

The Glory Of Christ – Session 05 The Power To Become Children Of God

- Videos available on our YouTube channel: www.htchurch.tv
 - All notes, etc. available at: www.htchurch.com/john
 - Contact Pastor Nick at: pastornick@htchurch.com
-

Recap

- There's a flow to the Prologue (first 18 verses of *John*):
 - Christ as the Eternal Word (the *Logos*)
 - Christ the Creative Word
 - Christ the Life-giving Word
 - Christ the Incarnate Word
- Verse 4 says: *in Him was life*. Jesus has eternal life together with the Father. The word *zoe* talks about the quality of life He possesses: the power of an endless life!
- We all have *biological* life, but do we have *eternal* life within us?
- Christ's Life is the Light of men. He enlightens humanity in many different ways.
- This light shines in the darkness but the darkness doesn't grasp it or overcome it.

1. A Man Named John (John 1:6-9)

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. 8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. 9 That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.

1.1. Meeting John the Baptist.

- We now see an abrupt shift as John speaks about things of Earth.
- Helpful hint: distinguish *John the Baptist* from *John the Evangelist*.
- John the Evangelist is very humble and never refers to himself by name.

1.2. A man sent from God.

- John, however exalted he might have been, was only a man.
- The word *sent* is related to the word *apostle*; he was specially commissioned.
- Even though we connect John the Baptist with repentance, the invitation to repent is a wonderful display of grace.

1.3. A prophesied and unique ministry (the forerunner of Christ).

“Behold, I send My messenger, and he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple, even the Messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight. Behold, He is coming,” says the LORD of hosts. (Mal. 3:1)

- The One to be announced by John the Baptist would actually be God Himself.

1.4. The Witness of John.

This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. (Jn. 1:7)

- John’s Gospel emphasizes the *function* of John the Baptist, not his *history*. At this point we only see his role, which is to be a **witness**.
- Witness is one of the key words in John’s Gospel.

- John’s powerfully anointed ministry prepared Israel for the visitation of her Messiah. He was sent, as the prophets said, to **prepare the way** of the Lord.
- There will be numerous other witnesses to Christ, but John was the first.

1.5. That all might believe through him.

Because John was that first, key witness, all the saved depend in part on him.

1.6. Sent to bear witness.

- Bible scholars suggest that there were some cults who held John the Baptist in such high regard that they might have assigned too high a place to him.
- John was not the light, but Jesus said he was a “lamp!”

1.7. Christ, the True Light

- Here again, Christ is portrayed as enlightening all who come into the world.
- The light of the Gospel comes to us, but men do not receive it.
- Jesus will later say, “...*the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.*” (John 3:19b)

2. The Light Not Received (John 1:10-11)

10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. 11 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.

An amazing question for reflection... is Jesus failing to be welcomed by this world and by His own people the greatest irony of all time?

- John for the first time uses another of the key words in his Gospel: **world**.
 - The Greek word is *kosmos* can mean creation in general (the Universe)
 - It can refer to the Earth
 - It often means the world of men: our human life and systems of doing things which are under the dominion of the evil one.
- Verse 11 says: *He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him*. These are two different concepts: He came to *His own things* or *His own place*, and *His own people* did not receive Him.

*1 Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?
 2 For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, and as a root out of dry ground.
 He has no form or comeliness; and when we see Him, there is no beauty that we should
 desire Him. 3 He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted
 with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did
 not esteem Him. 4 Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we
 esteemed Him stricken, amitten by God, and afflicted. (Isa. 53:1-4)*

- It's important to remember that not all of Israel rejected Jesus!
- There was a remnant of Israel who did believe in Jesus.
- The Gospel of John: is it anti-Semitic?

*34 "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are
 sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her
 brood under her wings, but you were not willing! 35 See! Your house is left to you
 desolate; and assuredly, I say to you, you shall not see Me until the time comes when
 you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!'" (Luke 13:34-35)*

3. The Right To Become Children Of God (John 1:12-13)

12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: 13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

3.1. Authority to become Children of God.

- No man has the **authority** to become a child of God.
- Second, John says *children of God*. Why not say “sons of God?”

3.2. Those who believe in His Name

- It’s a pity that in modern English, the word *believe* has become limited.
- “Believe” means more than simply agreeing that the Gospel is true. *You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!*
(James 2:19) Trusting in His Name means trusting Him completely for salvation.

3.3. Born of God!

...who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. (John 1:13)

- Salvation cannot be inherited: it’s not enough to be Abraham’s descendant
- Salvation cannot be gained: *That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. (John 3:6)*
- It cannot be conferred... a new birth is what is needed!
