

Purpose of Writing: to “Believe” - Know truth, accept truth and live the truth – Jesus is that Truth.

John 20:31, 31...³⁰ *Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. ³¹ But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah/Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.*

Key Questions Concerning the Purpose to “Believe”

1. What Does It Mean to Believe?
2. Why Do We Need to Believe?
3. What/Who Do We Need to Believe?

Vs. 31...“Jesus is the Messiah/Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.

Outline Review

Prologue: John 1:1-5...

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning. ³All things were created through Him, and apart from Him not one thing was created that has been created. ⁴Life was in Him, and that life was the light of men. ⁵That light shines in the darkness, yet the darkness did not overcome it.

August 15, 1988 TIME Magazine cover asked ‘Who Was Jesus’?

This question has been debated and discussed for 2000 years. It is the most important question. Actually the better question is not “Who Was” but “Who is” Jesus?

“We live in a culture increasingly spiritual yet hesitant to commit to saying there is one absolute truth. To many in modern society, Jesus was a philosopher. Others see Him as a good man with important things to say. Still others view Jesus as just another prophet who came to point us to God. This is why the first words of the Gospel of John are so vitally important”. (Christ-Centered

Exposition Commentary:John, p. 9)

These verses answer

Two Simple, Yet Profound Questions

[1] Who is Jesus?

[2] Why Did He Come to Earth?

[1] Who is Jesus?

John 1:1-3...*¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning. ³All things were created through Him, and apart from Him not one thing was created that has been created. ⁴Life was in Him, and that life was the light of men. ⁵That light shines in the darkness, yet the darkness did not overcome it.*

These verses along with many others scriptures give a clear testimony of who is Jesus of Nazareth. He was more than a philosopher, good man, wise rabbi: Jesus Christ is God!

Let’s look at some Key points that John teaches us from these verses:

[a] **Jesus is Eternal:**

¹In the beginning was the Word...

He existed from the beginning. He has always been. He Was God and was With God in the beginning. He is co-existent with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit.

Genesis 1:1-3... ¹ In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth ² Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness covered the surface of the watery depths, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters. ³ Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.

[b] **Jesus is the Word** –

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Greek ‘Logos’. It contains the idea of reason, thought. The powerful, creative Word of God It is in essence the mind and thought of God. It is the very truth that all things are built upon. Through this *Logos*, the world was created, the world is held in order by it, it is the power of how men come to think, reason and know God. It is the source of the revealed Will of God.

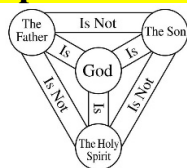
[c] **Jesus (The Word) is God:**

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

He was God and He was with God. “Jesus shares His nature and being with God. He is of the same character and quality of God”. (Carter & Wredberg. *Christ-Centered Exposition: John. P. 11*) “God the Father and Jesus, God the Son; are separate yet one. It is a great mystery how Jesus is both With God, and Is God. The famous theologian of ancient times, Augustine, speaks of sun and rays; They are two distinct things , yet inseparably united. Again he speaks of fire and the light of fire. These two are also separate, though united. So Jesus and God are two distinct beings, yet they are forever ONE. We cannot explain this very effectively, but we can choose to believe it”.

(Ford. *Simple Sermons from the Gospel of John. p.22,23*)

Concept of the Trinity



[d] **Jesus is the Creator of All Things**

³ All things were created through Him, and apart from Him not one thing was created that has been created.

Colossians 1:16...“For in Him (Christ) all things were created through Him and for Him.”

Since Jesus is the Eternal Word and is God, He is the source of creation of all things. He was the organ through which the creative process moved. He cooperated with God, the Father in all things.” (Ford. P. 24)

[e] **Jesus is Life and Brings Light**

⁴ Life was in Him, and that life was the light of men.

Greek ‘*zoe*’ - He is the very spark and essence of our existence. Without Him nothing would exist. This Life is the very reason we exist and have our being. This Life is what animates us and gives us vitality. He is responsible for our very breath, our mind and our spiritual being. It carries the connotation of that which is eternal, never ending.

Since Jesus is Life – He gives life to those who accept Him and believe.

This Life is then the source of all Light. In **Genesis 1:3**, God said “***Let there be light***”. It was the very first thing God said and it was the spark of all life and existence. The Greek word for light ‘*phos*’, has the idea of that which shines, illuminates. Putting together **Genesis 1:3** and **John 1:4** we see that Jesus is that Light. From Him we get the full manifestation and illumination of who God is. Light is symbolic for wisdom, insight, guidance, and direction. Light both (1) Sheds light and illumination on things, it also (2) Provides a clear path for us to follow and walk in.

In essence, Jesus is the perfect manifestation of who God is. What we see and hear from Jesus gives clarity (light) in which to see, know and respond to God. It is through Jesus that we have access to God and Eternal Life.

“Jesus reveals God’s Mind
Jesus expresses God’s Will
Jesus displays God’s Perfections
Jesus exposes God’s Heart”.

(Carter & Wredberg. P. 10)

This leads us to our 2nd and final question.

2] Why Did He (Jesus) Come to Earth?

⁵ That light shines in the darkness, yet the darkness did not overcome it.

- To Bring Life & Light
- To Bring Victory Over Darkness

Jesus is the source of life, and that life gives light (direction, guidance, wisdom, insight) to mankind. “What Jesus did was to open a window in time that we might see the eternal and unchanging love of God”. (Barclay. P. 38)

“In the life of Jesus we see and hear God’s love, God’s power, God’s compassion, God’s justice, God’s forgiveness. Jesus is the ultimate expression, the clearest Word God could ever speak to us”. (Stedman. God’s Loving Word. P. 16)

This Light provides illumination of the Way, Will & Word of God – this allows for us to have Victory Over the Darkness of this world and sin. He brings us from death to life & reconciles our broken relationship with God. We can now have a vibrant and personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Sin no longer needs to control us.

There is Victory, Life & Light in Jesus. Just Believe & Receive