

30) And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples which are not written in this book; 31) but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

INTRO: Now doesn't that just pique your curiosity, "Jesus did many other signs..." When, before His death, or after resurrection? Like what 'signs'? We know a few others from others' books, e.g. Emmaeus disciples per Luke; and 500 at one time per Paul in I Cor.15. John writes **just** enough to serve his and God's purposes, this text says.

## I. JESUS DID SIGNS SO THAT WE MIGHT HAVE LIFE

### A. Immediate context, signs recorded in chapter 20

1. ultimate sign, He rose from the dead
2. as witnessed by the women
3. personally converses with Mary Magdalene
4. touched by disciples and Thomas
5. John's 'signs' = miracles or revelations
6. miracle or narrative that conveys a message ('yield' sign)

### B. Ultimately, every 'sign' of Jesus recorded in the Bible

1. all that Jesus did was for a purpose
2. because we **cannot** have life without Him
3. because, as per Nicodemus (3:5-6) that which is born of the flesh...
4. **all** that Jesus did is a sign (i.e. His perfect obedience on our behalf)
5. and never forget this sign: He rose from death
6. all signs tell of His caring, His work for our benefit

## II. JOHN WROTE SO THAT WE MAY HAVE LIFE

### A. John wrote for a noble and serious purpose

1. definitely not fame (unnamed) or financial gain
2. not even by his own impetus or idea ( 2 Pet.1:21 prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit)
3. nor to entertain, or merely inform, educate, satisfy my curiosity
4. 1966 June Bode; catechism; off track; Pastor Goetz, so what?!
5. this book concerns souls, that which defines you; your eternity

*(continued)*

B. John's purpose applies to all of Scripture

1. 2 Tim.3:16 All scripture is given... and is profitable for...
2. 'these' in v.31 apply to John's gospel, but also to all the Bible
3. Jesus taught Emmaeus disciples that all the O.T. speaks of Him
4. it even tells us its purpose: Ezek.33:11 As I live saith the Lord...
5. it's all over the N.T. too 1 Tim.2:4 God would have all men to be saved... Acts 4:12 Neither is there salvation.... Text, v.31!

III. BELIEVING, WE MAY HAVE LIFE IN HIS NAME

A. How we get faith

1. Eph.2:8 by **grace** are ye saved ... (invitation, not omnipotence)
2. you possess the ability to resist God's will (only this case, no thanks)
3. you can't resist a tornado or earthquake (OK, resist but lose))
4. faith cometh by hearing; either alone or in a sacrament
5. and faith itself is a gift from the Holy Spirit, always by means (our catechism, 3rd Article, I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to Him, but the...

B. What exactly does it mean, "believing may have life"

1. believe = knowledge, agreement, trust (illustrate each)
2. as a little child; helpless, dependent, trusting
3. have life = forgiveness now; eternal bliss in heaven
4. believing results in willing obedience (thou shalt not) and willing acceptance (having food and raiment...be content)

CONCLUSION: A major decision and choice faces us every day: shall we gladly hear and learn the Word of God, or shall we ignore it and risk losing our faith and our soul's salvation. Jesus and John and the Holy Spirit have done their part. These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing, you may have life in His name. Amen.