

*John's Gospel as the Testimony of John*  
*Jaunting thru John: Message #1*

Grace Chapel

Dr. John Niemelä

January 6, 2008

**INTRODUCTION**

**INTRODUCTION TO JOHN'S ~~GOSPEL~~ TESTIMONY**

**AUTHOR: THE APOSTLE JOHN**

1. The author does not name himself, but refers to himself as *the disciple whom Jesus loved*:

21<sup>20</sup> Then Peter, turned around and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following, the who had leaned on His heart at the supper, and asked, "Lord, who's the one that's going to betray You?" . . .  
. <sup>24</sup> This is the disciple who testifies to these things and wrote them down; and we know that his testimony is true.

2. The author often refers to himself as *the disciple whom Jesus loved*:

13<sup>23</sup> Now one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved, was leaning back against the front of Jesus' robe.

19<sup>26</sup> So when Jesus saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, "Woman, there is your son!"

20<sup>2</sup> So she ran and went to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and told them, "They have taken away my Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put Him."

21<sup>7</sup> Therefore the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It's the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment (for he was stripped), and plunged into the lake.

3. Some may view this as boastful. It is not. The author is referring to a well-known fact:

14<sup>18</sup> "I won't leave you as orphans; I am coming to you. <sup>19</sup> In a little while the world will see Me no longer. You, however, will see Me. Because I live, you will live too. <sup>20</sup> In that day you will know that I am in My Father, you are in Me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup> The one who has My commandments and keeps them, is the one who loves Me. And the one who loves Me will be loved by My Father. I will love him too and reveal Myself to him." <sup>22</sup> Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, "Lord, so how is it You're going to reveal Yourself to us, and not to the world?" <sup>23</sup> In reply Jesus said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word. My Father will love him too, and We will come to him and make Our home with him."

4. Peter & John were first at the tomb. John was first to believe that Jesus was resurrected:

20<sup>2</sup> So she [Mary of Magdala] ran and went to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and told them, "They have taken away my Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put Him." <sup>3</sup> Then Peter and the other disciple went out, heading for the tomb. <sup>4</sup> Now the two were running together, and the other disciple outran Peter and got to the tomb first. <sup>5</sup> Stooping down, he saw the linen wrappings lying there; but he did not go in. <sup>6</sup> Then, following him, came Simon Peter. And he went into the tomb and he saw the linen wrappings lying there, <sup>7</sup> but the handkerchief which had been on His head was folded up in a separate place by itself, not lying with the linen wrappings. <sup>8</sup> So then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, went into the tomb. And he [John] saw and believed.

5. Jesus pronounced a blessing upon those who had believed even before seeing Jesus

20<sup>24</sup> But one of the Twelve, Thomas (called Twin), was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> So the other disciples therefore kept telling him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "If I don't see the nailprints in His hands, put my finger in the nailprints, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe." <sup>26</sup> So after eight days the disciples were indoors again, and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, even though the doors were locked, and stood among them. And He said, "Peace to you!" <sup>27</sup> Then He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and observe My hands. Reach out your hand and put it into My side. And don't be unbelieving but believing." <sup>28</sup> And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup> "Because you have seen Me," Jesus told him, "you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed!"

*Remember: the eleven had already believed in Jesus' promise of everlasting life. What Thomas had not yet believed was that Jesus was raised.*

6. Thus, Jesus pronounced a blessing on John. John is especially qualified to write this book

## Why Should This Book Be Called *The Testimony of John*?

### 1. John testifies to the signs that he [and other disciples] saw starting in John 2

20<sup>30</sup> **Jesus actually performed many other miraculous signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book'** <sup>31</sup> But these are written 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<sup>24</sup> **This is the disciple who testifies of these things, and wrote these things**; and we know that his testimony is true. <sup>25</sup> And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen.

2<sup>11</sup> **This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee**, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him.

