

“The Profoundest Book in the World”

Selected Texts from John

Thought for the Day. “If John’s Gospel were the *only* book in the New Testament, it would still afford enough meat (and milk) of the Word for a lifetime of study and meditation.”

--William MacDonald, *Believer’s Bible Commentary*, p. 1415

Sermon Series Title: ***Behold, the Lamb of God!*** (John 1:29, 36)

Jesus Christ is God’s provision for the removal of our sins! He is our substitutionary sacrifice. Throughout our study of the Gospel of John, we want to see the Lord Jesus Christ—see Him, know Him, understand Him, follow Him and enjoy intimate fellowship with Him. We want to see His glory, the perfections of His character and nature (John 1:14). We want to behold the glory of the Living Word, Jesus Christ, as we contemplate the message of the Written Word, the Gospel of John. In that process, we want to be transformed by the Spirit of God.

John 17:3 – “And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.”

- Eternal life is not just living forever in heaven after we depart planet earth. It is a new quality of life that we can enjoy now through faith in Jesus Christ and obedience to His Word.
- As we draw near to the Lord, fix our eyes on Him, and live in submission to His priorities and principles, we will experience more and more of the eternal life that He came to give us. (John 10:10)

Three Questions:

1. Who is Jesus Christ?
 - His Person: His identity, character, nature, qualities, and attributes.
2. Why did Jesus come to planet earth; what did He come to accomplish?
 - His Work: His purpose, His mission.
3. How should we respond to Him?
 - What should we believe and do because of Who He is and What He did?
 - How should our lives be *different* because of our encounter with the Lord?

“The Profoundest Book in the World” (--A. T. Robertson)

- What is the most influential book in your own life?
- The Gospel of John is the most profound of “The Profoundest Book in the World!”
- “John is one of the favorite Bible books—if not the *very* favorite—of mature and devout Christians. John does not merely give the facts of the life of our Lord, but long discourses and mature reflections of an apostle who has walked with Christ from (probably) late teenage years in Galilee to extreme old age in the Province of Asia. His Gospel contains the best known verse in the NT, what Martin Luther called ‘the Gospel in a nutshell,’ John 3:16. . .If John’s Gospel were the *only* book in the NT, it would still afford enough meat (and milk) of the Word for a lifetime of study and meditation.” (MacDonald, *Commentary*, p. 1415)

I. The Introduction (1:1-18)

- John 1:1 – The Word is Jesus Christ, and Jesus Christ is God.
- John 1:14 – God became a Man, Jesus Christ, and in Jesus we see the character and nature of God.
- John 1:18 – God became a Man, Jesus Christ, for the purpose of revealing Himself to us, so that we might have a personal, saving relationship with Him.

II. The Author

- The Apostle John, who also wrote 1, 2, and 3 John and the book of Revelation.
- "Clement of Alexandria recounts that late in John's long life, the Apostle was asked by close friends who came to him at Ephesus, to write a Gospel that would supplement the Synoptic Gospels, [Matthew, Mark and Luke]." (*MacDonald, Commentary, p. 1415*)
- Written late in John's life somewhere around 85-95 A.D.
- Very familiar with the other three Gospels, and under the direction of the Holy Spirit, John wrote a Gospel that serves well to supplement and add to the other accounts, giving us a much fuller picture and understanding of the Lord Jesus Christ and His ministry.
- John was part of the Lord's inner circle, made up of Peter, James, and John.
- He was an eyewitness of the events he recorded and had many years to ponder the meaning of the events he had seen and the teachings he had heard directly from the Lord Jesus Christ. (1 John 1:1-3; John 1:14)
- Sadly, John is often pictured as "somebody who's somewhat meek, somebody who's maybe almost effeminate because this is the way he has been depicted in so many medieval paintings. Somebody who is pale-skinned, quiet, depicted as sort of leaning on Jesus' shoulder, looking up with some kind of a dove-eyed stare into the face of Christ. This image of John is a far-cry from what he's really like." (*John MacArthur, John: The Apostle of Love*)
 - James and John were hard-working, rugged fishermen by trade.
 - Jesus gave them the nickname, "Sons of Thunder" or "Sons of Commotion" (Mark 3:17; Luke 9:54).
- John was transformed by the Holy Spirit from a Son of Thunder into the Apostle of Love as he walked with the Lord in obedience to His Word.

III. The Purpose (20:30-31)

- John's purpose was that his readers might place their faith in Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing, receive God's gift of eternal life.
- He presents seven signs to prove that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God.
- In addition, he presents seven "I am" statements that identify Jesus as Yahweh, the God of the Old Testament.

How will I respond to Jesus Christ?

- What do I believe about Him?
- What should I do because of who He is and what He has done for me?
- How should my life be different because of what I know about Him?