

John-1
“The Jesus You Need To Know”
John 1:1-18 (NIV)

Happy New Year Newsong!

I'm so excited because it's not only a brand new year where we get to grow together in the things of God as a church family...

But we're starting a brand new sermon series in the Gospel of John, and we're going to spend a few months learning about the most important, most influential, most controversial, most inspirational, most famous Person in the history of the world and His name is Jesus Christ!

If you're a first-time guest with us today, or you're new and you're watching online...I want to welcome you!

Maybe you've come into this place looking for answers...maybe you've got some doubts...more questions than answers...

This is the perfect series for you because if we could come up with an overall theme for the Gospel of John it would be "believe"

Out of the 879 verses in John's gospel, John uses the word "believe" almost 100 times!
In fact, John tells us that the whole reason he wrote this book was so that you will believe...

Look at our theme verse for this series...
It's found at the end of John's gospel

31 But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

-Jn 20:31 (NIV)

So let me be right up front with you...we have an agenda here at Newsong Church...our agenda is that every single person would believe in Jesus and have eternal life through Him!

Now for those of you who already believe...As we go through this book together, my prayer for you is that your faith will be strengthened and you will begin to live it out every single day!

The other thing is this...

As we study John's gospel we're going to learn things about Jesus that aren't mentioned in the Matthew, Mark & Luke...they're unique to John

So there's something for all of us...I'm so excited to grow with you! If you're excited will you say amen?

Okay before we dive into John's gospel let me give you a little background...The name John means "God is gracious"

Most scholars believe John was written by the Apostle John somewhere between 85-90AD John was the oldest surviving eyewitness of Jesus among the apostles...the others all martyred for their faith in Jesus...

John was one of Jesus' closest friends...maybe even His best friend!

The Gospel of John is deep and wide... Augustine said *"The Gospel of John is deep enough for an elephant to swim in and shallow enough for a child not to drown"*

Are you ready to go swimming?

John 1:1-18 (NIV)

Pray

So John wastes no time...He wants us to know right out of the gate Who Jesus is...

This is so incredibly important because our salvation depends upon Who Jesus really is!

Islam, Mormonism, Paganism, Jehovah's Witnesses, Oprah, Taylor Swift and Tom Cruise (just to name a few) would all disagree with John about Who Jesus is!

If we get the identity of Jesus wrong...we get salvation wrong!

So I would rather take Jesus' good friend John's word about who Jesus is...

Someone who lived with Jesus...was an eyewitness to His miracles, His death, burial, and resurrection...

Then the word of Muhamad, Joseph Smith, Charles Taze Russell, or the ladies on the view!

So what does John say about the identity of Jesus?

Jesus is **ETERNAL**

1 In the beginning was the Word...1:1

In other words Jesus has always existed...

Now this is much different than the other gospel writers...

Matthew traces Jesus' genealogy back to Abraham showing that Jesus is King...He's the Messiah...

Mark doesn't give us a genealogy, he sort of jumps right into Jesus' ministry showing that Jesus is the Suffering Servant

Luke traces Jesus' genealogy all the way back to Adam showing that Jesus is the Son of Man...He's the perfect man

John is like...I'm going to go even further back...In the beginning...Now that sounds familiar doesn't it?

We just started our new Bible reading plan and those were the first words of the first Book of the Bible...

1 In the beginning God...Gen 1:1 (NIV)

John is revealing Who Jesus is by connecting his opening words to Genesis 1:1...In the beginning was the Word...

What John is saying is before the beginning of time...Jesus already existed...

Jesus wasn't created by God the Father as the JW's and Mormons will teach you...He has always been...He is eternal...

Pastor and Author Gary Hamrick writes...
"Jesus preexisted with God the Father being co-equal, co-eternal with God...Jesus even says this about Himself later on"

5 And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began-Jn 17:5 (NIV)

Jesus is eternal...

Jesus is the **WORD**
1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.-Jn 1:1 (NIV)

In explaining Who Jesus is, John tells us that Jesus is the Word...he uses it three times...it's the Greek word **lógos**

I like how Gary Hamrick breaks this down in his commentary...

He says...lógos was used in different ways...it meant Word, Speech, Thought, or Principle... But in Greek philosophy it also meant divine reason...

