

The Gospel of John Part 1: An Introduction

John 20:31



John 20:31 But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

the creator of all things who has made his dwelling among His creation.

The central theme of John's gospel is given to us at the end of his book: John 20:31 But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name. It is in this statement that one can discover the key emphasis of John throughout his entire letter. John speaks specifically to Jesus's identity, humanities response, and God's promise.

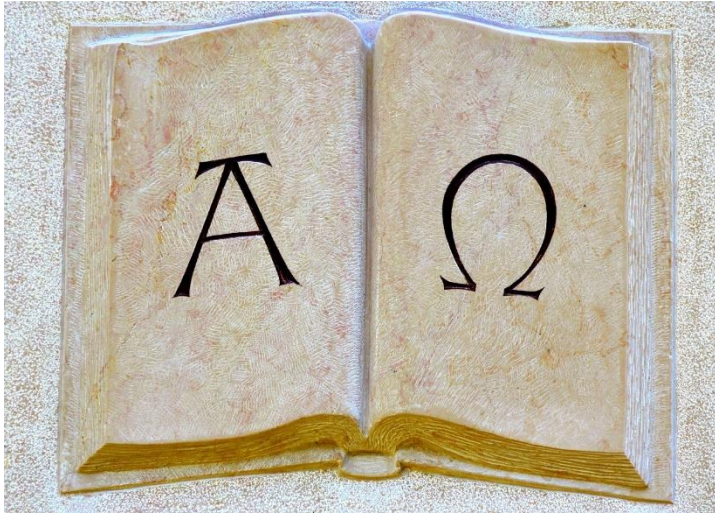
1) The Son of God. John opens his gospel with a declaration of Jesus's true identity: He is God. It is this identity, the divine nature of Jesus, that John emphasize more than any other gospel writer. Whether it is the testimony of John or directly from the mouth of Jesus, the reader of this gospel will have no doubt "that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God",

2) Believe in Him. John presses his reader, chapter after chapter, on how they ought to respond to this revelation that Jesus is truly God and truly man. The only right response from humanity is that they believe in Him. This call to belief is central to Jesus's message as He teaches and preaches throughout Judea and Samaria. John the Baptist paves the way in this central message, and Jesus affirms this throughout His earthly ministry. We have been given this gospel "that we may believe."

3) Eternal Life in His Name. John highlights that there is a promise from God contained exclusively in the person and work of Jesus Christ. It is "life in His name." In the simplest of terms and language, John labors to demonstrate that God grants eternal life to whoever believes in Jesus. If the reader of John understands nothing else in this book, it is that whoever believes in Jesus will have eternal life, and whoever does not believe has been judged already and the wrath of God abides on them.

The Gospel of John Part 2: The Story of Jesus. The Beginning and the End

John 1:1-13



John 1:1-13 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was

made that has been made. 4 In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. 5 And the Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it. 6 There was a man having been sent from God, whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness, to bear witness about the Light, so that all might believe through him. 8 He was not the Light, but he came to bear witness about the Light. 9 The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. 11 He came to what was His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. 12 But as many as received Him, to those who believe in His name, to them 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.

John's Gospel opens with a concise description concerning the story of Jesus from beginning to end. While the remainder of John's Gospel will provide details concerning Jesus's earthly ministry, John starts his story with details of Jesus's heavenly ministry.

1) The Word. Unlike the other gospel writers, this story of Jesus does not start in Bethlehem, or with Mary, but at the very beginning of all things. Through John, one discovers that before there was anything in the universe, there was God. The very God who spoke creation into existence, who gave life to all living creatures, and who brought forth light out of darkness was the person of Jesus Christ. Jesus as the Word gave life in the first creation, and this same Word now gives life in the new creation. "Then God said...and it was so."

2) The Witness. A king does not appear anywhere without first a grand announcement of his appearing. This is no different for the King of Kings who was coming into the world. John the Baptist was chosen by God to bear witness to the coming of Jesus into the world. John the Baptist had one purpose for his ministry: to prepare the people for Christ's appearing and to point the people to the Light of men.

3) The Work. John offers the threefold work of Christ as a foundation for what every person should know concerning Jesus: He created, He came, and He claimed. The story of Jesus is one of a savior at work. Where the creator of all things comes into His creation to claim for Himself a people. The work of Christ culminates in the adoption of all who believe in Him into the family of God. To be called a child of God is to gain redemption, eternal life, and a great inheritance. This adoption comes about through a new birth, not based on anything we do, but based solely on the work that Jesus has already done and continues to do for those who receive Him.

The Gospel of John Part 3: The Story of Jesus. God Becomes a Man

John 1:14-18



*John 1:14-18
And the Word
became flesh
and dwelt
among us. We
have seen His
glory, the glory
of the One and
Only, who came
from the
Father, full of*

grace and truth. 15 John testifies concerning Him. He cries out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because He was before me.'" 16 From the fullness of His grace we have all received one blessing after another. 17 For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made Him known.

After John introduces Jesus as the Word who was and is God from eternity past, he then tells us something amazing: that the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. One might wonder why God would ever become a man? The answer to this question is found in the fruit of Jesus's earthly ministry.

1) To Do What We Cannot. The one thing that God requires of anyone to have a relationship with Him, is the one thing that humanity has proven we cannot do: to live a perfect life. But Jesus did what nobody else could do, and as a man, Jesus lived

a perfect life. The only reason we can stand before a holy God as sinners is not because we have a righteousness of our own, but because we have a righteousness from God, accrued by Jesus, and given to us by faith.

2) To Empathize in Our Weakness. Nobody can every say of God that He has no idea what we have to deal with every day. Our trials, our temptations, all aspects of human adversity were all experienced by Jesus in His earthly ministry. Only as man could we find in God a person who can empathize in our weakness, who knows what we experience everyday, and who can give us exactly what we need to endure faithfully to the end.

3) To Shed Blood for Sin. From the beginning, God chose the shedding of blood as the only means for accomplishing forgiveness of sin among mankind. In the Old Testament this was done through goats and bulls, and only achieved a temporary remedy. But in the last days, Jesus shed His blood on the cross, so that whoever believes in Him, they can find eternal forgiveness in His blood.

4) To Guarantee Our Resurrection. The promise of eternal life depends on a future resurrection. Without a resurrection there is no life for anyone. But Jesus showed us a great sign of the things to come. That as a man, He was raised from the dead by God. So likewise, He will raise all men to life in the last day.

