



“And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.” 1 John 4: 21

Sunday – July 26, 2020

To Know Christ...

Sometimes you just want people to tell you what in the world their point is. When you get toward the end of the Gospel of John, the Spirit of God inspired John to write these words, **“Therefore many others signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.”** (John 20:30-31) This was John’s point & purpose in writing the gospel of John.

#1. The 21 chapters of John are in no way a complete telling of the Life of Christ, nor all His miraculous signs. The final verse of John’s gospel in chapter 21 says, in very plain language, that if every detail of Jesus’ life were written down, the world is not big enough to contain it all. In other words, Jesus’ life is bigger than this planet. (You would not even have enough time to read and digest it all anyway!) So, what was the purpose of writing this if it will knowingly be incapable of communicating every single detail & be incomplete?

#2. John then tells the reader, I have written these specific accounts down to bring you to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Every story, every miracle, every interaction of Jesus with others has a straight-lined purpose in John ... **that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ** (the Messiah; the Savior), and that He is the Son of God! If you take the time to read the Gospel of John, a chapter a day for 21 days, after each chapter ask yourself “how does this chapter help me believe and take faith that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God?” You will find eye-opening conclusions in each and every chapter. Look and you will see the Son of God walking among His creation and His creatures. Then notice the effect of belief or unbelief within their lives.

#3. The final theme of John is also about you, the reader. Do you have an enduring faithful relationship with Jesus ensuring spiritual & eternal life? **“And that believing you may have life in His name.”** Jesus is Life, a faithful relationship to humble yourself under His command is

abundant Life. Will you be born again by the water & the Spirit? That takes belief, also known as faith. As you read through the chapters of John, you will see Jesus as LIFE! He is reordering cells & molecules; Healing the blind, forgiving the sinner (only God can do that!), even raising the dead to Life. Taking spiritually dead souls being distraught and without hope; then leading them by faith to Life in the Son of God, who Himself overcame death by faith. He blazed the trail home for us, so we can be with God eternally in Heaven.

When all is said and done the thought is: #1 John is admittedly incomplete in telling every detail of Jesus' life. #2 You have everything in place to discover the truth of who Jesus really is. #3 You must decide if you desire Life in Him by a continuing faith or not. So where does that leave us? If we trust Jesus in faith to honor Him, we have LIFE as we excel in our imitation of HIM! Then our time here on earth is the closest to Hell we will ever come. If we chose to deny Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God, then our time here on earth is the closest to Heaven we will ever come. Jesus was either the Son of God conquering death or the biggest liar the world has ever known. Your life's response of actions, thoughts, & motives will prove your answer. John's Gospel will only lead the faithful to LIFE in Jesus the Christ, the Son of God.

- Carey Terry