Greek philosophy would say that everything that now exists pre-existed (lógos)

Look at the drums...Greek philosophy would say that those drums actually pre-existed. Why? Because someone had the thought of designing them before they materialized

That's lógos...its a thought or a concept that ends up becoming expressed...So when John says that Jesus is the Word the lógos

What he's saying is that Jesus is the divine expression of God...Jesus has always existed but became the manifestation of God Himself...He is the Word of God

Now the term "word of God" is also used to describe the Bible...If you want a word from God...pick up the Word of God!

17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God-Ro 10:17 (NKJV)

Lógos is used to describe God's written Word and it's used to describe Jesus...

In fact, in the Book of Revelation we're told that Jesus will be called The Word of God...

13 He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.-Re 19:13 (NKJV)

The Bible is the revelation of God transcribed (written)

Jesus is the revelation of God personified (in person)

I heard it put it this way...
Jesus is what God has to say!

Now we live in a culture that is at war against the Word of God...I will just say this because I love you...If you disagree with the Word of God...you're wrong! We're not to be God's editors...

We're called to be God's messengers!
The written Word tells us about God...Jesus shows us God...

The culture is always trying to change God's Word into its image...But God's Word wants to change the culture into the image of Jesus...

The more you read God's Word...the more you see Jesus...the more you will realize that you're the one who has to change...

Because life, hope, help, healing all come from the Word of God! God works and speaks through His Word and Jesus is the Word of God working and speaking!

So when John says that Jesus is the Lógos He's saying that whatever culture, whatever philosophy, whatever spirituality, whatever theology, whatever ideology, whatever nationality, wherever you land politically...

Everybody, Everywhere needs to know Jesus...
To meet Jesus...
To love Jesus...

To submit to Jesus...

To follow Jesus...

To trust Jesus...

Because apart from Jesus there is no revelation from God...no understanding of God...no salvation from God!

Jesus is eternal...

Jesus is the Word...

Jesus is **GOD**

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.-Jn 1:1 (NIV)

Again...Muslims, Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses do not believe that Jesus is God.

Mormons believe that Jesus is a created being, that he's actually the spirit brother of Lucifer
JW's believe that Jesus is a created being, that he's really Michael the Arc angel

Muslims believe that Jesus is a good prophet, inferior to Muhammad...

We can't all be right...Based on the evidence...I'm sticking with John!

John wants us all to understand that before time even began Jesus already was...He was with God...but more than that...Jesus is God!

John uses this word “was” three times...in English that means past tense...but in the Greek he's using the word **eimí** (A-e-me)

And he's using it in the imperfect tense which means continuous action...

This verse literally reads...

“In the beginning was and is the Word and the Word was and with God and the Word was and is and will always be God

This is why Jesus said

30 *I and the Father are one.*”-Jn 10:30(NIV)

...Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.-Jn 14:9 (NIV)

3 The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being...Heb 1:3 (NIV)

This concept that Jesus is God is hard for us to wrap our minds around...People will say, so when Jesus is praying to the Father is He talking to Himself? How does this work?

What we’re talking about is the doctrine of the Trinity

The doctrine of the Trinity is how Theologians describe that there is One God who eternally exists in Three distinct Persons: Father, Son & Holy Spirit...

One God Three Persons...

So God is One in Being and Three in Persons...

What's the difference between a being and a person? A being is that quality, essence or substance that makes you what you are...

A person is that quality, or essence that makes you who you are...

What kind of being am I? (I'm a human being)
Who am I as a person? (Mike Tolone)

What I am is my being
Who I am is my person
The two are not the same thing...

We are all human beings...that what we are

But we are not all the same person...that's who we are...So we are made up of one being with one person...

God is made up of One Being with Three Persons...Father, Son & Holy Spirit...

Is there anything like that on earth? No...it's a mystery to us...but that doesn't mean that God can't be Three in One!

JB Phillips said *"If God were small enough to figure out, He wouldn't be big enough for me to worship"*

There's somethings that we will not understand this side of heaven...and that's why we walk by faith!

Jesus is eternal
Jesus is the Word
Jesus is God

Jesus is **CREATOR**

***3 Through him all things were made;
without him nothing was made that has
been made.-Jn 1:2–3 (NIV)***

***10 He was in the world, and though the
world was made through him, the world did
not recognize him.-Jn 1:10 (NIV)***

John is telling us that Jesus is the creator...

In the first few verses of Genesis we see the
Trinity active in creation...

I like how Bible teacher Tara-Leigh Cobble puts
it...

