

The Gospel of John

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Lesson #6

The Journey

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1

The Gospel of John

In his sovereignty God has given all men enough light to be responsible for their sin. Through general revelation (conscience and creation), all men know enough to know they are lost, but general revelation is insufficient to bring about salvation. This is the space for the Holy Spirit to use us as lights to the world.

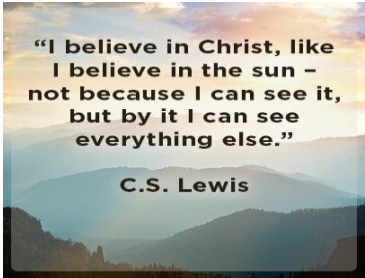
2

The Gospel of John

- **John 1:5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**
- It takes but a ray of light to push back darkness – everything in the universe finds its place in the light of Jesus.
- He is the one through whom everything else is made clear and finds its place.

3

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**“I believe in Christ, like
I believe in the sun –
not because I can see it,
but by it I can see
everything else.”**

C.S. Lewis

4

4

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- John 3:19 And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and **people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil.**
- It is a sobering and challenging thought that most of the people in our circles actually prefer the darkness of sin to Jesus.
- So few want to see – and we shake our heads in disbelief when they reject the light.

5

5

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“And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”

The Apostle Paul 2nd Corinthians 4:3-4

6

6

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- In Genesis, two chapters after we read, “let there be light” we read about evil (darkness) entering the world.
- By the time John writes, it was a well-established metaphor that light represents good and darkness represents evil.
- The light John writes about speaks to us that in the end, darkness will be dispelled and light will prevail.

7

7

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- Rev 21:22 And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. 23 The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light.
- Think back to the Most Holy Place – the only lighting it had was God's own presence.
- Also remember from this Genesis – there was light before there was a sun, moon, and stars.

8

8

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- John 8:12 Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”
- One application of the above is to say, “**if you are born again, you will not live a life of sin**”.
- 1st John 3:9 No one born of God makes a practice of sinning.

9

9

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- The second application of “**shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life**” speaks to our worldview.
- If your unsaved friends seem clueless to what is really going on in the world it’s because they live in darkness and cannot see.
- You, on the other hand see life differently – you see the titanic struggle between the forces of good and the forces of evil.

10

10

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A “Christian worldview” is a comprehensive understanding of our world. Your worldview is life as you see it. It is how you perceive reality and make decisions. Do you view mankind as good but misguided people, or are they deceitful and sinful at their core? A Christian worldview says, “this world is not my home, I am only passing through” – the unregenerate worldview says “get all you can, and can all you get!”. A Christian sees life as it is, not as he would like it to be.

11

11

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- The Old Testament closes with Malachi’s prophecy of an Elijah-like prophet to come before the Day of the Lord.
- Mal 4:5 “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes. 6 And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.”

12

12

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- The setting in John chapter 1 - It had been 400 years since God's last revelation through Malachi the prophet – I wonder what this "Elijah-like" prophet will say?
- Maybe Jehovah changed his mind during the 400 years of his silence – so, what will the Baptizer proclaim?
- **Repent! The kingdom of heaven is at hand!** 13

13

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When John the Baptizer showed up preaching a message of repentance many did turn from their sins, but it wasn't enough, and it didn't last. Three years later they rejected Messiah and in AD 70 they were scattered from their land thus fulfilling Malachi's prophecy, "lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction".

14

14

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- John 1:6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.
- John the Baptist was an unusual man with some very unusual prenatal care. ☺
- Luke 1:15b **He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb.** 16 And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. 15

15

The First Spirit-filled Family

- Luke 1:15 He (John) will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother’s womb.
- Luke 1:41..... And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.
- Luke 1:67 And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit.....

16

16

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- So, what do we do with John being filled with the Spirit in Elizabeth’s womb? (and Elizabeth and Zechariah)
- If this sounds like John didn’t get a vote; he didn’t – so what do we do with this?
- Most commentaries are vague And since no one is exactly clear I am going to assume it means what it says, **“John was filled with the Spirit in Elizabeth’s womb”**.

17

17

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- But wait, John the Baptizer was before Jesus, before the cross, and before Pentecost which makes John an Old Testament Saint.
- We should ask then, were there any others who were filled with the Spirit in the Old Testament?
- We might find the Holy Spirit was more active in the Old Testament than many think.

18

18

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- Gen 41:38 And Pharaoh said to his servants, "Can we find a man like this, **in whom is the Spirit of God?**" (Joseph)
- Jeremiah 1:5 "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; **Before you were born I sanctified you**; I ordained you a prophet to the nations."

19

19

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- Dan 4:8 At last Daniel came in before me—he who was named Belteshazzar after the name of my god, and **in whom is the spirit of the holy gods.**
- 1st Sam 16:13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. **And the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon David from that day forward.**

20

20

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- We saw the Holy Spirit in Joseph, David, Jeremiah, and Daniel, but they are a very small company of Old Testament believers.
- As far as we know, this leaves billions of others without that same experience.
- What is true for a few is not the norm – it was God's will **but not his will for all** until Pentecost.

21

21

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Narrative is not Normative
Nadab & Abihu
Annias & Sapphira

22

22

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- Heb 2:4 God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and **by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.**
- So, when it comes to Daniel, David, Jeremiah, Joseph, and John – while not all their contemporaries had the same experience, God willed what pleased him.
- If we do not crave God’s will as we grow in Christ, then we are not growing in Christ.

23

23

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Romans 12:2 Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

24

24



25
