



## 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. <sup>26</sup> 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.*

**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 look 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!***