brings it to pass that we are reckoned righteous and pure." (John Calvin)

12. Do you count this the greatest of all blessings in practice? Is this something you think on/pray on often? Why/why not?
13. If you were to choose a title for Christ which emphasizes the aspect you think on most, what would it be?
14. Why is it important that we think of him "chiefly" as the Lamb of God?