The Gospel of John Part 4: The Messenger of Christ

John 1:19-28



John 1:19-28 And this is the witness of John, when the Jews sent to him priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" 20 And he confessed and did not deny, but confessed, "I am

not the Christ." 21 And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" And he said "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." 22 Therefore, they said to him, "Who are you, so that we may give an answer to those who sent us? What do you say about yourself?" 23 He said, "I am a voice of one crying in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as Isaiah the prophet said." 24 Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. 25 And they asked him, and said to him, "Why then are you baptizing, if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" 26 John answered them, saying, "I baptize with water, but among you stands One whom you do not know. 27 "This One is He who comes after me, of whom I am not worthy to untie the strap of His sandal." 28 These things took place in Bethany beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

1) The Inquiry. John the Baptist's appearance among Israel was cause for a great inquiry. Because, it had been over 450 years since God had spoken to His people through a prophet. God had been

silent among the nation. Now comes a man who talked like a prophet, who did the works of a prophet, and the religious rulers in Jerusalem wanted to know who John was and why John was doing what he was doing. In John's response to this inquiry the message is clear: this is not about John, it is all about the One who is coming.

2) The Question of Who? Even though God had not spoken in Israel for over 400 years, the Jews knew the last thing He told them through the prophet Malachi: that Elijah would come before the day of the Lord. But in John's response to all the questions concerning his identity, he simply states that he is the voice of the one calling. This is the first pillar of John the Baptist's ministry, he is a voice who points. Crying out in the wilderness, pointing the people to Jesus. The witness for Christ is never about the messenger, but is always about the subject of our message; Jesus.

3) The Question of Why? The Pharisees wanted to know why John was baptizing the people, and his answer informs the second pillar of his ministry. It was to prepare the people for the One who comes after him. John the Baptist was a man of importance in God's plan of redemption, a man with a purpose, a man with a focus, and a man on point for Jesus in the world. Yet, John rightly understood that the significance of his earthly work had nothing to do with him, but had everything to do with Christ. John dedicated his entire life's work to bringing glory to Christ and not himself. The world was to prepare for Christ's first coming, and today, the world is to prepare for Christ's return. John's ministry in the world is now given to the church to point the people to Jesus and prepare them for the Lord's coming again.

The Gospel of John Part 5: Christ as the Lamb of God Part 1

John 1:29-34



John 1:29-34 On the next day, he saw Jesus coming to 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 has been ahead of me, for He existed before me.' 31 "I did not know Him, but so that He might be manifested to Israel, I came baptizing with water." 32 And John bore witness saying, "I have beheld the Spirit descending as a dove out of heaven, and He abided on Him. 33 "And I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, "The One upon whom you see the Spirit descending and abiding on Him, this is the One who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' 34 "And I myself have seen, and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."

John introduces Jesus to the world as "the Lamb of God." It is this Lamb of God that the Scripture bears witness to, and the world will discover this is more than just a name. Because the Lamb of God is the One that the Bible reveals to us in a fourfold way.

1) Christ is The Lamb Foretold. It is the prophet Isaiah that foretells of a lamb to come. This lamb will be oppressed and afflicted. This lamb will be led to the slaughter. And all along the

way, this lamb will remain silent as he meets his fate. The silent and suffering lamb foretold in now in the world.

2) Christ is The Lamb Foreshown. God did a mighty work among Israel as a foreshadow of the things to come. It is during the exodus of Israel out of Egypt that God instructed His people to place the blood of a lamb on the threshold of their homes to save them from the coming judgement. God's wrath passed over those who were covered in the blood of the lamb, and what was foreshown in Israel is now made perfect in Christ.

3) Christ is The Lamb Foreknown. It is the Apostle Peter who tells us that the Lamb of God, whose precious blood has redeemed those who believe, was foreknown in the council of God before the foundation of the world. God foreknew before He created anything that He would send Jesus into the world to be the unblemished and spotless sacrifice for sin. The lamb foreknown is now revealed to mankind in the person of Jesus.

4) Christ is The Lamb Foreseen. Not only does the Bible speak of the Lamb of God in the past and in the present, but the Bible reveals the Lamb of God in the future as the One foreseen. As the Apostle John witnesses the end of all things, he looks into heaven and sees the Lamb who was slain. But now, the Lamb of God is glorified and possesses all power, wisdom, strength, and honor as every creature in heaven and on earth will praise His great name.

The Gospel of John Part 6: Christ as the Lamb of God Part 2

John 1:29-34



John 1:29-34 On the next day, he saw Jesus coming to 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 has been ahead of me, for He existed before me.' 31 "I did not know Him, but so that He might be manifested to Israel, I came baptizing with water." 32 And John bore witness saying, "I have beheld the Spirit descending as a dove out of heaven, and He abided on Him. 33 "And I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, "The One upon whom you see the Spirit descending and abiding on Him, this is the One who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' 34 "And I myself have seen, and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."

1) Christ is The Lamb Revealed. John introduces the Lamb of God to the world. It is in this name for Jesus that Scripture reveals the Lamb of God as more than just a name. He is the lamb foretold by the prophets, foreshown to the people, foreknown by God, and foreseen in glory.

2) Christ is The Lamb of Purpose. It is the purpose of Christ in His first coming to ..."take away the sin of the world!" We

learn in the Lamb's purpose that sin is our problem, Jesus is the world's solution, and that we can stand in victory before God because our sin is removed by faith in the Lamb.

3) Christ is The Lamb Known from God's Work. History tells us that many have come claiming to be the Christ, the Lamb of God. And Scripture tells us many will still come claiming to be the Christ. But the one thing every imposter lacks is the one thing Jesus has, a sign from God as His testimony of authenticity. God personally bears witness to Jesus as the Lamb of God by miraculous signs. Nobody can know the Lamb until God first bears witness about Him in the human heart.

4) Christ is The Lamb Known from God's Word. We do not need to depend on the testimony of eye witness alone to know the Lamb of God. Rather, we have a "more sure word" that makes known to all men the Son of God: Scripture. God's word is how Christ was made known to humanity in the first century, and God's word is how Christ is made known today. Because saving faith comes by hearing the word of God.

Though John the Baptist introduced Jesus to the world, he did not know Him, until God made Him know through God's own work and word. So it is today, that nobody can know Jesus apart from God's work and God's word. Both of which are in the world today calling every man, everywhere, to repentance and faith in Jesus.

