

Let's Worship God

23rd-28th November 2020

John





THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO J O H N

Monday - John 1:1-5 - The Word

We are going to look at the Gospel of John. The notes come from J.C. Ryle's *Expository Thoughts on John* and have been edited for brevity and clarity.

John's Gospel is, in many ways, very different from the other Gospels - Matthew, Mark, and Luke. It contains many things that they leave out. It leaves out many things that they contain. But we know that all four Gospels are equally the Word of God, inspired by the Holy Spirit.

The five verses that start this book are about the divine nature of our Lord Jesus Christ. When John writes about 'the Word', he is talking about Jesus Christ. First, we learn that our Lord Jesus Christ is eternal. He existed before Creation and before time began. He is from all eternity. He always has been.

Secondly we learn that our Lord Jesus Christ is a person distinct from God the Father, and yet one with Him. Though they are two separate persons, they are also one God. Their glory is equal. This is a great mystery! We must receive it in faith even if we can't completely understand it.

Thirdly, we learn that the Lord Jesus Christ is God. He is not a created angel, or someone inferior to God the Father who has been given special powers to save sinners. He is nothing less than perfect God.

Fourthly, we see that the Lord Jesus Christ is the Creator of all things. He made the worlds and all they contain. Lastly, we see that the Lord Jesus Christ is the source of all spiritual life and light. He is the source of eternal life. Our deliverance from sin and death flow from Him. All we have of life and light comes from Him.

Questions

1. Who is the Word?
2. What do these verses teach us about Jesus Christ?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that Jesus is God.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine dresser." John 15:1

Praise: Psalm 71 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN

Tuesday - John 1:6-13 - Sons of God

John has talked about how Jesus is God, now he speaks of Jesus' forerunner, John the Baptist. The description of John the Baptist's job is like the description of any minister's job - they are witnesses. They are to testify that Christ is the only Saviour and Light of the world. No matter whether his hearers believe him or not, it's his job to tell the truth about who Jesus Christ is and what He has done. His purpose in doing so is that through him men and women may believe.

Christ is to the souls of men what the sun is to the world. He is the centre and source of all spiritual light, warmth, life, health, growth, and beauty. Like the sun, He shines for the common benefit of all mankind. Like the sun, He is free to all. All may look at Him, and drink health out of His light. But millions of men and women love spiritual darkness rather than light.

Christ is in the world invisibly, long before He is born of the Virgin Mary. He is there from the very beginning, ruling, ordering, and governing the whole creation. By Him kings reign and nations increase or disappear. But men do not know or honour Him. They worship and serve idols rather than the Creator God. And when Christ comes visibly into the world, nothing changes. He is rejected, despised, and killed.

But even though the vast majority of the Jews do not receive Him as the Messiah, a few do. To them He gives the privilege of being sons and daughters of God. This privilege belongs to all who receive Christ by faith, and follow Him as their Saviour. They are adopted into the family of the King of kings. Are you a son or daughter of God? Do you want to be a son or daughter of God? Then receive Christ as your Saviour and believe on Him with all your heart.

Questions

1. What is the minister's job?
2. What is the great privilege believers in Christ have?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the minister that he may be a faithful witness.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine dresser." John 15:1

Praise: Psalm 72 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO
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Wednesday - John 1:14 - The Incarnation

The main truth which this verses teaches is the reality of our Lord Jesus Christ's incarnation. He really becomes a man like ourselves in all things except sin. Like us, He is born of a woman, though born in a miraculous way. Like us, He grows from a child to a man. Like us, He is hungry, thirsty, he eats, drinks, sleeps, is tired, feels pain, weeps, rejoices, is amazed, angry, and has compassion. He prays, reads the Bible, suffers, is tempted, and submits His human will to the will of God the Father. In the same body, He really suffers and sheds His blood, really dies, is really buried, really rises again, and really ascends into heaven. And yet all this time He is God as well as man!

The union of two natures, God and man, in Christ's one Person is one of the great mysteries of our faith. It needs to be carefully stated. Though our Lord is God and man at the same time, these two natures are never mixed. One nature does not swallow up the other - they are perfect and distinct. The divinity of Christ is never laid aside. The manhood is never unlike our own. He that is in heaven sitting at the Father's right hand to speak on behalf of sinners, is man as well as God. He that suffers for sin on the cross and is made sin for us is God.

The constant, undivided union of two perfect natures in Christ's Person is exactly what qualifies Him to be the very Saviour that sinners need. Our Mediator is One who can sympathise with us, because He is very man. And yet, at the same time, He is One who can deal with the Father for us on equal terms, because He is very God. Because Christ is God as well as man, He knows what it feels like when we are suffering and tempted, and He is the perfect pattern and example for how we should live.

Questions

1. What is the incarnation?
2. Why is it such a good thing that Christ is both God and man?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for the God-man Jesus Christ.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine dresser." John 15:1

Praise: Psalm 73 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO
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Thursday - John 1:15-18 - The Law and the Gospel

Christ alone supplies all the spiritual needs of all believers. There is a fullness in Him. We have in Jesus Christ all we really ever want or need in abundance. He is rich in mercy, grace, wisdom, righteousness, growth in holiness, and redemption. Out of Christ's fullness, all believers in every age of the world, have been supplied.

