

# The Journey of Faith

“And the Word Was God “

(John 1:1-18)

## Introduction: The Early Church

- A. The early church put great value on the Gospel of John
  - 1. John the beloved/ also had the courage to go to the cross of Jesus
  - 2. John's gospel was written after the synoptics and although there are similarities:  
**there are marked differences:**
    - Birth • Baptism • Temptations • Last supper • Gethsemane • Ascension • Possessed people
- B. Another biography of Jesus?
  - 1. John's focus is how Jesus showed who God is
    - a. In our midst
    - b. Coming to his own
    - c. God loving everyone he has created in his image
  - 2. John was exposing Jesus as God Incarnate
    - a. Enfleshed
    - b. One of us
    - c. Clothed in real flesh and blood for our sakes.  
(The first heresy was Jesus as flesh)
  - 3. Jesus is both Deity and flesh
- C. John wrote to create and develop faith in Jesus.
  - 1. Jews--restate the critical "signs" pointing to his identity.  
-Endure the hardships they were suffering (A.D. 70 /expulsion from the synagogue)
  - 2. Greek--to present Jesus as Savior, the One who created the world and then to re-create it.
  - 4. Non-believers-- introduction to the one who gives eternal life to all who will believe

Steven Covey-

**The focus and the goal of the gospel of John is found in 4:39-42**

## I. Light Into Darkness

- A. The Prologue-- most beautiful words of praise and information regarding the Christ- 1:1-9
  - 1. Similar to the prologue in Genesis-- (Gen.1:1-5).
  - 2. Until God makes himself known, darkness dominates the scene.
  - 3. Before the physical creation, there was only chaos and darkness: (Gen 1:2)
  - 4. Then God stepped in-- Let there be light (Gen 1:3)
  - 5. It sound like John could be echoing those words and feelings from Genesis.
- B. John presents Christ as the only one who could penetrate the darkness of our fallen world by God's desire to step into this darkness
  - 1. Darkness of sin, death, and pessimism are everywhere in human history
    - a. Oppression and slavery
    - b. War and carnage
    - c. Slaughter and genocide
  - 2. It is everywhere in our personal lives — suffering, unhappiness, confusion, gloom.
  - 3. Today we constantly think about terrorism, war, our sons and daughters on military missions that will cost real lives— these are dark and frightening things.
  - 4. The Bible lists hatred and murder among the "works of darkness."
    - a. This darkness seems at times overwhelming
    - b. The prospects for hope and joy seems for many only a "formless void" in which "darkness" has swallowed up light-- death is going to win over life.
  - 5.. But it only seems so, for light conquers darkness.

## II. Light Conquers Darkness

- A. When God created, the scene was formless and dark.

1. He came with light, then set about to bring order to chaos.
  2. Jesus comes on the scene to recreate because of the darkness of human rebellion
- B. Jesus pushed back the darkness with the light of heaven's glory and, "abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel" (2 Tim.1:10).
1. It is interesting that Paul traces salvation through Jesus before the beginning of time (2 Tim.1:9).
  2. Jesus has always been the Word — the Logos, not only with God, but He was God.
    - a. For the Jew, the "word" was more than a mere sound; it was something that had an independent existence and did things  
(Gen. 27- Isaac blessing Jacob over Esau)
    - b. Ironically, a Greek philosopher named Heraclitus of Ephesus (later John's hometown), whose work dates from around 560 B.C., speculated about a logos that ruled and gave structure to the world. He saw logos as a mysterious force "by which all things are steered through all things."
  3. John is the one who revealed the true identity and work of the Logos.
    - The Word became flesh in Jesus — this is the light that brings order, peace, and hope to a chaotic soul.

### III. Creation and Recreation

- A. All this was done by God's effort
  1. An event of grace and not of works or merit
    - a. People like John the Bapt., Isaiah and other prophets, foretold God's intention.
  2. They were witnesses testifying in advance but also to point Him out upon His arrival.
    - a. John was careful not to claim too much for himself.
    - b. He was **"not the light but came to bear witness to the light, so that all might believe through him."**
  3. John the Apostle knew his place
    - a. His testimony about Jesus was important as a means to faith.
    - b. His message was true, and he was willing to declare it to anyone
    - c. But John the Baptist and John the Apostle both affirmed that Jesus was:
      - Light and life
      - God and Man
      - Savior and Lord.
- B. Both these witnesses had the same confidence in him:
  1. "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." v. 5
    - a. Light is more powerful than darkness.
      - Love is more powerful than hate
      - Grace more powerful than law, sin, & death
      - Life triumphs over death
    - c. And to anyone who received Christ — whether in the first century or the twenty-first — this is the marvelous promise: **(John 1:10-13)**.
  5. There is a powerful change in the life that embraces light over darkness
    1. They will be re-created from the fallenness of creation, they will be reborn from the corruption of flesh by the very will and power of God at work in them!
    2. And all this is possible by the in-breaking of God into flesh
    3. It is such a fearless way of doing things that only God would have thought of it or dared to initiate it! **(John 1:14-18)**.

### Conclusion

- A. What is it that the Prologue to John says to us?
  1. We see the world of chaos and darkness has been invaded twice by divine action.
  2. "In the beginning" of Genesis, we are allowed to see God give light and order to the physical creation.
  3. "In the beginning" of John's Gospel, we are called not simply to witness but to participate in his giving light which brings order to our personal lives by choosing to cling to Jesus.

**B. I hope you have made that choice. If you have not, I hope you will make it today.**

**1. We encourage you to find someone to pray with (if needed)**

**2. We also encourage you to either renew your relationship with Christ, or if need be, to surrender your will to the Light of the world, and identify yourself as a child of God through the waters of baptism.**

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