



John 1:1-18

Pastor Bob DuPar
Community Bible Church
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We'll be studying the big picture in John's gospel, from now until Easter!

- 7 miracles/signs that reveal & confirm who Jesus is
- 7 personal/individual (lengthy) private conversations
- 7 "I am" statements that reveal powerful truths about Jesus
- 7 witnesses who testify about Jesus
- 7 women who met Jesus
- 7 last statements of Jesus on the Cross

Initial Insights

CBC's Mission & Vision

"Inviting people to follow Jesus as we impact our community and world!"

Don't assume that inviting people to church service, to an event or activity, is the same thing as inviting people to consider the claims of Jesus.

For many non-Christians, an invitation to church or to an event is just an invitation to experience people who think and act differently than them.

Jesus' model was personal conversation.

All of the disciples became disciples through an invitation! They didn't respond to a sermon. They didn't get picked from a seminary/rabbinical school. They weren't selected from any of the groups of religious leaders – the Pharisees, the Sadducees, the Essenes, the Sanhedrin (the top 70)... They didn't appoint themselves.

And, Jesus' teaching style/discipleship style was one-on-one – a small group format. It wasn't temple/synagogue mentoring/discipleship. Or, large group. And, He accomplished His goal in 3 years!

"I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do."

John 17:4

"Then He said to the disciple, 'Behold, your mother!' From that hour the disciple took her into his own *household*.²⁸ After this, Jesus, knowing that all things had already been accomplished, to fulfill the Scripture, said, 'I am thirsty.'"

John

19:27-28

Discipleship isn't a program. It's not an event. It's a **lifestyle** – lived-out over a **lifetime!**

The Essence Of Our Message...

1. **Jesus Is God!**

This belief, this fact, is what sets Christianity apart from every other religion of the world!

Jesus is not just a good teacher, a rabbi, a prophet, the Messiah, the Son of God, the Agent of Creation... He's God in human flesh! That's what Scripture records, that's what the Bible affirms!

Word was God (1:1)

Riding on clouds – **Matt. 26:65** – High Priest tore his robes

Power over the wind & the waves – the chaotic uncontrollable forces of nature

Initiating forgiveness of sins – **Mark 2**

Hebrews 1 exact nature – essential nature

Hebrews 1 – angels commanded to worship

Worship of the Lamb in Heaven

Centurion saw the way that Jesus breathed His last – **Mark 15:39**

Philippians 2 – didn't regard equality with God as an entitlement

Before Abraham & Moses, I am! **John 8:58**

Garden of Gethsemane – I am! **John 18:6**

Ability to give us rest – **Matthew 11:28**

Every demon knew exactly who He was/is when exorcised

Jesus claimed it – "because you, being a man, make yourself out to be God!" **John 10:33**

C. S. Lewis – Liar, Lunatic or Lord!

The Jews reaction – blasphemy, stoning, plots to kill

Preexistent – glorify Me, glory that I shared with you before the world began! **John 17**

The resurrection & the life!

Col. 1:15-19

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. ¹⁸ He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹ For it was the *Father's* good pleasure for all the fullness (of deity) to dwell in Him...

John 20:28 - Jesus doesn't correct Thomas when he declares, "My Lord & my God!" (and, there is a definite article before both Lord & God!!)

2. Jesus Is Salvation

"Jesus does not give recipes that show the way to God as other teachers of religion do. He is Himself the way." Karl Barth

"The heart of the gospel is redemption, and the essence of redemption is the substitutionary sacrifice of Christ." Charles Spurgeon

"Jesus is not one of many ways to approach God, nor is He the best of several ways; He is the only way." A.W. Tozer, That Incredible Christian.

How foolish of Christ to endure the agony of the Cross, and to give Himself sacrificially, if there were other ways to God!

"But as many as received Him..." John 1:12

"Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" John 1:29

Jesus tells Nicodemus in John 3:3 that no one can enter the Kingdom of Heaven unless they're born again.

Jesus is the way, the truth and the life. No one goes to God except through Him!

John 14:6

"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for He has visited us and accomplished redemption for His people, ⁶⁹ and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of David His

servant.”
1:68-69

Luke

Simeon:

“My eyes have seen Your salvation, ³¹ which You have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³² a Light of revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel.”

Luke

2:30-32

“And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.”

Acts

4:12

3. Jesus Is Divine Revelation

Eighteen hundred years or so of Hebrew history, capped by a full exposition in Jesus Christ, tell us that God's revelation of himself is rejected far more often than it is accepted, is dismissed by far more people than embrace it, and has been either attacked or ignored by every major culture or civilization in which it has given its witness: magnificent Egypt, fierce Assyria, beautiful Babylon, artistic Greece, political Rome, Enlightenment France, Nazi Germany, Renaissance Italy, Marxist Russia, Maoist China, and pursuit-of-happiness America. — Eugene H. Peterson, *Christ Plays in Ten Thousand Places*, p. 288

“He (Jesus) was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world did not know Him. ¹¹ He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him.”

John 1:10-11

Jesus is the true light that has come into the world to enlighten every man and woman!

John 1:9

There is no revelation of God apart from Jesus!

The Word became flesh & we have seen God's glory through Jesus.

John 1:14

“No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him.”

John 1:18

1 John 4:12 – our love for others reveals Him to the world!

“God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, ² in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. ³ And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.”

Hebrews 1:1-3

Closing Comments

Personal testimony –

How has Jesus proved to you that He is God?

Answered prayer, His Word confirmed in my life, His faithfulness, His presence & peace!

How did He save you?

At age 4 I realized that I needed this Savior that I had been preaching about!

How has He revealed Himself to you through Scripture & your experiences in life?

Dreams & visions

Friends & family – godly counsel

Mission trips around the world where I’ve seen His power to reveal & draw people to Himself!

****Communion**