The Gospel of John Part 7: The Making of Disciples

John 1:35-51



John 1:35-51 On the next day, John again was standing with two of his disciples, 36 and he looked at Jesus as He walked, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" 37 And the two disciples heard him speak and followed Jesus. 38 And when Jesus turned and noticed them following, He said to them, "What do you seek?" They said to

Him, "Rabbi (which translated means Teacher), where are You staying?" 39 He said to them, "Come, and you will see." So they came and saw where He was staying; and they stayed with Him that day. It was about the tenth hour. 40 One of the two who heard John speak and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon and said to him "We have found the Messiah" (which translated means Christ). 42 He brought him to Jesus. When Jesus looked at him, He said, "You are Simon the son of John; you shall be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter). 43 On the next day, He desired to go into Galilee, and He found Philip. And Jesus said to him, "Follow Me." 44 Now Phillip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. 45 Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote – Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." 46 And Nathanael said to him, "Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." 47 Jesus saw Nathanael coming to Him, and said about him, "Behold, truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" 48 Nathanael said to Him, "From where do You know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." 49 Nathanael answered Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God; You are the King of Israel." 50 Jesus answered and said to him, "Because I said to you that I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You will see greater things than these." 51 And He said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see the heavens opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

1) The Witness. In the calling of the first disciples of Jesus, we discover that it all starts with a faithful witness concerning Christ. We have as our examples: John the Baptist, Andrew, and Phillip. Each one of these men told someone else about Jesus as the first step in disciple making. Yet, across these different accounts we learn that our witness comes forth in our own way, using our own words, based on our own understanding, and among our own relationships. There are few hard and fast rules concerning witnessing for Christ, we just keep Him as the subject of our testimony to others.

2) The Response. Every witness concerning Christ that came forward was met with varied responses. There was Andrew and the other who were eager seekers of Christ and just need a point in the right direction. There was Peter, who had to be "brought". Someone else had to remove all the barriers to his coming to meet Jesus. Finally, there was Nathanael, a skeptic, who needed more encouragement to blunt his reluctant curiosity. The responses will vary to our invitation, but we must meet excuses with solutions, and skepticism with persistence.

3) The Reception. Everyone who came to Christ was received by Him. For the eager seekers, Andrew and the other, they were met with a warm welcome. For Peter, who was brought, he was met with a new identity, the rock of faith. And for Nathanael, his skepticism was met with a convincing proof. For those who come, Jesus does the rest. We witness, we make the introduction, we get the lost to where then need to be, and Jesus will work in their heart.

There is always an exception to disciple making. Jesus can find, Jesus can call, and Jesus can receive. Jesus can do all the work as He did in the case of Philip. But that is the exception rather than the rule. Jesus says that we are to go and to make, that we are to go and to witness. We cannot wait for Jesus to do the work He is waiting on us to do.

The Gospel of John Part 8: The Beginning of His Signs

John 2:1-12



John 2:1-12 And on the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there; 2 and both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding. 3 And when the

wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no wine." 4 And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what do I have to do with you? My hour has not yet come." 5 His mother said to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do it." 6 Now there were six stone jars set there for the Jewish custom of purification, containing two or three measures each. 7 Jesus said to them, "Fill the water jars with water." So they filled them up to the brim. 8 And He said to them, "Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter." So they took it to him. 9 Now when the headwaiter tasted the water which had become wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the headwaiter called the bridegroom, 10 and said to him, "Every man serves the good wine first, and when the people have drunk freely, then the inferior wine; but you have kept the good wine until now." 11 Jesus did this in Cana of Galilee as the beginning of His signs, and manifested His glory, and His disciples believed in Him. 12 After this He went down to Capernaum, He and His mother and His brothers and His disciples; and they stayed there a few days.

1) The Work of Christ is Known Through His Sign. Jesus launched His public ministry by performing a miraculous sign; He turned

water into wine. Only God can transform something old into something new through a supernatural work. Today, the world does not need to see Jesus transform water into wine. Because the church is the sign of Christ in this age. The transformation that happens in the life of every Christian is a sign to the world that Jesus is the Christ. The question for us today, is when the world gets a "taste" of our lives, through the attitudes and actions we show them, will they see the transforming work of Christ, or will this miracle be hidden from them?

2) The Work of Christ is Done in His Own Time. Mary learned an important lesson about faith at this wedding feast. That the power of Christ is made known in our life and in our circumstances in His own time not ours. Jesus said "My hour has not yet come." That means, despite Mary's problem, and Mary's expectation of Him, He would bring forth His work in the situation according to His own time. We are shown today through this account that when we are willing to accept Jesus's timing and not ours, to work in our circumstance, that He will bring forth a good work in our lives.

3) The Work of Christ is Done in His Own Way. Mary and the servants demonstrated an important lesson about faith in their circumstances. That the power of Christ is made known in our life and in our circumstances in His own way and not ours. Mary said "Whatever He says to you, do it." That means, once we invite Christ into our circumstances we have to be willing to move forward in complete trust and obedience to Him. It may just be that we do not see Christ working in our circumstances today because we have not yet gotten out of His way and commit our hearts to say, "whatever you say to do, I will do it."

The Gospel of John Part 9: His Purifying Work

John 2:13-17



*John 2:13-17
And the
Passover of
the Jews was
near, and
Jesus went up
to Jerusalem.
14 And He
found in the
temple those
who were
selling oxen*

and sheep and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. 15 And He made a scourge of cords, and drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen; and He poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables; 16 and to those who were selling the doves He said, "Take these things away; stop making My Father's house a place of business." 17 His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for Your house will consume me."

1) A Disgraceful Homecoming. Not only did the prophet Malachi foretell the coming of John the Baptist, but he also foretells the first work of the Messiah, that He "will suddenly come to His temple." And this is exactly what Jesus did. But, even though the temple of God was set apart as a holy place for the people to commune with God, this is not what Jesus found. Rather, what He found was utterly disgraceful. The local church today is very much like the temple of old. Paul

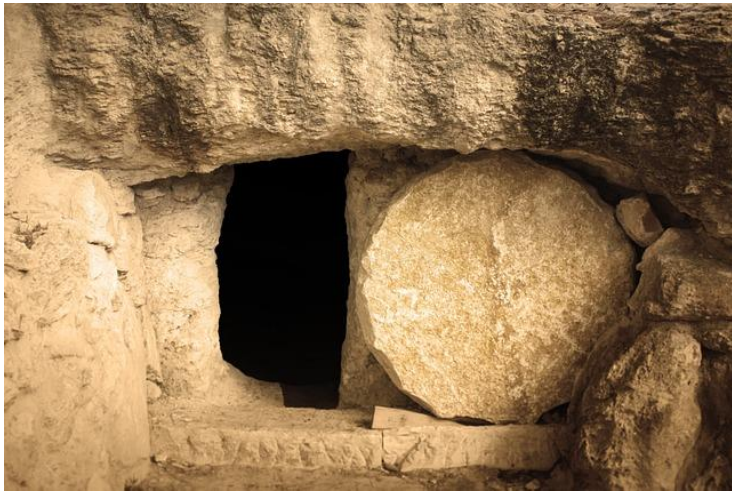
calls it "the sanctuary of God." And Christ visits His bride regularly, and He "knows our deeds." We can learn a lesson from the Jews in this account, that the local church ought to be ready and expecting Christ to suddenly come to His church.

