

DEVOTIONAL 1



CHRIST
CHURCH

JOHN

20:30-31

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

21:24-25

²⁴ This is the disciple who is bearing witness about these things, and who has written these things, and we know that his testimony is true.

²⁵ Now there are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.

DAY 1

JOHN 20:30,31

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,

The central purpose of the book is stated here, to clarify the identity of Jesus Christ as the Son of God. There are several things to note here:

- 1) this concerns the historical Jesus whom John is writing about. That this person lived and died is indisputable as the records indicate.
- 2) He is the Christ, or as the Hebrew says, the Messiah; both of these terms mean “the Anointed One.” He is the one that is promised in the OT from the very moment that sin entered the world (cf. Gen 3:15), he is the root of Jesse (Is. 11:1), the Suffering Servant (Is. 42-53), etc... who will rescue his people.
- 3) He is the Son of God. From the very first chapter of his book John has been working to demonstrate the divinity of this individual: “In the beginning was the Word, the Word was with God and the Word was God (Jn 1:1).”

The invitation today is to muse on these threads that come together in Jesus of Nazareth: a human being who lived and died, promised from of old, the divine Son of God. There has never been or will be any other who is equivalent to this one. He is the hinge of the universe.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus we come to you today and pause in wonder and worship at the reality of who you are: Son of God, by whom and through whom the world was made; Christ, promised from the very moment that sin entered the world, the one who would redeem his people; Jesus, a man who walked this earth, lived, loved, wept, bled and died. Never before and never again will there be any like you. In the midst of a world full of temptations and troubles, may the reality of who you are move us to worship today. This we pray in your name. Amen

DAY 2

JOHN 20:31

but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Yesterday we saw that the central purpose for John's writing was to clarify the identity of Jesus Christ as the Son of God. The desired result for John is that readers may "believe" in the Jesus whom he is declaring. (John uses variations of the word believe over one hundred times in his gospel, while the other three gospels only use the word about fifty times combined!) Belief, as it is posited here in John and throughout the scriptures, is not simply having an accurate understanding of a thing, but it is also a commitment to, or a resting upon, that same thing. Here John invites us to believe in, or rest on, Jesus--the one who will give us life (more on this tomorrow).

For today two questions emerge: First, have you settled in your heart and mind that Jesus is who John claims he is? Are you believing in that sense? Second, are you resting on Jesus and the foundation, the source, the goal for everything that you are doing? Does your rest in Jesus become the lens through which you view everything that happens in the world?

As you go into the day take a few minutes to meditate on *Jesus, I am Resting, Resting* and make it's lyrics your prayer.

Jesus, I am resting, resting,
In the joy of what Thou art;
I am finding out the greatness
Of Thy loving heart.
Thou hast bid me gaze upon Thee,
And Thy beauty fills my soul,
For by Thy transforming power,
Thou hast made me whole.

Refrain:

Jesus, I am resting, resting,
In the joy of what Thou art;
I am finding out the greatness
Of Thy loving heart.

Oh, how great Thy loving kindness,
Vaster, broader than the sea!
Oh, how marvelous Thy goodness,
Lavished all on me!
Yes, I rest in Thee, Beloved,
Know what wealth of grace is Thine,
Know Thy certainty of promise,
And have made it mine.

Simply trusting Thee, Lord Jesus,
I behold Thee as Thou art,
And Thy love, so pure, so changeless,
Satisfies my heart;
Satisfies its deepest longings,
Meets, supplies its every need,
Compasseth me round with blessings:
Thine is love indeed!

Ever lift Thy face upon me
As I work and wait for Thee;
Resting 'neath Thy smile, Lord Jesus,
Earth's dark shadows flee.
Brightness of my Father's glory,
Sunshine of my Father's face,
Keep me ever trusting, resting,
Fill me with Thy grace.

DAY 3

JOHN 20:31

and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Throughout the book of John the idea of “life in Jesus” has emerged as something that Jesus both gives and something to be longed for. There seem to be two primary aspects to this promise of life. In John 3:16 Jesus says to Nicodemus that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life. Here life speaks to the rescue from death, which is the wages of sin (cf. Rom 6:23). As we believe in Jesus we are rescued from the death that would otherwise stalk us and we are reborn to life. In other places (notably John 10:10) Jesus says that he has come that his people would have life, and that they might have it to the full. Here the idea of life is not simply an escape from death, but it is fulfillment, joy and meaning!

