

The Gospel of John

# The Gospel of John

Lesson #28  
The Journey  
Jim Hoffman

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The Gospel of John

## What is it to believe in Jesus?

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The Gospel of John

Whoever believes is not condemned.

Whoever believes not is condemned.

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### The Gospel of John

John 3:17 "For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. 18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God."

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### The Gospel of John

"Part of the evidence we believe in Jesus is found in the things we treasure. It is one thing to want to go to be with Jesus one day and quite another thing to want his company now. The Bible tells us Jesus is the Bread of Life and the Living Water so he should be at least as delightful to us as food and drink. Knowing Jesus produces in us a profound gladness of heart."

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### The Gospel of John

- How do we know if we have genuine saving faith?
- Well, for one I don't think you would even be asking that question unless you have already have it.
- Until you are born from above as Jesus said to Nicodemus you can't **see** the kingdom of God – said another way, until you are born again you cannot even **perceive** of a kingdom of God.

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**“see” in John 3:3**

Heb Strong: [H1045](#)

- 1) to see
- 1a) to perceive with the eyes
- 1b) to perceive by any of the senses
- 1c) to perceive, notice, discern, discover
- 1d) to see
- 1d1) i.e. to turn the eyes, the mind, the attention to anything
- 1d2) to pay attention, observe
- 1d3) to see about something 1d31) i.e. to ascertain what must be done about it
- 1d4) to inspect, examine
- 1d5) to look at, behold
- 1e) to experience any state or condition
- 1f) to see i.e. have an interview with, to visit
- 2) to know
- 2a) to know of anything
- 2b) to know, i.e. get knowledge of, understand, perceive
- 2b1) of any fact
- 2b2) the force and meaning of something which has definite meaning
- 2b3) to know how, to be skilled in
- 2c) to have regard for one, cherish, pay attention to (1Th 7 5:12)

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**The Gospel of John**

- When we are born again we enter a whole new realm – like a new born baby we are suddenly awakened to something completely new.
- Suddenly it matters whether we obey or disobey God – there are degrees of this of course just as an infant changes and learns as he is fed and grows.
- **1st John 2:3 And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments.**

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**“keep” in 1st John 2:3**

Heb Strong: [H5341](#) [H6845](#) [H6965](#) [H7912](#) [H8085](#) [H8104](#)

- 1) to attend to carefully, take care of
- 1a) to guard
- 1b) metaph. to keep, one in the state in which he is
- 1c) to observe
- 1d) to reserve: to undergo something

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**The Gospel of John**

**John 3:17**

For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

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**The Gospel of John**

- One of the main reasons for the Jewish rejection of Jesus was rooted in their expectations – they were expecting a conquering King.
- They were not totally wrong, but when confronted with two possibilities they could not reckon, they chose the one convenient for them.
- When the scriptures are not faithfully taught then people will believe what they want to believe.

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**The Gospel of John**

- All of the promises of Messiah coming as a conquering king were and are still valid, but that was not his mission in the incarnation.
- He is coming back, and he will subdue all the enemies of Israel, but that is what his 2<sup>nd</sup> coming is about.
- He is coming twice, first as a Redeemer and secondly as a King – and even his 2<sup>nd</sup> coming is in two phases.

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### The Gospel of John

- How could it be that on Palm Sunday the people hailed Jesus as King and just days later were calling for his death?
- It's all about expectations – the Old Testament presented Jesus as both a meek and suffering servant of God, **and** as a Conquering King.
- As the O.T. closed and Israel drifted further and from God, they hung on to only what they wanted to believe.<sup>13</sup>

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### The Gospel of John

The point of Jesus' 1<sup>st</sup> coming was not to redeem Israel and condemn the Gentiles, but that the **world could be saved** through Him.

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### The Gospel of John

- So how did they miss Messiah? They missed him because over time few, if any, rabbis taught salvation by grace apart from the law.
- There has only ever been one way to be saved – by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone.
- On our side of the cross (historically speaking) it is easy to see Messiah was coming twice, but much harder in Old Testament times.

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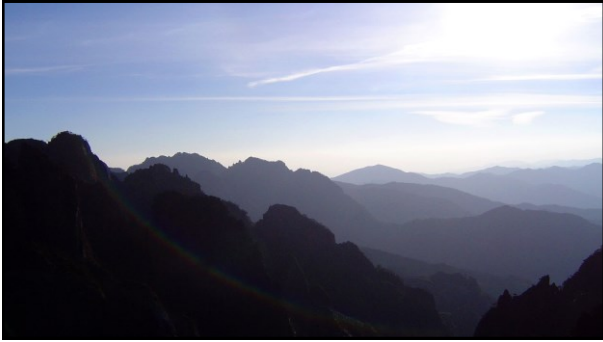
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**The Gospel of John**

- God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world – that was not necessary because everyone who draws a breath is condemned already.
- Jesus did not come to condemn, but that does not mean that no one will be condemned.
- It is not that people who encounter Jesus and reject him will be condemned – it’s worse than that, all are condemned from birth even without rejecting Jesus?<sup>7</sup>

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**The Gospel of John**

- There is prominent lie (from Satan I think) that says people are either saved or lost based upon their works.
- We are told something that is logical on the surface; that it is our good works that get us to heaven and our bad works that condemn us to hell.
- This is an easy lie to fall for because that’s how our natural lives usually work – we get what we earn. <sup>18</sup>

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### The Gospel of John

Titus 3:4 But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

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### The Gospel of John

- The way to think about Jesus’ words in John 3:18 is to start with the fact that all are condemned at conception.
- Because all are descendants of Adam all are separated from God because of the fall – we are all born lost.
- This is why when it comes to salvation our works are meaningless because Adam represented us, and his works affected and infected us. 20

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### The Gospel of John

- Rom 5:12 Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men.
- **Original Sin** - the moral corruption we possess as a consequence of Adam’s sin, resulting in a sinful disposition manifesting itself in habitually sinful behavior. (from gotquestions.org)
- All are born at odds with God because of the “fall” in the Garden of Eden. 21

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### Two Views of Original Sin

- **Federalism** – Adam was our God elected representative and so when he sinned all who flow from him are credited with his sin and his guilt.
- **Seminalism** – because all of our genetics originate in Adam then all who flow from him are cursed with his acquired sinful tendencies. We in turn become guilty of sin because we sin.

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### The Gospel of John

- We are lost from the time of our conception - whether you get there through "Federalism" or through "Seminalism" is sort of a moot point.
- Federalists would say we are guilty of Adam's sin **and** our own, while Seminalists would say we are guilty of our sin caused by Adam's sinful tendencies.
- Both views have lots of Biblical support, but both views hold that **"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"** is the result.

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### The Gospel of John

Salvation is not a birthright that is kept or lost by how we behave – that is salvation by works. We are saved by grace and kept by grace. Aside from believing, if you think you are doing anything at all to keep your salvation you are insulting God. You are effectively saying "Jesus saved me, but now I have to keep myself saved by obeying God."

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**The Gospel of John**

Closing thought – We are condemned by the works of Adam and saved by the works of Christ, but we will be judged by our own.

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**The Gospel of John**

Great White Throne  
How bad will it be for the lost?

The Bema Seat  
How good will it be for the believer?

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**The Gospel of John**

- I've spoken multiple times there has only ever been one way to be saved – by grace through faith.
- All who preceded the law of Moses were saved by believing the promise of God – that Messiah would come and crush the head of the serpent (the devil).
- Through time the promise was fleshed out and then fully fleshed out in the person of Jesus – **Heb 10:4 For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.**

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