God the Father commanded it...

God the Son created it...

God the Spirit approved and sustained it!

Jesus is the creator...

16 For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him-Col 1:16 (NIV)
17 He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.-Col 1:17 (NIV)

Remember that song “He’s got the whole world in His hands”...Jesus created the earth and is literally holding everything together...

The world didn’t come about by a cosmic accident...and you didn’t evolve from slime...

The earth was created for a purpose...You were created for a purpose! The God of universe created you to be in relationship with Him! You are not the creator...you are the created...

This is why it’s in Jesus that we find our meaning and our purpose!

Jesus is eternal, He's the Word, He's God, He's Creator...

Jesus became a Man to **SAVE US**

14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

-Jn 1:14 (NIV)

This statement would have shocked and amazed John's readers...The Word...the Lógos became flesh?

The Greeks would be blown away, because to them the gods were kind of like the Avengers...they were human with superpowers...not the same as the Lógos...

The Jews would be blown away at the idea that the Word not only became flesh...but made his dwelling among them!

World Religions and philosophies are trying to reach up to God...In Christianity God reaches down to us...

In the O.T. they had something called the tabernacle...it was like a tent, God's people were on the move and God's presence would go with them and they would gather outside of the tent of meeting and God would dwell with them...

John is saying that just like God would come and tabernacle with His people and dwell among them back then...Jesus became flesh...He tabernacled...to dwell among them

Why would He do that? To save us!

God is like a Father...His heart is a fathers heart...He loves us, and creates a world for us...a home for us to live in...

A place where we can be with Him and have relationship with Him...And we are like foolish children who run away from our father and run away from His home...

That's what sin is...It's rejection...it's rebellion...it's disobedience...it's living life my way, by my rules...

The Bible tells us that every single one of us is that rebellious child...

23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,-Ro 3:23 (NIV)

Now because God loves us...He wanted to rescue us, to redeem us...to save us...

But because God is holy and just...the penalty for our sin had to be paid...

The Bible tells us that if God could find one righteous person on the earth He would put all the penalty and all the consequences for all of our sin on that one person, and that one person could take one for the team...

Psalms 14, and **Romans 3** tell us that when God looked for one righteous person he couldn't find anyone who was righteous...not one person

The Lord looked and was displeased that there was no justice. 16 He saw that there was no one, he was appalled that there was no one to intervene; so his own arm achieved salvation for him, and his own righteousness sustained him.-Is 59:15–16 (NIV)

In other words, He Himself would come to earth...We just celebrated Christmas...A miraculous conception...

The Holy Spirit comes upon a young virgin named Mary...The seed of God implanted in her womb...divinity meets humanity...Jesus fully God and fully man is born...

He lived a sinless life...

He goes to the cross for our sin...

So that by His death on the cross, if we put our faith in what Jesus did we can have our sins forgiven and be saved!

Jesus is rescuing people today...

It's like He's shining His light into the dark and calling us to come back to the Father...

John tells us that some people actually see the light and here Him calling...and instead of running to the light...they run to the darkness...

9 The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.

10 He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him.-Jn 1:9–10 (NIV)

Jesus is out there shining His light...but people don't recognize Him and choose darkness and ultimately death...

If you're here or watching online and you've never accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior...That's you!

You're running from the God who has come to save you...Some people don't think that they need to be saved...

Some people like being lost...

Some people see Jesus' light but want to find a different way out of the darkness...

None of these things can save us...As we close today...there's two categories that people are in...The Lost and the Found...

The saved or the unsaved...

11 He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.

You don't have to make that decision...In fact, if you're here or watching online and you're not saved...Don't run from the God Who is looking for you! That's foolishness!

I know because that was me for a long time...
Living my life my way...lost in the dark...It's exhausting...

Then one day I saw the light in the darkness and I ran to Jesus...and I was saved!

12 Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.-Jn 1:11–13 (NIV)

God did it all to save us...to rescue us!
This is why John tells us...

***31 But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.
-Jn 20:31 (NIV)***

What's the Holy Spirit Saying to You?

Altar Time

As we close today...I want to speak to those of us who have believed in Jesus and have received the free gift of salvation

John teaches us that we can trust our Heavenly Father...trust Him with our problems...trust Him with our future...

Tomorrow we start our 21 days of prayer and fasting...let's seek His face together! Let's get to know Him more intimately!

Pray for those far away from God