



I have been reading the Gospel of John during my reading and study time. I have read this book many, many times. However, during this time of reading many things have truly stood out to me. We know that John is different from the other three synoptic Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke. I would like to mention just a few things that we read of in John which are very important to the true believer in Jesus.

However, before we discuss the Gospel of John, I would like to give a very brief overview of the other three Gospel accounts found within the Bible. These three Gospel accounts have many similar items in them and they seem to take a similar course in explaining the life of Jesus. Yes, they do come from different perspectives. However they basically say the same thing and are written for the same purpose – to share the works of Jesus and who He really is to the world back then and to the world, today.

We know that Mark was the first Gospel written. It was written in Greek and it gives a direct and very subsequent description of the life of Jesus. It was written by Mark sometime around, 55AD. The person, Mark, it seems, is mentioned in his own Gospel account. We read of this at the time of Jesus' arrest while in the garden. It is thought by many Bible scholars that Mark was the fellow seen running away from Jesus and everyone else when they came to arrest Jesus. (Mark 14:51) This meant that Mark, even though he is seen here "running away" was with Jesus or at least was seeking after the truth. He was not one of Jesus' "twelve disciples" but he seemed to be around them much of the time.

We know that Mark very well could be that person and could have been with Jesus because we know that Mark's mother, a woman by the name of Mary, did actually believe in Jesus and followed Him. We see this in Acts 12:12 that after Peter was miraculously released from prison by an angel that he went to her home as it states, *"When he realized this, he (Peter) went to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose other name was Mark, where many were gathered together and were praying."*

We also hear of Mark in an unfavorable way in Acts 15:36-41. He was with Paul and Barnabas as they went about teaching and preaching Jesus. However, Paul does not have anything good to say at that time about Mark because Mark was the one who left Paul and Barnabas when the "times got a little tough." When Mark tried to come back to be with them (during better times) Paul refused to allow Mark to travel with them. Barnabas, on the other hand, desired to give Mark another chance and wanted to take him along on their journey.

We see in the Book of Acts that they never could find an agreement on this. They instead split up and went in different directions. We then read of Paul's travels in the Book of Acts because Luke had written Acts as a court paper, along with the Gospel of Luke, to use at Paul's trial in Rome. Overtime, Mark "grew up and matured" we can say. Mark did end up writing his gospel account as well as meeting up with Paul again and making things right with him. We see this in 2Timothy 4:11.

The next Gospel account to briefly discuss is Matthew's account. Matthew originally wrote his Gospel account in Hebrew. It was then changed to Greek and then translated into other languages such as we have today. As we know Matthew was one of Jesus' twelve disciples. It seems as though Matthew took what Mark had written and expanded it in a way that it would reach more of the Jewish people, who spoke Hebrew, than Mark's Gospel which was in Greek.

Matthew's Gospel follows pretty much Mark's Gospel. However, Matthew is writing to the Jewish believer and he adds in many things that would relate to the Jewish people and ultimately the Jewish believer. Matthew was thought to be written sometime after 60AD

Then we have the Gospel of Luke. Luke again is a compilation of the life of Jesus. As mentioned previously, it was written along with the Book of Acts as a legal brief for Paul's trial in Rome. Luke compiled all the information in Mark's and Matthew's writings. However, being that it was a "legal" writing, Luke had to get much of his information, not just from the other Gospels, but rather from actual people who were there and witnessed many of the things that Jesus had done to which Paul was declaring to the unsaved in Roman territories that Jesus was the actual Messiah, the Son of God.

Luke's Gospel was written sometime after 60-62AD in preparation for Paul's trial. Paul's trial may or may not have taken place. We know Paul died in between 62-64AD while he was still in Rome.

That brings us to John's Gospel. There is a discrepancy concerning when this Gospel was written. There are many who think that it was written prior to the destruction of the Temple somewhere around 68 or 69BC. This was because John did not mention anything concerning the destruction of the Temple in his Gospel account. However, most believe that John wrote His Gospel account in or around 90AD.

