

**The Gospel of John**

---

**The Gospel of John**

**Lesson #5**

**The Journey**

Jim Hoffman

1

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**The Gospel of John**

---

Most of the people we know in Western culture are not lost because they have not heard of Jesus – they are lost because they don't want him.

Change my mind.

2

2

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**The Gospel of John**

---

- In order for there to be something then at some point in time there must have been an **uncaused cause** of that something.
- "If space, matter, and time had a beginning then something or someone who is spaceless, immaterial, timeless, powerful, and intelligent must have pre-existed." Unknown
- That something must by necessity be called God and must transcend the material world.

3

3

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### The Gospel of John

- “Being” is eternal and the source of life for what is “becoming.” That is what distinguishes creatures from the Creator, and us from God. (R.C. Sproul)
- All living things are “becoming” something they are not – its matter is aging and deteriorating.
- God is the only true “being” – we derive our being from Him and should probably be called “human becomings”.

4

4

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### The Gospel of John

When we read, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” we are reading about an eternal being. The Word came to save us, but the Word never came to be – he has never not been.

5

5

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### The Gospel of John

Believers in Jesus Christ are given eternal life in an eternal kingdom, but strictly speaking human beings are not eternal. In order to be eternal a thing can have no beginning and no end. We are eternal beings from the point of conception whether we are saved or lost, but we are not eternal in the same sense as God is.

6

6

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### The Gospel of John

- Today we are all sort of trapped in a body that is failing us – it is, in a sense, transient. (lasting only for a short time)
- But to us it is all we've ever known and therefore feels like the ultimate reality, but it is not!
- Philippians 3:20 But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, **21 who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body**, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

7

7

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### The Gospel of John

- Just to refresh our minds on how we got here remember **“that which is eternal created the world”** – that One is God.
- While both saved and lost people will receive a **forever** body, those bodies are still not **eternal**.
- Only God is eternal – he had no beginning, and he will have no end. (in the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God)

8

8

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### The Gospel of John

- If the Word was with God, and was God, and if Jesus was the Word, then he predated creation thus making him eternal and therefore God.
- Among John's initial teachings in his gospel is a nonnegotiable tenet of the Christian faith – the deity of Jesus Christ.
- Why is it that we often hear, “Jesus was a great prophet or a great teacher, but he was not God”. <sup>9</sup>

9

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### The Gospel of John

- If Jesus could ever be proven **not** to be the Son of God, then we would have no reason to believe we will be saved.
- If he was not who he said he was then he is a person of no importance at all and would make his whole existence fraudulent at best.
- Instead of being one of great eternal value he would be one of great eternal penalty.

10

10

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### The Gospel of John

- Later on in John’s gospel Jesus will say ....
- “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.” So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple. (John 8:58-59)
- The reason his adversaries took up stones to stone him was because they understood exactly what he said and who he claimed to be.

11

11

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### The Gospel of John

- To say “I am” is a way of saying I have no beginning and I have no end – Jesus is outside of this constraint we call time.
- Whether one calls the one outside of time “God” or something else the facts are the same.
- The one who is outside of time (eternal) must be God, the “uncaused cause”.

12

12

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### The Gospel of John

- **John 1:3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.**
- The above is a self-reinforcing statement set forth in both the negative and positive.
- Jesus made everything there is AND nothing was made without him – both of the phrases are clear all on their own.

13

13

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### The Gospel of John

- **John 1:4 In him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**
- We sometimes hear of people searching for “the meaning of life’ or they might use the term, “ultimate reality”.
- **Life is ultimate reality!**

14

14

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### The Gospel of John

Ultimate reality is found in a living person. In the Bible we find there has always been a real and ultimate living person – the Great I Am! When people who are looking for “ultimate reality”, or “the meaning of life” the honest ones cease their search when they find Jesus.

15

15

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### The Gospel of John

Ultimate reality is the absolute nature of all things. This term is the core question of philosophy, religion, and science. It comes down to the question, "What is real?". Thinkers, throughout history, have tried to supply an absolute answer but we are limited by our powers of reason and experience. We have based most of the answers upon our capacity to adequately grasp and truly understand the nature of existence.

(Multiple Sources who looked for answers in all the wrong places) 16

16

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### The Gospel of John

- Ultimate reality is also ultimate immutability because God cannot and will not change without ceasing to be God.
- James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

17

17

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### The Gospel of John

What ought to be noted here with emphasis is that we are made in the image of God – which makes us images of Ultimate Reality. This is why we are forbidden to make a "graven" image of God. As soon as you make an image of God, because the image is contained to a given space, you are placing a limit on how you think of God.

18

18

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### The Gospel of John

- Physical matter did not give rise to life – life gave rise to matter making life the ultimate reality.
- Ultimate reality is that which is true, and truth corresponds to reality.
- **John 14:6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me”.**

19

19

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### The Gospel of John

- **John 17:3 And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.**
- In the verse above “life” is not defined chronologically as some span of time but rather as a relationship.
- To know God through Christ is eternal life.

20

20

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### The Gospel of John

- John is pointing us to spiritual life – also called eternal life.
- John is saying that apart from the Word all are dead.
- **1<sup>st</sup> John 5:11 And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12 Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.**

21

21

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### The Gospel of John

- There is a very real sense that eternal life for us is connected to our joining the one who is eternal. (we are IN Christ)
- 1<sup>st</sup> Cor 12:13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body. (the body of Christ)
- John 17:21 that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

22

22

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### The Gospel of John

- Colossians 3:3 For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.
- So our lives are indeed "hidden with Christ in God." This suggests not only that our lives are secure, but also that they belong in a real and profound sense to the invisible spiritual realm. At the present time our connection with God and Christ is a matter of inner experience; one day it will come into full and open manifestation. (Expositors Commentary)

23

23

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### The Gospel of John

- John 5:39 You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, 40 yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life.
- John 10:10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. 11 I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

24

24

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



### The Gospel of John

- **The life was the light of men** –those without Christ are dead and in darkness and cannot see Jesus for who he is.
- There is a parallel between Genesis 1 and John 1 – Genesis 1:3 And God said, “**Let there be light,**” and there was light. 4 And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness

25

25

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### The Gospel of John

- It would seem rather obvious that right out of the shoot in John’s gospel eternal life is made distinct from natural life.
- We should not be surprised – John 20:31 But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

26

26

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### The Gospel of John

- **The life was the light of men** –those without Christ are dead and in darkness and cannot see Jesus for who he is.
- **“Unless you are born again, you cannot see the kingdom of God.”**
- John 8:12 Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

27

27

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

The Gospel of John

**People are not lost because they cannot walk, or talk, or even hear. They are lost because they can't see!**

28

28

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Questions?

29

29

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---