

John 1:1-34

The Gospel vs. a Gospel

- The word “gospel” means “good news.”
- The best news of all is that Jesus, God’s Son, came to earth to pay for our sins and make it possible for us to have a relationship with God.
- The four gospels that begin the New Testament are four different accounts of Jesus’ ministry, death, and resurrection.

The 4 Gospels

- **Matthew**—Jesus is the king of Israel, the Messiah or Christ, written to the Jews.
- **Mark**—Jesus is the servant, the Son of Man, written to the Romans.
- **Luke**—Jesus is the Master (Lord), the perfect man, written to the Greeks.
- **John**—Jesus is God, written to all people.

The Gospel of John

1. Is an eye-witness account by one of the 3 inner-circle disciples (Peter, James, & John)
2. Contains no parables
3. Includes 7 signs (miracles) that show Jesus to be God (5 unique to John’s gospel)

The Gospel of John

4. Places great emphasis on faith (“believe”—98 times)
5. Contains 7 famous “I AM” statements
6. Focuses on about 30 days in Jesus’s life
7. Records nothing about Jesus’s birth or childhood

Why John Wrote

These [signs] 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 20:31).

Why did John call Jesus “the Word”?

- *Word = logos*, a message, something said or communicated
- Familiar to the Greeks—*logos* was an impersonal organizing principle that gave shape and meaning to things.
- Familiar to the Jews—242 times in the OT “the word of the Lord” came to prophets, etc.

Hebrews 1:1-2

God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.

Why did John call Jesus “the Word”?

- God wants to communicate with us.
- Jesus explains / declares / reveals the Father (1:18).
- The Word is powerful—creates (Gen.1-2) & destroys (Rev. 19:15).

JESUS IS

- Eternal (Jn. 1:1-2)
- A Person, distinct from God the Father (1:1)
- God (1:1)
- The Creator of all (1:3)
- The Source of all spiritual life and light (1:4)

We need Jesus, our Light.

- 1 Corinthians 2:14—But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.
- James 1:5—But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

We need Jesus, our Light.

- To receive = to take to yourself
- To believe = to put your trust in HIS NAME—to commit to who He is—*Jesus means Savior.*

How NOT to become a child of God

- Not of blood—not by being born into a Christian family
- Not of the will of the flesh—not by your own efforts or will power
- Not of the will of man—not by someone else’s actions or desires

“the only begotten from the Father”

- Means “the one and only Son from the Father”
- “Greek *monogenēs*, which is derived from *genos*, which means ‘kind’ or ‘species.’ It means literally ‘one of a kind,’ ‘only,’ ‘unique’” (Tenney).
- Compare Hebrews 11:17-18.

- “God was manifest in the flesh” (1 Tim. 3:16), when the Word became flesh (John 1:14).
- “He was the brightness of the Father’s glory, and the express image of His person” (Heb. 1:3).
- He says, “I and my Father are one” (John 10:30).
- “He that has seen me has seen the Father” (John 14:9).
- “In Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily” (Col. 2:9).

The Humility of John the Baptist

- I’m not the Christ, not Elijah, not the Prophet (1:20-21).
- I’m “a voice” (1:23).
- I’m not worthy to untie His shoe (1:27).
- Jesus “has a higher rank than I” (1:30).
- He must increase, but I must decrease (John 3:30).

John's Testimony about Jesus:

- The Source of grace and truth (1:17)
- The Messiah (meaning of *Christ*) (1:17)—promised Jewish ruler, a descendant of David
- The unique Son who is God (1:18)
- The Revealer of God the Father (1:18)

John's Testimony about Jesus:

- The LORD (Yahweh)(1:23)
- The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (1:29)
- The One Who baptizes with the Holy Spirit (1:33)
- The Son of God (1:34)

Believe and Receive

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.

John 1:12