By the time that John wrote this Gospel, there were "second and third generation" believers in the Body of Christ. Therefore, John's main purpose for writing his account of Jesus' life was for the purpose of getting the new believers back on the right track concerning Jesus, His life, His ministry and why He did everything He did. Many unscrupulous leaders were either adding or giving the wrong information about Jesus and who and what He said and did. John wrote His Gospel to re-establish and tell them the truth.

We must grasp the fact that even as early as 55 – 85 AD there were people who were going about misinterpreting and telling people incorrectly about who Jesus was. Unfortunately, this is still taking place even to this day. When we read the Gospel of John we read that John writes more about who Jesus was and is instead of what He did. He wrote specifically concerning these things to set people straight.

John starts out his Gospel declaring that, *"In the beginning there was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God."* That is how John starts His account of who Jesus is. Yes, John declares in the very first line of His Gospel that the Word was and is God. This is vital for us to grasp. We know that Jesus is the Word because in John 1:14 he states, *"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth."* He is obviously speaking of and referring to Jesus.

He then states it clearly in John 1:17 as he tells us, *"For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ."* Just as he tells us in verse 14 that the word is "grace and truth," in verse 17 he declares that "grace and truth" came in the flesh and it came by Jesus, Himself. John is declaring that Jesus is therefore the Word of God who has come now in the flesh.

This is the beginning of John's Gospel account. He gives the reason why he is giving us this account of Jesus. It is to tell us that Jesus was and is the Living Word of God who always was with the Father but now He also has come in the flesh to set us straight on who God truly is. That may seem simplistic for many of us. However, that is the crux of our faith. If we do not get that truth right, then our faith is in vain.

We know that in John's day, there were many falsities going around concerning who Jesus was, what He did and how He did it. Well the same is true today. There are over 30,000-40,000 different sects and denominations within the world telling us who and what Jesus was and is. Things haven't changed much.

If we read from Paul's writings we will see that he recognized this fact concerning the many falsities being brought forth into the Body of Christ concerning Jesus and having true faith in Him. We know this through Paul's writings to the Corinthian church and all the problems that these false teachers had brought into the

Body there. Things haven't changed much over the past 2000 or so years. Unfortunately, they will not change until the end times come when all will be revealed.

John continues to reveal to us some of the most valuable truths for the true believer to grasp a hold on to even in this day and in this hour. John writes to us concerning Jesus' encounter with Nicodemus in John 3. Nicodemus was in the priestly council. He had a heart that truly wanted to know the truth. He was truly seeking after the true Messiah. Jesus tells Him that a man must be "born again" if he truly desires to see the Kingdom of God in its fullness.

This was peculiar to Nicodemus as he queries, *"How can a man who is old, be born again. Does he need to go back into his mother's womb and be born?"* Here is where Jesus tells us in John 3:5-8, *"... Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. ⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. ⁸ The wind blows where it lists, and thou hears the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goes: so is every one that is born of the Spirit."*

We really do not hear this spoken of in any of the other Gospel accounts. Why? It is because John needed to express this fact at this time because the aspect of becoming a Child of God was being mis-spoken about by false teachers and being misrepresented to the people. Remember, John is writing to the second and third generation of believers. The truth was being white-washed by the devil and his forces of darkness through the false teachings of men. Unfortunately, the same is true today.

Then Jesus declares the bottom line of the whole matter in John 3:15-16. He states, *"That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."* The fact of the matter is very simple – the individual must believe that the Father sent His Son, Jesus and that believing in Jesus will give the believer everlasting life.

In the very next chapter of John we read of Jesus' encounter with "the woman at the well." Here again we see another valuable truth that we do not really see given to us in the other Gospel accounts. Jesus is asked by the woman, who is a Samaritan, a very simple and direct question. It is a question that goes to the heart of the issue and that everyone truly wants to know – how do you worship God correctly?