4<sup>54</sup> **This again is the second sign Jesus did when He had come out of Judea into Galilee.**

### 2. It is quite likely that John was one of the two disciples of John the Baptist in John 1:34

1<sup>32</sup> And John testified, "I observed the Spirit coming down like a dove out of Heaven, and He rested upon Him. <sup>33</sup> Yet I did not know Him. However He who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'The One on whom you see the Spirit coming down and resting—this is He who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' <sup>34</sup> So I have both seen and testified that this is the Son of God." <sup>35</sup> Again, the next day, John was standing with **two of his disciples [Andrew and \_\_\_\_\_]**. <sup>36</sup> And when he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look! the Lamb of God!" <sup>37</sup> So **the two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus.** <sup>38</sup> When Jesus turned and noticed them following Him He said to them, "What are you looking for?" And they said to Him, "Rabbi" (which is translated Teacher), "Where are You staying?" <sup>39</sup> "Come and see," He told them. They went and saw where He was staying, and they stayed with Him that day. It was about ten a.m. <sup>40</sup> **One of the two who heard John and followed Jesus was Andrew,** Simon Peter's brother. <sup>41</sup> **He first found** his own brother Simon, **and told** him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Christ). <sup>42</sup> And he brought him to Jesus. When Jesus saw him, He said, "You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter). <sup>43</sup> The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. So He found **Philip** and said to him, "Follow Me." <sup>44</sup> Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the hometown of Andrew and Peter. <sup>45</sup> **Philip found Nathanael** and told him, "We have found the One of whom Moses in the law—and also the prophets—wrote: Jesus the son of Joseph from Nazareth."

### 3. Note what John says in 1 John 1

1<sup>3</sup> That **which** [concerning the message of life] was from the beginning [of John's connection with Jesus' ministry], **which** [concerning the message of life] we have heard, **which** [concerning the message of life] we have seen with our eyes, **which** [concerning the message of life] we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, **concerning the message of life** <sup>2</sup> **—the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us—** <sup>3</sup> that **which** [concerning the message of life] we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

## DATE OF WRITING:

### 1. Prior to A.D. 70

<sup>52</sup> Now by the Sheep Gate in Jerusalem there is a pool, called Bethesda in Hebrew, which has five colonnades.

It was destroyed in A.D. 70. It was discovered in 1888, but unearthed in recent times.

### 2. Prior to A.D. 44 (Acts 10)

#### 1. Absence of reference to Jesus' ministry to Gentiles

Note: God regards Samaritans as Jews, not as Gentiles

Cornelius (Acts 10–11) was first non-proselyte Gentile in Church Age

Samaritans (Acts 8) preceded Cornelius. They are part of Israel.

#### 2. John 10:16 is not a reference to Gentiles, but to Diaspora Jews

#### 3. No reference to Gentiles in John 1:10–12

<sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world did not know Him. <sup>11</sup> He came to His own, and His own people did not accept Him. <sup>12</sup> But to as many [of His own] as did accept Him, He gave the right to become God's children, to those who believed in His name

His own = Judean Jews, Galilean Jews, Samaritan Jews, and Diaspora Jews

Although [as a book written before A.D. 44] John aimed at Jewish readers, the content of faith that gives life remains the same: cf. 1 Timothy 1:16

**AUDIENCE AND PURPOSE FOR WRITING:**

20<sup>30</sup> Jesus actually performed many other miraculous signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book' <sup>31</sup> But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His Name.

The readers/hearers (*you*) need to believe in Christ and they need life. In other words, the intended readers/hearers were unbelievers.

The reason for saying readers/hearers is this book would have been read aloud

Cf. Colossians 4:16

## EXPOSITION OF THE PURPOSE STATEMENT

20<sup>31</sup> But these [eight signs] are written that you may believe **that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God**, and that by believing [this] you may have life in His Name.

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|--|---|
| 1. Turning water into wine (John 2)          | 5. Walking on water (John 6)                |
| 2. Healing a royal son at Capernaum (John 4) | 6. Healing the man born blind (John 9)      |
| 3. Healing the lame man (John 5)             | 7. Raising Lazarus (John 11)                |
| 4. Feeding the 5000 (John 6)                 | 8. Cross & resurrection (John 19–20; cf. 2) |

John gives sufficient evidence: the eight signs

The content of faith relates to life: *by believing this you may have life in His name*

How does the idea of Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God, relate to everlasting life?

11 <sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, "I am the Resurrection	and [I am] the Life.
He who believes in Me, even if he dies, will live.	<sup>26</sup> And everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die.
Do you believe <b>this</b> ?"	

<sup>27</sup> "Yes, Lord," she told Him, "I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world."

Clarification of the content to be believed

Significance of the purpose statement being near the end of John  
(When does John want the reader/hearer to believe in Christ for life?)

How does John 13–17 fit in a book with an evangelistic purpose?

## CONCLUSION