

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN | John 1:1-3

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. **John 1:1-3 ESV**

I. THE PURPOSE OF THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

The Gospel of John is a portrait of the person and work of Jesus Christ. The purpose of this Gospel is abundantly clear.

30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. *John 20:30-31 ESV*

It is not enough to simply believe in a moment. True believers in Jesus must persevere in their believing in order to be saved in the end.

6 If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. *John 15:6 ESV*

9 Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake. 10 And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. 11 And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. 12 And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. 13 But the one who endures to the end will be saved. *Matthew 24:9-13 ESV*

The book of John was written to lead us to eternal life by awakening faith in unbelievers and sustaining faith in believers.

II. THE AUTHORS OF THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

Multiple times throughout the Gospel of John we see the words “the disciple whom Jesus loved” used to describe one of Jesus' disciples named John.

20 Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them, the one who also had leaned back against him during the supper and had said, “Lord, who is it that is going to betray you?” *John 21:20 ESV*

24 This is the disciple who is bearing witness about these things, and who has written these things, and we know that his testimony is true. *John 21:24 ESV*

The one who was called “the disciple whom Jesus loved” is the same disciple who wrote this book as a divinely inspired eyewitness to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

John is the human author. The Holy Spirit is the divine author.

25 “These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. 26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. *John 14:25-26 ESV*

What this means is that Jesus chose his apostles to be his primary representatives. He saved them, taught them, commissioned them, and then gave them divine inspiration in the writing of Scripture for the foundation of the church.

19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone. *Ephesians 2:19-20 ESV*

We believe that the entirety of the Bible is therefore the inspired word of God.

III. JESUS IS THE WORD

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **John 1:1 ESV**

The most significant thing to know about this “Word” is found in John 1:14.

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. *John 1:14 ESV*

The Word refers to Jesus Christ - Creator of all things and Savior of the world. The point of these first three verses is for us to read this Gospel full of worship, submission, and awe.

Jesus is called 'the Word' because he is the perfect truth of God. Jesus is God's final and decisive message to humanity. What God wanted to say to us is not only seen in the teachings of Jesus, but in who Jesus was and what he did. The combination of the person, the work, and the teachings of Jesus is God's perfect and final Word to mankind.

1 Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. 3 He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.
Hebrews 1:1-3 ESV

What all of this means is simple, if you reject Jesus you reject God.

17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. 18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.
John 3:17-18 ESV

In his First Coming, Jesus' purpose was not to condemn the world, but to save it. He came to serve.

28 The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and give his life as a ransom for many.
Mat 20:28 ESV

However, in his Second Coming, he will not come to serve, but to supremely rule and reign.

11 Then I saw heaven opened and a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. 12 His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, he has a name that no one knows but himself. 13 He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is 'The Word of God'.
Revelation 19:11-13 ESV