Jesus' answer was very different from any other answer this woman or anyone else who would have asked this same question could have imagined. Her question was basically, "Where do we worship God while here on this earth?" Jesus answers her in John 4: 21-26 with a statement which states, *"Woman, **believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. ²² Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews. ²³ But the hour comes, **and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeks such to worship him. ²⁴ God is a Spirit: and **they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth."*******

Jesus declares that an individual will only truly be able to truly worship the true Living God by worshipping in "spirit and in truth." The woman then mentions that when Messiah comes that He will tell them what the truth really is. Jesus emphatically tells her in John 4:26, *"... I that speak unto thee am he."* Wow!! That is it. John declares in His Gospel that Jesus is the Messiah and that Jesus is speaking the truth to her. There are to be no more questions.

In John 10 we here Jesus speak about the "Good Shepherd." He tells us that **His sheep** will truly hear **His voice** and follow Him because they truly know **His voice**. This is vital for the true believer in Jesus and the true child of God, today. We must, I repeat, we must **know** His voice. In John 10:3-5 it tells us very clearly that **His sheep** know **His voice**. Jesus voice is the true Word that we have which is found in our Bibles.

This is vital for the true child of God to grasp. We must know **His voice** so that we will be able to hear Him when He speaks to us, when He chastens us and when He feeds and nurtures us in and through His pure Word. The important thing to get a hold of is that we **will hear His voice** even when the hirelings, false shepherds and thieves “come a-callin’” with their voices, with their words, to try and take us away from our Good Shepherd – Jesus. Jesus tells us this very clearly in John 10:10 when He states, *“The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.”*

In John 13-17, we hear the words of Jesus that are really not expressed in any other Gospel account. Here we read of Him washing the disciples’ feet; He commands them to truly love one another with a new type of love – the love that we are given only by and through Him; He speaks to His disciples about Him leaving and then going first back to heaven and then they will all meet Him. This is the believer’s hope of eternity in heaven. He continues on with the message that, as His disciples they were, and now we are, to love others as He has loved us. He then continues on with a discourse on how He will send His Holy Spirit to help the true believer live this new life that is found in Jesus and only in Jesus.

He tells them in John 15:1 that, *“I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman”* and that we will all be pruned to follow after Him and His ways. He encourages them to be true servants unto God. In John 16 He comforts His disciples as well as all true believers today, with the promise of the Holy Spirit. He gives us a true picture of what the Holy Spirit will do within our lives

In John 16:29, the disciples tell Jesus that now they truly believe in Him. Jesus then asks that all important question to His disciples and to us, today. He asks them in John 16:31, *“Do you now believe?”* In John 16:33 He concludes this time of teaching by telling them, *“These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.”*

We see that in the Gospel of John that there were many other things that we read of that John needed to tell those who were now choosing to believe in Jesus truly needed to realize and grasp. We know, as mentioned, that this was a new generation of believers. The deceivers were in the church. They were leading many away from the truth of who Jesus truly is and what He had done.

In the world today, nothing has changed when it comes to people taking the believer away from the true Word of God and from a true and pure relationship with God through the spotless Lamb of God – Jesus. The thieves and hirelings are still out there. He had given the Holy Spirit to the true believer on that Day of Pentecost. The Holy Spirit still dwells within the true believer today. The Holy Spirit will lead and guide the true believer into living their life in the fullness of the truth and of all that our God truly is.

If we are to learn anything from the writing of the Gospel of John is that we must always be careful of the false teachings that are out there and how they are always trying to influence the believer in the wrong way. John wrote His Gospel to combat this dilemma. We now, as the true believer, must take what our God has given to us through all the writings in our Bible - the Gospels, the Letters, the writings in the Old Testament and looking forward to the things that will take place in Revelation and declare the truth to everyone who will hear it.

It is our responsibility, just as it was the Apostle John’s, to keep the truth concerning Jesus, the real truth as only found in His Word, alive and upfront for everyone to take hold of and believe in this hour. As Jesus tells us in John 8:31, 32 – *“Then said Jesus to those Jews which **believed on him**, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;³² And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”*