



A Study of the Gospel of John-

#2 Lesson...Gerald Cumby, Teacher/Facilitator

Are we guilty of following the wrong teachings/philosophies, prophecies...even leaders?

I have authored books. None of them have caught the eyes, ears, and hearts of the readers as I truly thought they would. I think the writings were meant to help me understand the importance of life more than the others who might have had the chance to read.

Who wrote the Gospel of John?

- ***The gospel of John never provides the name of its author.***
- ***Identifications were not made in any of the other three biblical gospels either.***
- ***Two significant factors point to the identification of John as the author.***
 - 1. The book itself identifies the author as “the disciple whom Jesus loved.” This description likely pointed to John for three (3) reasons:***
 - A. The author had to be one of the twelve disciples because he was an eyewitness to the events in the gospel (John 21:24), “This is the disciple who testifies to these things and who wrote them down. We know that his testimony is true.”***
 - B. He was probably one of the “inner circle of three disciples” (James, John, and Peter) because he was among the first Mary told of the resurrection (20:1–10).***
 - C. This disciple is distinguished from Peter in the book, while James died too soon after the resurrection to be the author.***
 - 2. John’s authorship is the unanimous testimony of early Christians, among them the second-century Christian Irenaeus, who declared that John was the disciple who laid his head on Jesus—the disciple “whom Jesus loved” (13:23).***

When was the Book of John Written?

- ✓ ***Polycarp, a second-century Christian martyr who knew John personally, told Irenaeus that John had written the book during the apostle’s time serving the church in Ephesus.***
- ✓ ***This would place the time of writing around 85-95 A.D.***

The more noted historical Biblical scholars placed the time of writing to be right before John was exiled to Isle of Patmos.

Why is John's Gospel so Important?

- ✓ John did not include the nativity story in his gospel; instead, he introduced his book by going back even further into history.
- ✓ Invoking the “in the beginning” language of Genesis 1:1, John made a direct link between the nature of God and the nature of the Word, Jesus Christ. “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” John 1:1
- ✓ The emphasis on the deity of Christ is a strong and viable quality of John's gospel. For instance, the “I AM” statement of *John 8:58*, “*Very truly I tell you,*” *Jesus answered, “before Abraham was born, I AM!”*

Note: This statement ties the Old Testament (First Covenant) with the New Testament (New Covenant...the Best); Best because it makes a way for every person to be one of His children. The Israelites were chosen as God's own people (God's sovereign will)...God's children (the apple of God's eye).

For Christians and the Unsaved Alike...What significance is John's Particular Message? What's the Big Deal?

- ✓ *It was a revelation before the writing of book of Revelation (Truly a revealing of Jesus's purpose in coming to earth in the flesh...past, present, and future).*
- ✓ *While the other three gospels portray Jesus as the King, the Servant, and the Son of Man, John portrays Jesus as the Son of God.*
- ✓ *John stated his theme more clearly than any of the other gospel writers. He wrote so that his readers might “believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God... so that they may have life in His name” (John 20:31).*
- ✓ *To accomplish that goal, John presented a distinctive and treasured picture of Jesus Christ as “God-man”...Still in complete agreement with the other three gospel writers*
- ✓ *John used a variety of techniques to communicate to his readers the nature of Jesus.*

These include:

- *the seven “I am” statements, in which Jesus spoke of Himself:*
- *“The Light of the world” (8:12),*
- *“The resurrection and the life” (11:25),*
- *“The way, and the truth, and the life” (14:6).*

Much of John's gospel (chapters 2–12) might be called the Book of Signs, as it recounts Jesus's performing of seven different miracles—i.e., turning water to wine at Cana and raising Lazarus from the dead at Bethany. These miracles illustrate His identity as the Son of God.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION TO OUR LIVES:

The gospel of John fulfills its purpose of evangelizing the lost.

- ✓ *John 3:16 is likely the best-known Bible verse and is often used in evangelistic Bible studies.*
- ✓ *The encounters between Jesus and Nicodemus and the woman at the well (chapters 3—4) gives us a learning discourse by Jesus' as a model of personal evangelism.*

- ✓ *Jesus' comforting and encouraging words to His disciples before His death (John 14:1-6, 16; 16:33) are still of great comfort in sorrowful times.*
- ✓ *Jesus' "high priestly prayer" for believers in chapter 17 is also a wonderful source of encouragement for believers.*
- ✓ *The teachings concerning the deity of Christ (John 1:1-3, 14; 5:22-23; 8:58; 14:8-9; 20:28) are helpful in providing a clear revelation of who Jesus is...fully God and fully man.*

In the Gospel of John, the ministry is timeless and Jesus is changeless.

- *Ministry = timeless in that the salvation for the individual soul is and has been through faith.*
- *Jesus is changeless = The same yesterday, today, and forever! Faith and Grace are two (2) words used to explain God's salvation message.*

The gospel of John shares much about the approaching ministry of the Holy Spirit after Jesus' ascension.

Question for Consideration:

Was the Holy Spirit at work in the hearts of the people prior to Jesus declaring that He will send "a comforter/advocate" to them?



"I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate (Comforter) to help you and be with you forever— the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you." (John 14:16-18)

"All this I have spoken while still with you. ²⁶ But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. (John 14:25-27)

Do you think the Holy Spirit was given to us as a comforter...or as God's Spirit to get us out of our "comfort zone"?

What have you witnessed as to what the Holy Spirit has and is doing in your life?

The job/function of the Holy Spirit is to help, convict, unite, control, indwell, seal, give gifts, glorify, renew, and sanctify believers in Christ. He helps believers live a life pleasing to the Father and avoid sin. He convicts unbelievers of the truth of the gospel and brings them to faith. He unites believers with Christ and His body, the church, and enables them to live victoriously over sin. He controls believers who yield to God and His Word and produces the fruit of the Spirit in their lives. His desire is to indwell in believers permanently and to guarantee their security until the day of redemption. Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit, however, is the only unforgiveable sin. It is a choice made by the individual, not God. He gives spiritual gifts to believers for the edification of the church and the glory of Christ. He glorifies Christ in all things and convinces us of His deity, incarnation, death, resurrection, ascension, and judgment. He renews, sanctifies, and makes us holy and gives us eternal life.

The Trinity is a team...providing perfect balance in their roles as God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit! John's Gospel explains the roles of the Triune God in more detail than any other book.

This is not to say that the Gospel of John is the "most important book in the Bible." John and all the other authors of the Old and New Testament are co-equal in carrying out the perfect plan of God. There is not anything wrong in emphasizing a certain book as being more relevant and challenging for maturing individuals than another. You can have your favorite book or books; but...it takes all of the Bible to complete the puzzle of the salvation message.

Make sure you don't overlook specific Scriptures just to prove your point. We, as Pentecostal believers, can be as guilty as some other denomination's prejudices when it comes to our desire to see certain manifestations take place in our worship services.

Remember, we must not be "stuck in a rut" (so to speak) when we run after man in lieu of God.

Our focus in life must be on God and His plan of salvation for mankind.

