

Beulah Heights University

Theological Reflection Paper of the Book of John

Submitted to Professor Shannon Truelove

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BI109

John & Acts Online

by

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One of the most important book of the Bible is the Gospel as recorded by the Apostle John. In the history of the church we are shown that the Gospel of John has long been recognized as unique and different. If we just look on the surface, the gospel of John was written to the church, both then and now. But if we look beneath the surface, we find that this book was written for unbelievers as well. Because this book focuses more on the divinity of Jesus Christ than any of the other Gospels. Non-believers are encouraged to read the Gospel of John, in hope that the message of the book will lead them to faith in Christ. To fully understand why I said this about the Book of John, let get and understanding the purpose of the Gospel of John, what I learned, and how Is the book applied to us.

First, if this gospel had a specific purpose statement it would be “that if you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”<sup>1</sup> Upon reading this book, the reader would note many themes but I feel that the main theme of the Gospel of John is the revelation of God to man through his Son, Jesus Christ. In this gospel we learn theological truths about the person, and the deity of Jesus Christ. In other words, the Gospel of John was written to prove that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

The Apostle John, being an eyewitness to the love and power of Christ, gives us an up-close and personal look at Christ's identity. He shows us that Jesus, though fully God, came in the flesh to distinctly and accurately reveal God, and that Christ is the source of eternal life to all who believe in him. John so eloquently and beautifully opens up the Gospel describing Jesus as the Word and He is God.<sup>2</sup> John also tells us of the birth of Jesus when he describes Jesus as the

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<sup>1</sup>John 20:31 KJV

<sup>2</sup> John 1:1

word becoming flesh.<sup>3</sup> In these words God is revealed to man through His Son, Jesus Christ. In every chapter, Christ's divine power and love are revealed. They are signs to inspire us to believe and trust in Him. There are many groups today that refuse to accept the Biblical fact that Jesus Christ is more than the Son of God; He IS God !!! in the flesh.

Second, upon reading the Gospel of John there were a few things that I learned. First, The Gospel of John has a large amount of material not covered by the other Gospels.<sup>4</sup> And, it is the only Gospel that has the entire High Priestly Prayer<sup>5</sup> along with Jesus' extensive farewell message<sup>6</sup>. Secondly, I learned while in the Synoptic Gospels Jesus had brief encounters with individual and short sayings, in John's Gospel Jesus had lengthy meetings with individuals such as Nicodemus,<sup>7</sup> the Samaritan woman at the well,<sup>8</sup> as well as Lazarus and his sisters, Martha and Mary.<sup>9</sup> Thirdly, I learned that John's Gospel is divided into two parts which are (1) The Book of Signs<sup>10</sup> that include Jesus' ministry and signs he was working and teachings. And the Book of Glory<sup>11</sup>, which describes His ministry to his disciples while in the upper room preparing them for his departure letting them know of his death and resurrection.

Lastly, The Gospel of John is not just a book of stories nor is it something that we should wrestle with in our minds whether there is truth in its writings. But it is something that shape our

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3 John 1:14 KJV

4 The Synoptic Gospel which include the Gospel of Matthew, Mark, and Luke.

5 Is generally known as the Farewell Prayer. It is by far the longest prayer of Jesus in any of the gospels.

6 John 14-17 KJV

7 John 3:1-21 KJV

8 John 4:5-26 KJV

9 John 11:1-44 KJV

10 John chapter 1:19 - chapter 12

11 John chapters 13 – chapter 20

lives. As true followers of Christ we are called to live the Gospel. That through us others, whether they are other believers or non-believers, can witness Christ in us. Living the Gospel means living not only in our religious practice but in our spiritual lives as well. As believers, we are required to apply the teachings of Christ that he showed us by his life and ministry. First Jesus teaches us that we should have love for those that are lost. Second, we should love other believers. In other words, we should have love for everyone. And thirdly and most important, we should truly love God.

In my conclusion, the Gospel of Matthew was written to the Jews, Mark to the Romans, Luke to the Gentiles, but John writes his Gospel to all the world! John wrote that we might believe. Believe that Jesus, the Word, is the Christ, the Son of God who is God; and that believing we might have eternal life with Him through His name.

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