2) A Righteous Purification. Jesus is the master purifier. When that which has been set apart by God as holy becomes defiled, Jesus will bring forth His work of purification. Paul reminds us that not only is the local church the sanctuary of God, but every believer is the "sanctuary of the Holy Spirit." When we become defiled because of sin in our life, Jesus can either purify us against our will, like He did in the temple at Jerusalem, or upon our request. The difference is, one comes as a discipling judgment in our life, the other as a gentle cleansing from a tender hand. We can learn a lesson from the Jews in this account, that our prayer life ought to seek regular and willing purification of sin before God, so that we receive a gentle cleansing and not a "scourge."

3) A Compelling Proof. Jesus's work of purification in the temple was not without meaning, rather it was a compelling proof of who He is. The Scripture describes the Messiah as the One who will have "zeal" for God's house. The works of Christ in the world become the perfect fulfillment of prophecy so that those who see and know may also believe. We have the testimony of Scripture today, so that we also might "remember" what is written and be strengthened in our faith.

The Gospel of John Part 10: His Gospel

John 2:18-25



*John 2:18-25
The Jews
then said to
Him, "What
sign do You
show us as
Your
authority for
doing these
things?" 19
Jesus
answered*

*them, "Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up."
20 The Jews then said, "It took forty-six years to build this
sanctuary and will You raise it up in three days?" 21 But He was
speaking about the sanctuary of His body. 22 So when He was
raised from the dead, His disciples remembered that He said this;
and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had
spoken. 23 Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during
the feast, many believed in His name, when they saw His signs
which He was doing. 24 But Jesus, on His part, was not entrusting
Himself to them, for He knew all men, 25 and because He had no
need that anyone bear witness concerning man, for He Himself
knew what was in man.*

1) An Ask for a Sign. After Jesus purifies the temple, the Jews ask Him for a sign concerning His authority to do what He just did. But the reality is, the Jews were already given a sign. The sign from the prophet Malachi was fulfilled when Christ appeared first in the Temple. The sign of David was fulfilled in

the zeal the Lord demonstrated for the House of God. But the Jews ignored these signs because they were not ready to admit what they were doing was wrong. The gospel of Christ demands the sinner admits God is right concerning the direction and destination for their lives in light of His holiness and righteousness. But, the Jews refused to believe that there was anything wrong with what they were doing.

2) A Promise Given. In response to the Jew's request for a sign, Jesus gives them a promise. Jesus says that He will give them the sign of all signs: the resurrection. The resurrection is a sign for every single person and in every single generation that Jesus is who He says He is and that He will do what He says He will do. The world asks for a sign, and the world has all the sign they will every need and that they will every get to know who Jesus is and what we are to do about Him. But the resurrection of Christ alone is not enough to save mankind, rather, every person must respond to the death and resurrection of Jesus personally.

3) A Response To Be Had. In light of Jesus proclaiming His gospel to the Jews and the disciples concerning the resurrection, we are shown two responses. The Jews heard and understood Jesus, but refused to believe. However, the disciples also heard and understood Jesus, but responded to the truth of His gospel by faith. Every person has to personally respond to the gospel of Christ. Refusing to believe is a response, but faith alone is all that God requires for eternal life.

The Gospel of John Part 11: Our New Birth

John 3:1-15



John 3:1-15 Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews; 2 this man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You have come from God as a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him." 3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, Truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." 4 Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be

born?" 5 Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. 6 "That which has been born of the flesh is flesh, and that which has been born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 "Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' 8 "The wind blows where it wishes and you hear its sound, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who has been born of the Spirit." 9 Nicodemus answered and said to Him, "How can these things be?" 10 Jesus answered and said to him, "Are you the teacher of Israel and do not understand these things? 11 "Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know and bear witness of what we have seen, and you do not accept our witness. 12 "If I told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things? 13 "And no one has ascended into heaven, but He who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. 14 "And as Moses

lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; 15 so that whoever believes, will in Him have eternal life.

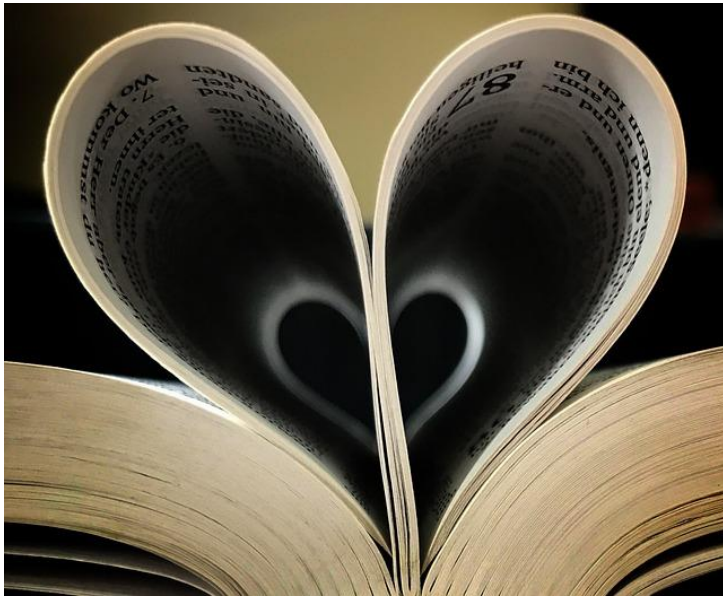
1) Humanity Cannot Save Themselves. Nicodemus was a man just like many people we find today. He thought that because he had the right religious credentials that he had found favor with God. The only thing his religious credentials led to was a faulty confession and a lack of faith. A person can have the greatest religious credentials to be had, with a profound knowledge of the things of God, and an almost perfect sounding confession, but none of these things will save anyone. Jesus is going to tell Nicodemus and each one of us today, that we must be born again. We need the right heart which leads to the right confession.

