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That You May Believe

John 20:30-31

INTRODUCTION:

A **presuppositional** approach to apologetics presents the belief that without God and His Word there is no consistent way to hold to any worldview.

An **evidential** approach to apologetics presents facts that point to God's truth in creation and in the Bible.

I. The Apologetic Purpose (v. 30)

A. The signs not recorded in John

1. Jesus _____ the four thousand (Matt. 15:32-38; Mk. 8:1-9)
2. Jesus **cast** out evil spirits (Matt. 9:32-33; 15:21-28; 17:14-21; Mk. 1:23-28; 8:28-33)
3. Jesus _____ the blind, deaf, mute, sick, injured, and paralyzed (Matt. 8:5-13; 9:1-8, 19-22, 27-30; 12:9-14, 22; 20:29-33; Mk. 1:30-31, 40-45; 7:31-37; 8:22-26; Lk. 13:10-13; 14:1-4; 17:11-19)
4. Jesus **controlled** elements of nature (Matt. 8:23-27; 21:18-22; Lk. 5:1-11)
5. Jesus _____ people from the dead (Matt. 9:18-26; Lk. 7:11-17; 24:5-6)

B. The signs recorded in John

1. Turning water into _____ (2:1-11)
2. **Healing** a royal official's son (4:46-54)
3. Healing a _____ man at the pool of Bethesda (5:1-18)
4. **Feeding** the five thousand (6:1-15)

5. **Walking** on the Sea of Galilee (6:16-21)

6. Healing a man born _____ (9:1-41)

7. **Raising** Lazarus from the dead (11:1-45)

II. The Evangelistic Purpose (v. 31)

A. Recorded in the seven "I Am" statements

1. "I am the **bread** of life" (6:35)
2. "I am the **light** of the world" (8:12)
3. "I am the **door**" (10:9)
4. "I am the good **shepherd**" (10:11)
5. "I am the **resurrection** and the life" (11:25)
6. "I am the **way**, the truth, and the life" (14:6)
7. "I am the **vine**" (15:1)

B. Revealed in this theme verse

1. You must believe that Jesus is the _____ (1 Sam. 24:6; Matt. 16:15-17)
2. You must believe that Jesus is the _____ of God (Jn. 1:14; 3:16-18)
3. You must believe with all your _____ in order to receive eternal life (Jn. 3:16; 18:6; 18:15)

TAKE HOME

- How do the **strategies** of presuppositional apologetics and evidential apologetics sharpen your understanding of how to effectively share your faith?
- How do each one of the seven signs that John recorded point to the **divinity** of Christ?
- What are the **key** components given in the theme verse of John that one must believe in order to have eternal life?

STUDY QUESTIONS

James 1:22 says, *“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”* These questions are designed to help you apply today’s message to your life. We encourage you to thoughtfully answer these questions and discuss your answers with others. For more information about joining a small group that uses these questions as the basis for discussion, prayer, and accountability, please visit our website at placiritachurch.com.

1. Read John 20:29. Discuss the differences between presuppositional and evidential apologetics and how those principles relate to this verse.

2. Read John 20:30. Why are there only seven signs recorded in John? Why were the other signs not recorded?

3. Out of the seven signs recorded in John, which one stands out to you the most? Why?

4. What is so significant about the seven “I AM” statements of John? What is meant by me saying that the signs are more apologetic but the statements are more evangelistic? Do you agree? Why or why not?

5. Read John 20:31. What are some of the significant things that you learned about Jesus being the “anointed one” or the “Christ”? (1 Sam. 24:6; Matt. 16:15-17)

6. Read John 1:14-18 and John 3:16-18. How do these passages point to the significance of Jesus being the Son of God?

7. What are the three components of belief? How are these seen in John 3:16; 18:6; 18:15? What does the word “life” refer to in this verse? What is the significance of “life” referring to quality and not just quantity?

8. Read the take home questions. Which one challenges you or encourages you the most? Why? How will you live differently this week based on what you have learned?

“Let us settle it firmly in our minds that the divinity of Christ is one of the grand foundation truths of Christianity, and let us be willing to go to the stake rather than let it go. Unless our Lord Jesus is very God of very God, there is an end of His mediation, His atonement, His advocacy, His priesthood, His whole work of redemption. These glorious doctrines are useless blasphemies, unless Christ is divine.”

- J. C. Ryle, *Expository Thoughts on John*