As you reflect on the life that is yours in Jesus, give thanks for the rescue that Jesus enacted in order that you might not perish. What does it look like for you today to live into the promise of fullness of life in His name?

PRAYER

Lord Jesus only in you will we find life. You are its source. You are its supply. You are its scope. There is no life outside of you. Holy Spirit we pray today that you would make us alive to this life. May it fill us, flow within us, and flare from us with such radiance as to leave no doubt but that you are its source. May the life that we have in you be the prime reality that we experience, even as we navigate the circumstances of this world that threaten to bring us down. Thank you for this promise of Life. In Jesus' very sweet and precious name we pray. Amen.

DAY 4

JOHN 20:31, 21:25

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book ...
Now there are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.

The Gospel of John is notable for its nine “I Am” sayings which we are going to be looking at in depth over the next several weeks. It is also noted for the presence of many signs (Water into wine John 2:1–11; Healing a royal official’s son John 4:46–54; Healing a disabled man John 5:1–15; Feeding 5,000 John 6:1–14; Walking on water John 6:16–21; Healing a man born blind John 9:1–12; Raising Lazarus from the dead John 11:1–43). All of these point to the reality of who Jesus is and what he came to do (cf. Week 1, Day 1). John, the man, grew to look for and recognize the signs. John, the Holy Spirit-illuminated author, teaches us to see them as well. While we recognize that Jesus is not walking this earth and doing miracles in the same way, he is still very much at work in his world! How well are we tuned to seeing his signs today? Even in this sin darkened world all is not lost. J.R.R. Tolkien put it this way through the mouth of one of the Elves of Lorien, Haldir, who said: “The world is indeed full of peril, and in it there are many dark places; but still there is much that is fair, and though in all lands love is now mingled with grief, it grows perhaps the greater.”

What are the signs you see today in the midst of dark places that testify to the reality of the light? John wants us to remember that the light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it! (cf. John 1:5)

PRAYER

Lord Jesus help us to be attuned today to hear your voice and see the signs you have left pointing to the reality of the ongoing work of redemption that you are engaged with in this world. Far from abandoning this world you are bringing beauty from the brokenness and turning rebellion to rejoicing. Help us to see your hand in mercy dispensed, in justice pursued, and in persecutors coming to Christ. Open our eyes to the beauty of creation, the creativity of your creatures, and the powerful workings of love among people. Thank you for reminders that you are the King and you are seated on your throne. We pray this all in Jesus name. Amen.

DAY 5

JOHN 20:31, 21:24

but these are written so that you may believe ...

This is the disciple [John] who is bearing witness about these things, and who has written these things, and we know that his testimony is true

Like Matthew, Mark and Luke, John is a writer. These four men were carried by the Holy Spirit and have left us a true, eyewitness account of the life of Jesus. Luke in his opening verses speaks of eyewitnesses compiling events as they happen and of his own endeavor to deliver an orderly account (cf. Luke 1:1-4). Given that these works were written within a generation of the events themselves happening, many people were alive to discredit or disprove these writings (cf. I Cor 15:3-8, esp. v. 6). Yet that did not happen and we can be sure of this testimony. This is what John confirms for us today; his testimony is true!

Are you approaching the Scriptures with confidence as “true truth” to be a guide and roadmap for your life? For that matter are you turning to the scriptures and gobbling them up over and above other sources of information or self help?

PRAYER

Holy Spirit we thank you for your work of inspiration. We thank you for breathing into vessels like Matthew, Mark, Luke and John so that we would have the story and we would know the truth of who Jesus is and what he came to do. We pray that you would stoke the fires of our hearts to approach this word with confidence as we seek to navigate this day and all of our days. We thank you most of all that we do not read this story from afar, but that you have read us into this story and we are now recipients of the very grace that Jesus has come to bring. How wonderful, how marvellous indeed! Receive our thanks in Jesus name, Amen.