

[BELIEVER'S BIBLE STUDY]

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION...

The Gospel of John is such a great book to study, as a new believer, because it speaks so clearly about Jesus. It speaks of who He is, why He came and all about His ministry on earth before His death and resurrection.

As you may recall from your previous discipleship studies, there are four Gospels each written by different men. The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Matthew and John were the only gospel writers who were apostles. They were the only ones who actually walked with Jesus during His earthly ministry.

The Gospel of John was written to the whole world for the purpose of convincing people that Jesus is the Christ (which means Messiah...or 'anointed one'), and that by believing in Him, they might have eternal life in His name. This is precisely what John tells us in John 20:31.

John 20:31

...these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

NKJV

This is why the Gospel of John is such a great book for new believers to study, because it tells us, over and over again, often times through the words of Jesus Himself, that He is the Messiah, the Christ, the Anointed One who came to die on the cross and rose from the dead, in order to pay the penalty for our sins and purchase a place in heaven for us.

The Gospel of John was the fourth and last gospel to be written. We don't know for sure when it was written, but some believe that it may have been around 85 to 90 A.D., and was probably written from the city of Ephesus in Turkey around that time.

As you study through this glorious book, keep in mind that the emphasis throughout the book is on Jesus being the Son of God and God incarnate, which means 'God becoming man'. This is so very important because false religions, those faiths that are contrary to Christianity, will always question the nature of Jesus. They will acknowledge that He was a man who lived in the times in which He lived. They will even go so far as to say that He was a very good man and

performed miracles and was a good teacher, and that He died on the cross. However, that is where it will end, as they do not believe that He was the son of God or that He was God. In addition, they will deny the resurrection.

As Christians, who are followers of Jesus Christ, we must never accept or embrace any belief or religion which insists that Jesus is anyone less than what the Bible or Jesus declares Him to be. This is so very important, which is why John, who also wrote the book of Revelation said;

Rev 22:18-19

...If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; 19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

NKJV

It is also why Paul, an apostle who was later converted to Christianity and wrote much of the New Testament said;

Gal 1:6-9

I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, 7 which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. 8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed [...which literally means 'dedicated to destruction' ...]. 9 As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.

NKJV

You have probably noticed, that Paul thought this was so important, that he repeats himself in vs 9. I would say, that questioning anything that the bible says about Jesus, for whatever reason, is a pretty foolish thing to do. Don't you think?

BIBLE STUDY FORMAT...

In studying through the Gospel of John, we will be using what is called the 'Inductive Bible Study' method, or "IBS". The 'IBS' is an effective method of bible study which involves three things; observation, interpretation and application.

Q: What does studying the bible through observation, interpretation and application mean?

It simply means that you will prayerfully, thoughtfully and methodically read through the portion of Scripture you are studying very slowly and carefully, **observing** all of the things that are taking place.

After you have read through the text, a couple of times, ask yourself the; who, what, when, where, why and how questions as you are reading. Write them down on a separate piece of paper, or even better a 'bible study notebook' (a spiral notebook is great for this). The things that you will have written down, are the **interpretations** of what you have read.

Some of our interpretations are 'objective', which means, *expressing or dealing with facts or conditions as perceived without distortion by personal feelings, prejudices, or interpretation...*while other interpretations we make are 'subjective', which means, *modified or affected by personal views, experience, or background.*

Simply stated, 'objective interpretation' means the clear undisputable facts of your observations while the 'subjective interpretation' means more of what you think based on previous knowledge or experience. Both of these types of interpretation will be important in understanding what the particular text of the bible we are studying is saying.

The final part of the bible study involves what we call **application**. This is, perhaps, the most important of all. All the bible understanding in the world doesn't do us a bit of good, unless we learn how to apply it. Once we have observed what is happening in the text we are studying, and we have interpreted its meaning, then we are ready to **apply** it to our own lives. You will find that some things are more easily applied than others, but you will be surprised at how the Holy Spirit (who is our teacher) will reveal things as being applicable to you, which you never even thought of.

Remember from our previous discipleship studies, that this is the role and purpose of the Holy Spirit;

John 16:12-15

*12 [...Jesus said...] "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 13 However, when He, the Spirit of truth [...the Holy Spirit...], has come, **He will guide** you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and **He will tell you things** to come. 14 He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and **declare it to you.** 15 All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and **declare it to you.***
NKJV

The apostle John, who wrote the gospel, the Book of Revelation and 1, 2 & 3 John also said;

1 John 2:27

*27 But the anointing [...of the Holy Spirit...] which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as **the same anointing** [...the Holy Spirit...] **teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.***

NKJV

Part of each week's study will include, not only the completion of the bible study questions, but Scripture memorization. You should be used to this by now, if you have completed the 'New Believer Discipleship Studies'. Consider what the wisest man to have ever lived, King Solomon, said about this;

Prov 7:1-3

My son, keep my words, And treasure my commands within you. 2 Keep my commands and live, And my law as the apple of your eye. 3 Bind them on your fingers; Write them on the tablet of your heart .

NKJV

There is no better way to accomplish this, than by memorizing Scripture. You will be surprised at how often you will draw from the verses you have committed to memory.

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE...

John 1:1-3; 14

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. ...14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory...

NKJV

THIS WEEKS BIBLE STUDY...CHAPTER ONE...

Be sure and pray before you begin your bible study, asking the Lord to reveal those things that He wants you to know from the text you are reading.

Read through the chapter, at least twice, and then answer the following questions. Be sure to write the Scripture reference to support your answer.

EXAMPLE: Where was the word in the beginning? ...*with God (vs 2).*

List all of the characters (persons) in Chapter 1. (no 'vs reference' needed)

In vs. 1 & 14, who do you think *the Word* is describing, and why do you think that?

The Gospel of John is called the book of 'beginnings' in the New Testament. What is the book of beginnings in the Old Testament? Look up CH 1:1-2:3 in that book and write what you think the connection is to what John is saying in vs 1-14?

What is the significance of the use of the word *us* and *our* in 1:26 of the Old Testament book of beginnings?

What *rights* do those who receive Jesus as Lord and Savior receive?

A...What application does this have in my life?

What do you think John means in vs 17?

Who was John the Baptist and what was he supposed to do?

Who did they think John the Baptist was?

Where was John Baptizing and ministering? Where was it located?

What did John the Baptist say about Jesus when he saw Him coming?

What did John the Baptist *testify* about Jesus?

What relation was Andrew to Simon Peter? _____

What did Andrew say to Peter when he found him?

What does *Messiah* mean? _____

What did Jesus say to Phillip when He saw him? _____

A...What application does this have in my life?

What did Philip say to Nathanael when he found him?

Why do you think he said that?

What does vs 48 reveal to us about Jesus?

Write down some of the things that the Lord spoke to your heart while studying Chapter 1? (be sure to write down scripture references)

QUESTIONS?...(use back page if necessary)

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