

John 1-2

May 13, 2012

Introduction:

Today we begin a study of the Gospel of (according to) John. John was a son of Zebedee and a brother to James (*not* the James who wrote the book of James – that was the half-brother of Jesus).

In chapter one Jesus is referred to as the “Word”; why is this idea used?

- Words are used to communicate; they express thoughts. Have someone read the following verses and comment on how each of them speak to how Jesus communicated God to us: [John 1:14](#); [John 1:18](#); [John 10:30](#); [John 14:9](#); [Hebrews 1:3](#); and [Colossians 1:15](#). Jesus is equal with God and revealed Him to us.

We get an enormous amount of information about Jesus in **chapter 1**. What all do we learn here?

- [1:1](#) – He has always been and is equal and one with God the Father.
- [1:3,10](#) – Everything was created through Him (and for Him; see [Colossians 1:16](#)). [¹⁶ for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can’t see—such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through him and for him.] [NLT](#)
- [1:4](#) – He has life within Himself. See [John 5:26](#). [John 6:53](#) says that we have no “life” in ourselves. [John 10:10](#) tells us that Jesus came to give us “life” and to give it *abundantly*.
- [1:4](#) – Jesus *is* light. [John 8:12](#) tells us that Jesus is the light of the world. ([Revelation 22:5](#) tells us that there will be no lights in heaven; He Himself will be the light.).
- [1:5,10](#) – Jesus was rejected by the people He created.
- [1:9](#) – Jesus gives some light to all men. (As we follow the “light” that we have, God gives us more “light.”).
- [1:11](#) – Jesus was rejected by the people He chose of Himself (the Jews).
- [1:12](#) – Because of Jesus we can become children of God.
- [1:14](#) - Jesus became a man and people saw what God looked like with skin on. (The word “dwelt” is *tabernacled*. The Tabernacle was common on the outside and incredible on the inside.)
- [1:14,17](#) – Jesus was *full of grace* (He wasn’t a legalist.) *and truth* (He wasn’t a liberal.). [Verse 17](#) tells us that Jesus is the source of grace and truth.
- [1:15,30](#) – Jesus preexisted his earthly cousin John who was six months older than Jesus in time ([Luke 1:36](#)). Jesus claimed to have existed before Abraham ([John 8:58](#)) who lived over [2,000 years](#) before Jesus was born. ([John 8:58](#))
- [1:16](#) – Every person has been blessed by God’s goodness. *Every good and perfect gift* in life comes from God ([James 1:17](#)).
- [1:18](#) – No one has seen God the Father. [Colossians 1:15](#) and [1 Timothy 1:17](#) tell us that God is invisible. Jesus was revealed God perfectly. See [John 10:30](#) [³⁰ The Father and I are one.”] And [Hebrews 1:3](#). [³ The Son radiates God’s own glory and expresses the very character of God, and he sustains everything by the mighty power of his command. When he had cleansed us from our sins, he sat down in the place of honor at the right hand of the majestic God in heaven.] [NLT](#)
- [1:29](#) – Jesus would take away the sin of the world.
- [1:47-49](#) – Jesus is omniscient (all-knowing) and omnipresent (everywhere all of the time).

What do you think that **verses 12 to 13** mean?

- *Our* part is receiving Christ, which means to choose to hear and follow Him. *God's* part is giving us life. We are not born again (become Christians) because of *blood* – because our parents were; because of the *will of the flesh* – our will power; or because of the *will of man* – others want us to be saved. We are born of God; He does the saving. See **1 Corinthians 1:29-31**. We did the sinning; God did the saving. We boast in Him.

What do we learn about John the Baptizer in **verses 6 to 8 and 19 to 23**?

- **1:6** – John was sent from God.
- **1:7-8,34** – John was a witness to the Light (Jesus).
- **1:23** – John was a voice for God to the people.
- **1:25-28** – John was baptizing people as they repented.
- **1:30** – John had been told by God how he would recognize Jesus.
- **1:32** – John saw the Holy Spirit descend upon Jesus.

1:29 What is the significance of Jesus being a “lamb”?

- He came to be sacrificed.

2:1-11 In **chapter 2 verses 1 to 12** we have the story of Jesus turning the water to wine at the wedding at Cana. What do we learn about Jesus from this story?

- **2:3** – We should go to Jesus when we have a need.
- **2:4** – Jesus never set out to promote Himself.
- **2:5** – God knows what He's doing.
- **2:6-9** – If we do what Jesus asks, whether we understand it or not, something good is going to happen.
- **2:10** – Nothing that man provides can compare to what God provides. And He saves His best for last: heaven.
- It's worth noting that the Hebrew University in Jerusalem studied the issue of wine in the New Testament and found that it had so little alcoholic content that it would be sold as a soft drink today.

2:13-17 We learn in **verses 13 to 17** that Jesus was not a “soft” man. A point of clarification is necessary regarding Jesus running the money-changers out of the Temple. Some think that this means that nothing should ever be sold in the church (like tapes, CDs, etc.). The problem was this: the people had to travel long distances to come to Jerusalem to sacrifice. It was easier to purchase the animals to be sacrificed at the Temple than to transport them from their homes. These money changers began to take advantage of the situation in two ways. First, they were selling the people imperfect animals (*with blemishes*). Second, they were gouging them on the price. Both led to Jesus taking such drastic measures.

2:18-21 Jesus referred to His body as the Temple of God in **chapter 2 verses 18 to 21**. Jesus, being God, indeed was dwelling in that body. Where does God dwell today?

- God dwells in His people today (**1 Corinthians 6:19-20**).

2:24-25 What do you think that **verses 24 to 25** mean?

- Jesus did not reveal Himself to people whom He knew would not receive Him. He later told us not to cast our pearls before swine (**Matthew 7:6**). In other words, don't waste your words on people who will not listen. It also tells us here that God knows our thoughts and motives (what is *in us*).

How might these verses apply to us today?

If God knows that we will not do it, then He is not likely to reveal to us His will for our lives. Knowing His will for our lives begins with our willingness to do it. See **John 7:17**. [17 Anyone who wants to do the will of God will know whether my teaching is from God or is merely my own.] [NTL](#)