2) God Alone Saves the Sinner. The only way any person will see and will enter the kingdom of God is by being born again. This is Jesus's command to all. But for the one who believes they must earn their salvation through works, this can be a hard thing to understand. But God says "I will do it." God alone brings forth the work of the new birth in the heart of the believer. A Christian is fundamentally a person who has experience complete transformation from old to new through faith. We are cleansed by God, transformed spiritually by God, and indwelt by the Spirit of God. This is the new birth.

3) Trust in the Promises of God. Jesus criticizes Nicodemus because he was the teacher in Israel. He had access to the word of God which spoke directly to the new birth from the prophet Ezekiel, and yet, he still did not understand and trust the ways of God. When God saves the sinner, it is a spiritual work. Like the blowing of the wind, there are spiritual truths that defy our comprehension. But Jesus assures us that Scripture itself bears witness to the truth. That we are to trust the Word of God and His promises, knowing that we may never fully comprehend the ways of God. We are to simply trust that He is able, He is willing, and that He will do what He says He will do. This is faith leading to the new birth.

The Gospel of John Part 12: His Greatest Words (Part 1)

John 3:16-21



John 3:16-21
"For God so loved the world, that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. 17 "For God did not send the Son into the world

to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. 18 "He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the one and only Son of God. 19 "And this is the verdict: Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. 20 "For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light lest his deeds be exposed. 21 "But he who does the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be made known as having been done by God."

John 3:16 is considered by many as the greatest verse in the Bible. This is easy to see when one considers the reasons why this is so.

1) It Is About The Greatest Person: "For God" There is none like Him. Humanity cannot even imagine a person greater than God, but God in His greatness has made Himself known to us.

2) It Contains The Greatest Truth: "so loved the world" All of eternity, for every person, hinges on this great truth: God is love. So great is His love for mankind that He has done everything required to save us.

3) It Shows The Greatest Act: "that He gave" God is under no obligation to give mankind anything. But out of His loving grace He gave Himself to redeem the crown jewel of His creation: humanity.

4) It Reveals The Greatest Gift: "His one and only Son" God spared nothing to save us. Jesus is the greatest gift because He is given freely and He is all the world needs to inherit everything.

5) It Applies To The Greatest Number: "that whoever" There are no limits to the saving power of Christ. Every person, in every generation, and in every place can receive Jesus by faith.

6) It Offers The Greatest Invitation: "believes in Him" The only thing God requires from us to be saved is to believe. There are no works required and no payment do, Jesus did it all.

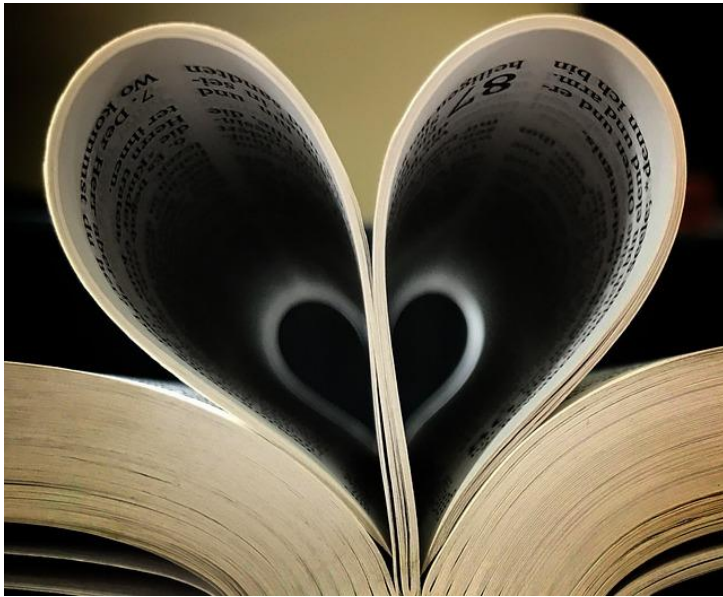
7) It Contains The Greatest Promise: "shall not perish" God says He will do this for us. We trust in this promise for our eternal hope.

8) It Provides The Greatest Certainty: "but have" God left nothing for us to do to guarantee our salvation. When we trust in Christ, our eternity is firmly established by God Himself.

9) It Ensures The Greatest Destiny: "eternal life." We cannot truly comprehend what it means to live in the very presence of God forever. But this is our destiny for those who trust in Christ.

The Gospel of John Part 13: His Greatest Words (Part 2)

John 3:16-21



John 3:16-21
"For God so loved the world, that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. 17 "For God did not send the Son

into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. 18 "He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the one and only Son of God. 19 "And this is the verdict: Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. 20 "For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light lest his deeds be exposed. 21 "But he who does the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be made known as having been done by God."

1) The Greatest Verses. Jesus brings to a close his teaching concerning the new birth with the greatest verses in the Bible. He offers John 3:16 as an explanation for why and how God can so graciously redeem mankind to Himself. It is because: it Involves the greatest person, it follows the greatest truth, it includes the

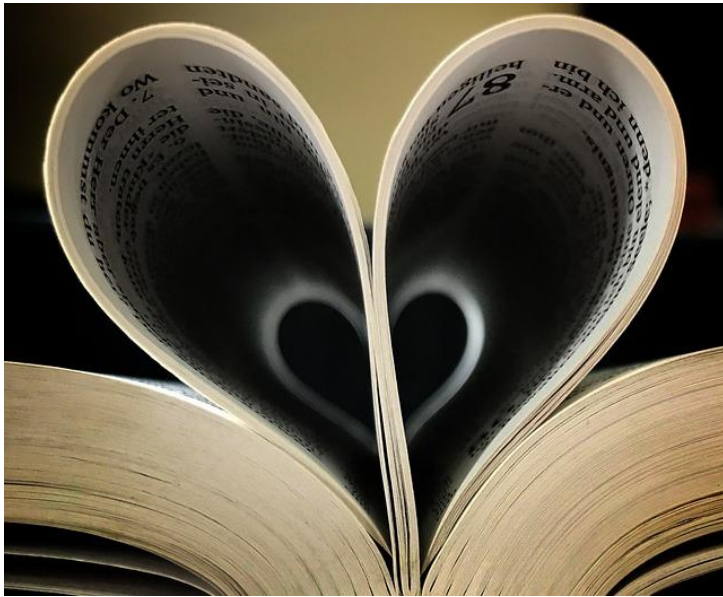
greatest act, it contains the greatest gift, it applies to the greatest number, it offers the greatest invitation, it holds the greatest promise, it provides the greatest certainty, and it reveals the greatest destiny. This message of good news will endure until the end, but we know that God has fixed a day in which Christ will return.

