

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

JANUARY 22ND, 2023 // GOSPEL OF JOHN

WHO, WHEN, WHERE

The most accepted author is John, son of Zebedee. Many know him as John the beloved, the same Apostle who wrote 1st, 2nd, 3rd John and Revelation.

- Most likely written around 60–70 A.D. but maybe published much later.
- Written in Ephesus.

WHY?

“Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing, you may have life in his name.” John 20:30–31

INTRODUCTION (JOHN 1:1–5)

WHO IS JESUS

These first words parallel Genesis 1:1, but John has so much more to say.

- It's very clear: Jesus has always existed; Jesus is in a special relationship with God (Trinity); Jesus is God, and He created everything that has been created.

“...THE LIGHT OF MEN”

Jesus was born to give us life—to reconcile us to God. This changes us now and also changes our eternity.

- Sometimes, we forget that both our physical and spiritual life comes from Him **Without the “source,” we will live this life and the next in darkness.**

“...DARKNESS DID NOT OVERCOME IT”

As John shares the true nature of Christ, he encourages us by saying that Christ will overcome the darkness.

- Let's not miss the fact that the darkness is making every effort to rule the day. **The light SHINES in the darkness and will not be overcome!**

WITNESS (JOHN 1:6–13)

JOHN THE BAPTIZER

He was sent by God as a witness to testify about Jesus so people would believe.

- **A good witness does not attract attention to himself but to the person he represents.** John was not the light, but some still followed him instead of Jesus. **We must be careful who we follow!**

TRUE LIGHT

Both Johns declared that the living Jesus was the true light and the creator of the world.

- People still didn't recognize the opportunity was right in front of them. There was nothing hidden about Jesus then, and there is nothing hidden now. **Jesus is still the light and will shine in our darkness.**

BORN OF GOD

Some did receive and believe Christ. Then Jesus gave them the right to be children of God.

- **We do not earn this position. We can't give ourselves this position. Only Jesus has the authority; it's a supernatural birth into a new life.**

GOSPEL (JOHN 1:14–18)

THE WORD BECAME FLESH

John is saying that Jesus was 100% God and 100% man. Christ experienced the difficulties and challenges of living as we do.

- **Jesus lived. He lived and was tempted and knows our temptations. He lived and did not sin. He lived and died for our sins.**

AND DWELT AMONG US

Until this point, the Jews only had stories of God in the tabernacle. They had the law to help them live and reveal their sin.

- **Now, they could KNOW Christ. Now, they could live lives in truth and grace. Now, they could SEE God. Now, WE can KNOW and SEE God.**

SEE THE LIGHT

- Jesus has always been the light.
- **He came into the world to break through the darkness.**
- **Darkness may be all around us, but the light will ALWAYS penetrate and overcome darkness so we can see.**

RECEIVE THE LIGHT

- The light of Christ is revealed in His Word, through the Holy Spirit, and is right in front of us.
- **We cannot make our own light, but we are invited into His.**
- **A relationship with Christ is a new life as a real child of God.**

LIVE IN THE LIGHT

- Jesus came and lived a sinless life.
- **We may not be sinless, but because of Christ, we can live in the light, overcoming temptation.**
- **Are we living in a relationship with our God and Savior? It may be time to step into the light.**