Christ is far superior to Moses, and the Gospel is superior to the Law. What does this mean? Well, Moses is employed by God as a servant to tell and teach Israel the law of God. He is a faithful servant, but he is only a servant. The law which he brings down from Mount Sinai is holy, just, and good. But it can't save. It has no healing power. The moral law pronounces a curse on any disobedience. The ceremonial law is full of symbols that point to Christ. But no one can keep the law perfectly, and so no one can be saved by trying to keep the law perfectly. Christ, on the other hand, comes into the world with the keys of grace and truth entirely in His hands. He can save where the law cannot. The whole of God's grace, and the whole truth about redemption are never known until Jesus comes into the world and dies for sinners.

It is Christ alone who has revealed God the Father to man. No man has ever seen God the Father. No one can bear the sight. But all that we are capable of knowing about Him is revealed to us by God the Son. In Christ's words, and actions, and life, and death, we learn as much about God the Father as our minds can bear. His perfect wisdom, His almighty power, His love to sinners, His perfect holiness, His hatred of sin are clearly seen in Christ's life and death.

Questions

1. Who supplies all our needs?
2. How is the Gospel better than the Law?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the salvation of your family and friends.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine dresser." John 15:1

Praise: Psalm 74 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO J O H N

Friday - John 1:19-28 - Humility

These verses begin the historical part of John's Gospel, and they give an example in humility. John the Baptist is a man of God. The Lord Jesus Himself says that he is a shining light (John 5:35). But here in these verses we see this faithful man full of humility. He puts away from himself the honour which the Jews are ready to pay him. He has nothing to do with flattery. He proclaims loudly that there is One standing among the Jews far greater than himself. He claims honour not for himself but for Christ.

The greatest Christians have always been men and women with this attitude. In gifts, and knowledge, and personality, they are often very different. But they have one thing in common - humility. They have not sought their own honour. They have thought little of themselves. They are always willing to decrease if Christ might only increase, to be nothing if Christ might be all. If we claim to be a real Christian, let us work to imitate John the Baptist. Let us study humility. We need to put pride aside and feel ourselves sinners. We may not all have gifts, or money, or time to work, but we can be humble.

These verses also give us a sad example of the blindness of unbelief. These Jews claim to be waiting for the appearance of the Messiah. They are proud to be children of Abraham and to know the law. They claim they believe God's promises, that they are guides of the blind, and lights to those in darkness. And yet at this very moment their souls are utterly in the dark. Christ Himself, the promised Messiah is in the midst of them, but they do not know Him, see Him, receive Him, acknowledge Him, or believe in Him. John the Baptist's words apply to thousands today. Christ is still standing among many who neither see, nor know, nor believe, though they claim to be Christians. Do you see Him?

Questions

1. Why was John the Baptist humble?
2. What did the Jews claim about themselves?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for humility.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine dresser." John 15:1

Praise: Psalm 75 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO J O H N

Saturday - John 1:29-34 - The Lamb of God

John the Baptist calls Christ the Lamb of God. This means that Christ is the great sacrifice for sin, who has come to die on the cross. He is the true Lamb which Abraham tells Isaac God will provide. He is the true Lamb to which every morning and evening sacrifice in the temple has daily pointed. He is the Lamb that Isaiah prophesies will be slaughtered (Isaiah 53:7). He is the true Lamb of which the passover lamb in Egypt is a type. He is the great sacrifice for sin which God has covenanted from all eternity to send into the world. Christ is our Master, our King, our Prophet, our Example, but above all He is our Sacrifice. We need to rest our whole weight on His death. His blood should be more precious in our eyes every year.

Christ doesn't come on earth to be a conqueror, a philosopher, or a teacher. He comes to save sinners. He comes to do what man can't do for himself, to do what money and education can't get, to do what is essential to man's real happiness: He comes to take away sin. Christ is a complete Saviour. The sins of every one that believes on Jesus are made as though they never happened. Christ is an almighty Saviour for all mankind. He does not die for the Jews only, but for the Gentiles as well. He does not suffer for a few persons. The payment He makes on the cross is more than enough to satisfy any debts. Christ is a constant and tireless Saviour. He is daily taking away sin from every one that believes on Him, daily granting and giving fresh supplies of mercy and grace.

What does John mean when he says that Christ baptises with the Holy Spirit? It is the baptism not of the body but of the heart. It is when Christ gives us a new heart and a new life, and without it we are not saved. Do you have this baptism of the Holy Spirit?

Questions

1. Why is Christ called the Lamb of God?
2. What is the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine dresser." John 15:1

Praise: Psalm 76 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

The goal of Let's Worship God is to encourage and help you in your worship of God each day.

**God tells us that
Ezra read from
the book of the Law
day after day
and that
the people of God
were filled with joy!**

Let's Worship God is produced
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