2) The Greatest Verdict. It is in light of the coming judgment that one can find the greatest verdict in the Bible: "He who believes in Him is not judged." All of human history has a destiny that will end with the second coming of Christ. While He came the first time as savior of the world, He will return a second time as the great Judge of the world. But there is one group who will not be partakers in the judgement to come in the end, it is those who believe in the name of Jesus. Everyone else will stand before the Judge because they did not believe in the name of the Son of God.

3) The Greatest Assurance. Jesus declares that because of the new birth, there will be two kinds of people in the world until the end: those that do evil, and those that do truth. It is for the doers of truth that Jesus offers an assurance today that we may know we will be redeemed in the end: that our deeds will be seen by the world as having been done by God. Later in 1 John, John offers three ways that we can know we have been born again of God, simply by asking ourselves: What Do I Believe, How Do I Behave, and How Do I Love? We can have assurance leading to confidence before God because we can see evidence of His work in the transformation of our lives.

The Gospel of John Part 13-14: His Greatest Words (Part 2-3)

John 3:16-21



John 3:16-21
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into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. 18 "He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the one and only Son of God. 19 "And this is the verdict: Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. 20 "For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light lest his deeds be exposed. 21 "But he who does the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be made known as having been done by God."

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The Gospel of John Part 15: A New and Better Way

John 3:22-36



John 3:22-36 After these things Jesus and His disciples came into the land of Judea, and there He was spending time with them and baptizing. 23 And John also was baptizing in Aenon near Salim,

in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”

1) The Great Debate: What is the Best Way to Achieve Purification Before God?

A great debate emerges as both Jesus and John the Baptist are performing baptisms in the land of Israel. Amidst all the different ways the Jews believed that a person can become purified before God, which one is the best? The Law offered a way, the tradition offered a way, the Temple offered a way, yet there remained confusion in the land with Jesus's appearing. This debate continues to the present age, because God has said that for any person to have the hope of standing in His presence, they must first be made pure.

2) Jesus Is The Best Way For Achieving Purification Before God.

John the Baptist settles with question with his disciples by making it clear: Jesus is the best way to be made pure before a holy God. Jesus possesses a better origin, offers a better witness, which leads to a better truth. The gospel of John has already shown that Jesus gives a better baptism, offers a better practice, has raised a better institution, and gives a better birth. There is no enterprise among mankind that can achieve the full satisfaction of what Jesus offers in contrast to human efforts. Jesus is the better way.

3) Believe In Jesus and Be Made Pure Before God. Only one questions remains in light of these great truths concerning what Jesus offers: How can a person receive the purification that Jesus offers today? John the Baptist makes this answer clear: believe. He who believes in the Son has eternal life, but he who does not obey the Son will not see life. This is the answer for humanity today, that no one can pass from death to life, from unclean to clean, or from wrath to joy but by faith alone in the Son of God. Jesus is our new and better way.

because there was much water there; and people were coming and were being baptized – 24 for John had not yet been thrown into prison. 25 Therefore there arose a debate between John's disciples and a Jew about purification. 26 And they came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, He who was with you beyond the Jordan, to whom you have borne witness, behold, He is baptizing and all are coming to Him." 27 John answered and said, "A man can receive nothing unless it has been given him from heaven. 28 "You yourselves are my witnesses that I said, 'I am not the Christ,' but, 'I have been sent ahead of Him.' 29 "He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. So this joy of mine has been made full. 30 "He must increase, but I must decrease. 31 "He who comes from above is above all, he who is of the earth is from the earth and speaks of the earth. He who comes from heaven is above all. 32 "What He has seen and heard, of that He bears witness; and no one receives His witness. 33 "He who has received His witness has set his seal to this, that God is true. 34 "For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God; for He gives the Spirit without measure. 35 "The Father loves the Son and has given all things into His hand. 36 "He who believes

The Gospel of John Part 16-18: The Reconciliation of a Broken People (Part 1-3)

John 4:1-30



*John 4:1-30
Therefore when
Jesus knew that the
Pharisees had heard
that Jesus was
making and
baptizing more
disciples than John 2
(although Jesus
Himself was not
baptizing, but His
disciples were), 3 He
left Judea and went*

away again into Galilee. 4 And He had to pass through Samaria. 5 So He came to a city of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob gave to his son Joseph; 6 and Jacob's well was there. So Jesus, being wearied from His journey, was sitting thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour. 7 A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink." 8 For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. 9 Therefore the Samaritan woman said to Him, "How do You, being a Jew, ask for a drink from me, being a Samaritan woman?" (For Jews had no dealings with Samaritans.) 10 Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water." 11 She said to Him, "Sir, You have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where then do You get that living water? 12 "Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us this well, and drank of it himself and his sons and his cattle?" 13 Jesus answered and said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again; 14 but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never thirst – ever; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life." 15 The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, so I will not be thirsty nor come back here to draw." 16 He said to her, "Go, call your husband and come back here." 17 The woman answered and said, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You have correctly said, 'I have no husband'; 18 for you had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband; this you have said truly." 19 The woman said to Him, "Sir, I see that You are a prophet. 20 "Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you people say that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship." 21 Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, an hour is coming when neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. 22 "You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. 23 "But an hour is coming, and now is, when

the true worshiper will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. 24 "God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." 25 The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming (He who is called Christ); when He comes, He will declare all things to us." 26 Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am He." 27 And at this point His disciples came, and they were marveling that He was speaking with a woman, yet no one said, "What do You seek?" or, "Why are You speaking with her?" 28 So the woman left her water jar, and went into the city and said to the men, 29 "Come, see a man who told me all the things that I have done; is this not the Christ?" 30 They went out of the city, and were coming to Him.

1) Reconciliation Comes to an Estranged People. As Jesus returned to Galilee, He had to first pass through Samaria. The Samaritans represented an estranged people because of their pattern of rebellion against God. But as bad as they were in the eyes of the Law, they shared one thing in common with every living person: a need for reconciliation to God. In light of this, Jesus comes to them because there is no group or person on earth who cannot find reconciliation with God through Christ.

2) Reconciliation with God Comes by a Promise. Jesus tells the Samaritan women that eternal life has come through His promise to her and all the people: that if she asks, then it will be given. Like a thirst that falls upon every person and drives their need for water, a spiritual thirst exists in every person that cannot be satisfied by the things of the world. Yet, Jesus declares that He can quench the spiritual thirst for reconciliation to God for all who trust in Him.

