



The Book of John—Lesson 4

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

Let's get started with a true revelation from God through John...the Apostle who walked and talked with Jesus, saw the miracles performed by Jesus, witnessed the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus.

John 1:1-5, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

A quick at John 1:1-5

The plainest (more obvious) reason why the Son of God is called the Word, seems to be, that as our words explain our minds to others, so was the Son of God sent in order to reveal his Father's mind to the world. What the evangelist (John) says of Christ proves that he is God. He asserts, His existence in the beginning; His coexistence with the Father. The Word was with God. All things were made by him, and not as an instrument. Without him was not anything made that was made, from the highest angel to the most venomous snake. This shows how well qualified he was for the work of our redemption and salvation. The light of reason, as well as the life of sense, is derived from him, and depends upon him. This eternal Word, this true Light shines, but the darkness comprehends it not. Let us pray without ceasing, that our eyes may be opened to behold this Light, that we may walk in it; and thus be made wise unto salvation, by faith in Jesus Christ. Matthew Henry

Faith and Grace...God's recipe for Salvation

You will see faith and grace throughout The Gospel of John!

Observations of John 1:1-5

V. 1-3, John seems to describe the “Word” as an object when he begins his story, but as John continues, the “Word” expands to include personhood when John adds the pronoun “He”.

John begins to describe who this “Word” is.

- ✓ In verse 1, he uses location and person – “the Word was **with God** in the beginning and the Word **was God**”.
- ✓ John equates the “Word” with God, and the “Word” immediately takes on identity or personhood.
- ✓ In verse 3, the “Word” broadens even further to include Creator. Anything that has ever been made was created by God.

We can safely say with confidence after studying verses 1-3:

- The Word/God existed before any thing was created.
- There seems to be 2 entities, when John says, “the Word was **with God.**” Both entities are called God, was God...and was with God.
- **God created everything that exists.**
- God is not a created thing (self-existing).
- Throughout scripture, God reveals that He is eternal. God has no beginning and no end.
- God is infinite—a difficult concept to fully wrap one’s mind around.
 - ✓ In Exodus 3, God told Moses that His name is “I AM WHO I AM”. This phrase translated in Hebrew, ehyeh asher ehyeh, and is the first-person common singular of the verb “to be.”
 - ✓ **God is saying that He simply is past, present, and future; similar to Revelation 4:8 when God is referred to as the Almighty, the One who is, who was, and who is to come.**

V. 4,5 John continues to describe the Word:

- **Saying that “in Him was life.”**
- **Since God is eternal, He is the source of eternal life. John equates “life” with “light” of men.**
 - ✓ The Greek word for light is *phōs* and can mean light, truth, knowledge, reason, power of understanding (especially as it relates to moral and spiritual truth).
 - ✓ We can conclude that God is the source of all truth and imparts this truth to mankind. God imparts this truth in human flesh...Jesus Christ, God’s Son.

NOTE: We full-well know that Jesus referred to Himself as “the Truth”, that He came to earth to bring moral and spiritual truth and was rejected by both Jews and Gentiles.

- The Jews could not accept or understand that Jesus was the Messiah.

- The Greek word used in this verse for darkness is skotia, meaning a lack of moral and spiritual clarity or understanding.
- Those that lack understanding are said to be in DARKNESS.
 - Therefore, those who reject Jesus, reject God's eternal life and eternal truth, remaining in a state of MORAL AND SPIRITUAL DARKNESS.

NOTE: Jesus referred to Himself as "the Truth"...and "the Fulfillment of Scripture" concerning being the Messiah. To a Jew, it would have been blasphemous for a human to call Himself God.

It was startling and offensive to many cultures and people of this time period...and still is today.

APPLICATION FOR US TODAY

- 1. One of the most incredible things about the bible is that not only does it teach us how to live, but the bible teaches us who we are.**
 - These verses tell us all things and our personhood, have been created by God. He is a being of great power, intellect, and beauty.
 - Psalm 19:1 tells us, "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands."
 - Just as the heavens reflect who God is, we also should reflect our Creator.
 - ✓ Our gifts of music, intellect, mathematics, philosophy, art, etc. all contain the fingerprints of God.
 - ✓ **Everything that we are has been given to us. What we do with it...is our gift to Him.**
- 2. If God created the entire universe, then nothing is too difficult for him, including all of our questions, doubts, complexities, and trials. He is far bigger than any problem we face.**
- 3. The metaphor of Jesus being light is an astonishing revelation.**
 - To anyone who has ever planted a garden, light is essential for life. Without light, there is no life, no growth, only death.
 - **Jesus brings life and light (truth) into our lives.**
- 4. When Jesus' light penetrates the darkness in our hearts, it reveals who we really are.**
 - We are sinners. But He doesn't want us to remain there.
 - He wants to give us a relationship with Himself and turn from the darkness of this world to HIM.
 - ✓ He points us to the truth, which will set us free.
 - ✓ What is the truth? That we are sinners, in need of a savior.
 - ✓ Jesus came to die on a cross, thereby paying our debt in full. That is what He meant by His last words,

"It is finished." The debt has been paid.