



The Gospel of John is a beloved gospel. Because of its odd combination of both simplicity and depth, John has been called “a pool in which a child may wade and an elephant may swim.”

John 1:6-8, “There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.”

Some other statements letting us know how John’s Gospel is simple, but profound:

*“Its stories are so simple that even a child will love them, but its statements are so profound that no philosopher can fathom them.”
(Erdman)*

“So, if we give diligent attention to entertainment, sports, music, or the news, how much more should we give careful attention ‘when a man is speaking from heaven, and utters a voice plainer than thunder?’” (John Chrysostom)

Remember, God’s ways are much higher than our ways. His plan is to reach every person (the simple and the aristocrat, the poor and the rich, the knowledgeable and the person who might ask a lot of questions and not understand most of the answers when given).

God has a productive and winning plan. It is our responsibility to carry his plan to all nations (starting at home).

John, the Baptist...The forerunner of the Word.

- **There was a man sent from God:** John the Baptist bore witness of the light, **that all through him might believe.** The work of John the Baptist was deliberately focused on bringing people to faith in Jesus the Messiah.

Note: His message was to present the light that could turn the darkness/blindness of those who had rejected Jesus to an understanding of who the light was and is.

- **John message made it clear that he, himself, was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light:**
 - ✓ John the Baptist's work was remarkably well received and widely known.
 - ✓ It was important for the John, the Gospel writer, to make it clear that John the Baptist **was not that Light**, but that he pointed towards and bore witness of that Light.

"We know him as 'John the Baptist' but in this Gospel the references to his baptism are incidental. However, there is repeated reference to his witness." (Morris)

I think we do not give credit to John for his witness as much as we should. He was known as:

- *The one who proclaimed the world was getting to witness the King of the Universe, the crowning King.*
- *He had followers who thought he was the Messiah and*
- *The King who was going to give them freedom from oppression.*
- *The one who called out the sins of the people.*

He was well known by Jewish Rabbis, Jewish Counsel members, and Gentile Governors/Gentile Rulers.

The matter of "being a witness" is a serious thing:

- **It establishes truth and gives ground for faith.**
- **But, it does more. IT COMMITS A MAN.**
 - ✓ **If I take my stand in as a witness in a trial and testify that such-and-such is the truth of the matter, I am no longer neutral.**
 - ✓ **I have committed myself.**

The writer lets us know that "there are those like John the Baptist who have committed themselves by their witness to Christ." (Morris)

John 1:9-11, "That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him."

The Rejection of the Word.

I think Romans 1 (writings of Paul) gives us a glimpse of what John meant when he states the true light gives light to every man coming into the world.

Romans 1:18-20, "The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—

his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.”

John did not mean that the Word gives this light to everyone in the ultimate, saving sense. Salvation is Not Accepted by Everyone...but, it is offered to everyone.

“The world did not know Him”: This is strange. God came to the same world He created, to the creatures made in His image, and yet **the world did not know Him**. This shows how deeply fallen human nature rejects God, and that many reject (**did not receive**) God’s word and **Light**.

Romans 1:18, “They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.

He came to His own: “We might translate the opening words, ‘he came home’. He helped create “man and his mate (woman)”...in his own image. He observed the making/creating of everything in and on earth (it was home to him.) **And...those at HOME rejected HIM (Chosen Ones...and those who saw HIS Miracles).**

Today...you might say, “If I would have witnessed all those miracles that were performed, there is no way I would have rejected His claim as the Messiah, the Savior, the Prince of Peace.”

The Receiving of the Word.

John 1:12-13, “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”

Though some rejected this revelation, others received Him and thereby became children of God. They became children of God through a new birth, being born... of God.

“The end of the story is not the tragedy of rejection, but the grace of acceptance.” (Morris)

We find the story of Nicodemus in John 3...Jesus calmly and with gentleness of heart simply stated to Nicodemus, “You must be born again.” Nicodemus was a very learned, academically trained in the Scriptures, liked among his peers, man. He just did not understand the simple facts of life (Spiritually speaking).

“As many as received Him:

- **The idea of “receiving Jesus” is Biblically valid.** We need to embrace and receive Him unto ourselves.
- **As many as received Him** is just another to say **those who believe in His name.**

“Faith is described as ‘receiving’ Jesus. It is the empty cup placed under the flowing stream; the penniless hand held out for heavenly alms.” (Spurgeon)

“The right to become children of God”: Believers are God’s ‘little ones,’ related to him by birth.” (Tenney)

If we receive Jesus...we are co-heirs with Jesus and have the same rights as anyone else having keys to enter the home with the Father.

Not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God: John reminds us of the nature of the birth. Those who received Him are born of God; not of human effort or achievement.

This new birth is something that brings change to the life. If it doesn’t, then we need to check our birth certificate. Is it real? Do we desire to please the Father?

John 1:14a, “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.”

This is John’s most startling statement so far. It would have amazed both thinkers in both the Jewish and the Greek world to hear that **the Word became flesh.**

That Word became flesh, became baby Jesus laid in a manger.

“The most general expression of the great truth...He became *man*. Christ entered into a new dimension of existence through the gateway of human birth and took up his residence among men.” (Tenney)

That Word...made His dwelling amongst us!

The Greek word translated “dwelt/dwelling” is interesting; it has the same root as “tent” or “tabernacle.” Thus, one literal translation renders this clause, “the Word became flesh and did **tabernacle** among us.”

The idea behind this phrase is more literally, dwelt as in a tent among us.

Any person (parents, even children) like to camp out in a tent...for about one night! Most of the time they are uncomfortable and can be enjoyed on a short-time basis. The positive side of having your family in a tent setting is that you get to know your parents, children, siblings better.

Jesus came as a babe and offered Himself up as a Savior!

He was, is, and always will be there for us...offering up “his dwelling place forever.” Our reservations to live with Jesus can be obtained by “believing and trusting Him as our Savior.”

Jesus is the greatest Christmas present ever!