

Christmas Eve 2021

Pastor Jim Thomas

December 24, 2021



SERMON NOTES

John wrote about Jesus because he wanted us...

1. To know something: miracles and teachings
2. To believe something: Jesus is the Christ
3. To receive something: life in His name

“Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.”

- *John 20:30-31*

- Because of the **LOVE** of God for sinners,
- He sent Christ, to bring us the **JOY** of salvation,
- the **HOPE** of eternal life, and
- the **PEACE** of God to rule our hearts!

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. There came a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to testify about the Light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the Light, but he came to testify about the Light. There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man. 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 those who were His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even 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. And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. John testified about Him and cried out, saying, ‘This was He of whom I said, “He who comes after me has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.”’ For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace. For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ. No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him.”

- *John 1:1-18 (NASB)*

John's Gospel starts with an old beginning and then leads us to a new beginning.

John 1:1-18

- Through the Incarnation of Christ, God has taken the initiative to make known to us...
The Word -vs- the empty silence and the quandary of speculation
- Through the Incarnation of Christ, God has taken the initiative to make known to us...
The Source: the Personal and Eternal Creator -vs- the impersonal cosmic accident
- Through the Incarnation of Christ, God has taken the initiative to make known to us...
The Life -vs- the death or the hopeless nothingness
- Through the Incarnation of Christ, God has taken the initiative to make known to us...
The Light -vs- the darkness or the shifting shadows
- Through the Incarnation of Christ, God has taken the initiative to make known to us...
The Grace of God -vs- the guilt and shame of our sin
- Through the Incarnation of Christ, God has taken the initiative to make known to us...
The Truth -vs- the lies and uncertainties that surround us

By believing in Jesus we find:

- The freedom of His forgiveness for our past
- The power of His presence among us now, and
- The hope of that Great Day when He returns again to set the world to rights.

“Advent creates new men and women. Look up, you whose eyes are fixed on this earth, you who are captivated by the events and changes on the surface of this earth. Look up, you who turned away from heaven to this ground because you had become disillusioned. Look up, you whose eyes are laden with tears, you who mourn the loss of all that the earth has snatched away. Look up, you who cannot lift your eyes because you are so laden with guilt. Look up, your redemption is drawing near.”

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *A Testament to Freedom: The Essential Writings of Dietrich Bonhoeffer*