3) Reconciliation with God Comes for the Purpose of Worship. Jesus tells the Samaritan woman that God is seeking a people who will worship Him in spirit and truth. Those with a new spirit brought by reconciliation, flowing from a new truth found in the gospel of Christ. Life giving trust leads to life transforming worship. We are reconciled to God through a promise, and for the purpose of worship.

4) Reconciliation with God Comes by a Person. Despite Jesus's promise and invitation for reconciliation, the women responds with a hopeful doubt. But that doubt is transformed into pure joy when she discovers the one who is to come, who will declare all things to all people, is in fact standing before her. Jesus is revealed as the person through whom reconciliation to God comes to all mankind.

The Gospel of John Part 19: Finishing the Work of God in Our Lives

John 4:28-42



John 4:28-42 So the woman left her water jar, and went into the city and said to the men, 29 "Come, see a man who told me all the things that I have done; is this not the Christ?" 30 They went out of the

city, and were coming to Him. 31 Meanwhile the disciples were urging Him, saying, "Rabbi, eat." 32 But He said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." 33 So the disciples were saying to one another, "Has anyone brought Him anything to eat?" 34 Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to finish His work. 35 "Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields, that they are white for harvest. 36 "Even now he who reaps is receiving wages and is gathering fruit for life eternal; so that he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. 37 "For in this case the saying is true, 'One sows and another reaps.' 38 "I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored and you have entered into their labor." 39 From that city many of the Samaritans believed in Him because of the word of the woman who bore witness, "He told me all the things that I have done." 40 So when the Samaritans came to Jesus, they were asking Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. 41 And many more believed because of His word; 42 and they were saying to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves and know that this One is truly the Savior of the world."

1) The Work of God Starts with Our Witness. After a personal encounter with Jesus, the women at the well went and told everyone to come see the Christ. It is through the witness of the Samaritan woman that many believed in Jesus. God has begun a great work of redemption in the world. Every single Christian has been called to participate in that work by being a witness of Christ in the world. We can use the Samaritan women as our example by keeping our witness for Jesus urgent, inviting, personal, and Christ centered.

2) The Work of God Requires Our Labor. Jesus relates our labor in God's work to that of a farmer growing a crop. It starts with sowing the seed and ends in a harvest. Jesus tells His disciples that they have now entered into the labor of God. The Christian today is no different and each one of us as entered into the labor of God in our life. We learn from Jesus that this work of ours is varied with each person having their own task, that our work is to be in unity with one another striving towards a common end, and that our labor is not without an eternal reward for those that are faithful. The Christian today can be sure that the Holy Spirit has gifted them uniquely to equip each one of us for the labor that God has called us to.

3) The Work of God Finishes at the Harvest. The story of the women at the well ends with many of the Samaritans believing. They believed in the witness of the women and they believed in the word of Jesus. Today, we have both of these things: our personal testimony and the words of Jesus. We have everything we need to begin the work of God in our lives this very day. The faith of the Samaritans was the harvest that Jesus saw among the people because God's work is finished at the harvest. The Scripture declares that God's work within the church will not be finished until the "fullness of the Gentiles." This means that so long as the church remains in the world, God is not finished with His work for lives.

The Gospel of John Part 20: How a Desperate Journey Can End With an Eternal Hope

John 4:43-54



*John 4:43-54
And after
the two days
He went
from there
into Galilee.
44 For Jesus
Himself bore
witness that
a prophet
has no
honor in his
own*

country. 45 So when He came to Galilee, the Galileans received Him, having seen all the things that He did in Jerusalem at the feast; for they themselves also went to the feast. 46 Then He came again to Cana of Galilee where He had made the water wine. And there was a royal official whose son was sick at Capernaum. 47 When he heard that Jesus had come out of Judea into Galilee, he went to Him and was asking Him to come down and heal his son; for he was about to die. 48 So Jesus said to him, "Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will not believe." 49 The royal official said to Him, "Sir, come down before my child dies." 50 Jesus said to him, "Go; your son lives." The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him and started on his way. 51 And while he was still going down, his slaves met him, saying that his son was alive. 52 So he inquired of them the hour when he began to get better. Then they said to him, "Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him." 53 So the father knew that it was at the hour in which Jesus said to him, "Your son lives;" and he himself believed and his whole household. 54 This is again a second sign that Jesus did when He had come out of Judea into Galilee.

1) A Desperate Condition Should Bring A Person to Jesus. When the royal official meets Jesus it is because he had a desperate situation in his life with no other hope than to seek out a miracle from Christ. The one thing lacking in many people's lives, the thing that is preventing them from coming to Christ, is that they are not desperate enough. But every person faces a desperate reality that will come if they experience death without knowing Jesus. Only Jesus offers eternal hope to the desperate.

2) Jesus is More Than a Cure for Our Troubles Today. The royal official simply saw Jesus as the means to an end. Jesus was a resource for this man to solve his problem today with no consideration of the future to come. But what Jesus desired was for this man to believe in Him. In our day, there are many who come to Jesus with wrong motives and who seek prosperity, health, wealth, or even social status. But Jesus is offering none of these things as a cure for our troubles today, rather, Jesus desires that we believe He is the Christ, the Son of God; and that by believing we may have life in His name.

3) To Know What Jesus Has Done is to Believe in Who Jesus Is. It was not until the royal official finally realized who Jesus truly was based on what Jesus had done in his life, that this man believed in Jesus and was saved. In our day, there is a much greater work than the healing of a dying boy that Jesus has done for all mankind. Jesus has died on the cross and rose again and this is what we must know and what we must believe to experience the forgiveness of sin and eternal life in His name. The death and resurrection of Jesus is what He is offering to each us today as His finished work, it is our sign of who He is, and the only response He desires from us is to believe.

The Gospel of John Part 21: When Faith and Religion Collide

John 5:1-16



John 5:1-16 After these things there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. 2 Now there is in Jerusalem by the sheep gate a pool, which is called in Hebrew Bethesda, having five porticoes. 3 In

these lay a multitude of those who were sick, blind, lame, and withered, [waiting for the moving of the waters; 4 for an angel of the Lord went down at certain seasons into the pool and stirred up the water; whoever then first, after the stirring up of the water, stepped in was made well from whatever sickness with which he was afflicted.] 5 And a man was there who had been sick for thirty-eight years. 6 When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had already been sick a long time, He said to him, "Do you wish to get well?" 7 The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, but while I am coming, another steps down before me." 8 Jesus said to him, "Get up, pick up your mat and walk." 9 And immediately the man became well, and picked up his mat and began to walk. Now it was the Sabbath on that day. 10 So the Jews were saying to the man who had been healed, "It is the Sabbath, and it is not lawful for you to carry your mat." 11 But he answered them, "He who made me well was the one who said to me, 'Pick up your mat and walk.'" 12 They asked him, "Who is the man who said to you, 'Pick up your mat and walk'?" 13 But the man who was healed did not know who is was, for Jesus had slipped away while there was a crowd in that place. 14 Afterward Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, "Behold, you have become well; do not sin anymore, so that nothing worse happens to you." 15

The man went away, and disclosed to the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well. 16 And for this reason the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because He was doing these things on the Sabbath.

1) The Sick Will Be Searching for a Cure. When Jesus enters in Jerusalem, there is a man who has been sick for 38 years trying his best to be cured of his disease. This sick man is simply doing what he knows best, he is following conventional wisdom, and he lays by a pool with no guarantee that healing will every occur in his life. The world is filled with people who have a terminal disease. Sin has come to all of humanity and death through sin. Some people know this to be true, others are ignorant of this truth. But, it is those who know they have this disease, those that are searching for a cure, these are the ones who can be found going to places in search of a cure, but have yet to discover that forgiveness and life does not come from a place, but it comes through a person: Jesus.

2) Jesus Will Come to Those Seeking to be Healed. The sick man had no one to help him and could not help himself, but he knew he needed healing. Jesus, came to him in his time of need and Jesus cured the man's disease. People today are seeking in all sorts of places a cure for sin and death. But until they meet Jesus they will only discover that no one else can heal them, and they cannot heal themselves no matter how hard they try. The world is filled with entire religious systems that offer relief for the symptoms of sin, but have no cure because they are missing the great Physician who alone can heal all mankind: Jesus. He will come to those who call upon Him.

3) A Dead Religion Can Blind Us to the Cure for Our Disease. When the religious rulers in Jerusalem discovered this man had been healed by Jesus, they missed their sign from God concerning Jesus, and could only fixate on a broken rule in a broken religion. The rules of a religion had blinded them to the truth that the Christ had come and He alone reconciles God to man. Because being in fellowship with God does not come about by following religious rules or doing religious things. Rather, fellowship with God can only come through faith in Jesus.

The Gospel of John Part 22: Knowing God the Father by Knowing God the Son

John 5:16-24



*John 5:16-24
And for this reason the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because He was doing these things on the Sabbath. 17 But He answered them, "My Father is*

*working until now, and I Myself am working." 18 For this reason therefore the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, because He not only was breaking the Sabbath, but also was calling God His own Father making Himself equal with God. 19 Therefore Jesus answered and was saying to them, "Truly, truly I say to you, the Son can do nothing from Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in the same manner. 20 "For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself is doing; and the Father will show Him greater works than these, so that you will marvel. 21 "For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son also gives life to whom He wishes. 22 "For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgement to the Son, 23 so that all will honor the Son even as they honor the Father. **He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.** 24 Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life..*

1) The World Does Not Know God the Father Because They Reject God the Son. The religious rulers in Jerusalem saw the signs that Jesus was doing and heard the words that Jesus was saying, yet concluded that Jesus was not divine but instead was a delinquent. They rejected Jesus, God the Son, and by doing this they showed that they did not know God

the Father. Rather than their religion drawing them nearer to God, it instead drove them further away from God. The world will never know God the Father until they first believe in God the Son.

2) God the Father and God the Son are Coequal and United. Jesus reveals to the world that we can know God the Father by knowing God the Son because the Father and the Son are coequal and united. Jesus says they are united in action, united in will, untied in power, and united in honor. Yet, amidst all this unity there is a difference concerning their role in the world: it is Jesus alone who will judge mankind. There is but one person appointed to redeem humanity from the coming judgement: Jesus, God the Son.

3) Rejection of Jesus is Rejection of God the Father Because the Father Sent the Son. The grand conclusion from Jesus concerning all these things is that nobody can come out of judgement and into eternal life except through Him. The reality is that God the Father does not offer a separate work of salvation except that which Christ has made available to all mankind. God the Father has sent God the Son to make it possible for humanity to receive the forgiveness of sin and eternal life in His name. If we reject Jesus, we also reject God the Father and He is not sending anyone else, and He will not provide another way. To believe in Jesus is to believe also in the Father who sent Him and this alone is how one can pass from death to life.

The Gospel of John Part 23: Hearing the Voice of God

John 5:25-32



John 5:25-32
"Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. 26 For

Spirit is at work in the world today, opening the spiritual eyes and ears of the lost so that they may hear the gospel of Jesus and be called forth from death to life.

2) Hearing the Voice of God Fulfills a Future Promise. Jesus next reveals that the dead will hear the Father's voice and be raised to the resurrection. This is an old promise that guarantees a future reality. The prophet Daniel was given a promise long ago: that all the dead will be raised, but some to everlasting life, and others to everlasting contempt. While only a few will hear the Son's voice and live, every single person will hear the Father's voice and be raised from the dead in the end. This is an inescapable reality for all mankind.

3) Hearing the Voice of God Preserves a Past Witness. Jesus finishes by declaring that both the Son and the Father bear witness about the same thing; they speak with one voice. The truth in all of this is that both Son and Father are willing and acting in the world as One, and that both Son and Father are bearing witness that Jesus is truth. When we hear the voice of God, it is a voice that speaks in perfect unity, that testifies to the same truth, and that has the same power over life and death. If the first time we hear the voice of God is at the resurrection, then it is too late. Jesus is calling every person today to hear the voice of God the Son, so that when they hear the voice of God the Father in the future, it will be a time of blessed hope and not everlasting contempt.

just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself; 27 and He gave Him authority to execute judgement, because He is the Son of Man. 28 "Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, 29 and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment. 30 "I can do nothing from Myself. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. 31 "If I alone bear witness about Myself, My witness is not true. 32 "There is another who bears witness about Me, and I know that the witness which He gives about Me is true."

1) Hearing the Voice of God Brings Forth a New Reality. Jesus tells the religious rulers in Jerusalem that the dead can hear His voice and live. This truth represents a new reality for all mankind. Hearing the voice of Jesus means we receive the word from Christ, we know it, we understand it, we believe it, and we trust in that word. But for anyone to hear and live, they need the Holy Spirit to heal their spiritual ears and prepare their dulled heart. The Holy