

**JOHN SERIES #1: Introduction**  
**Jn. 13:23**  
**Grace Community Church**  
**Kingston, Tennessee**  
**Sunday, October 20, 2019**

**1. TEXT:**

- a. John 13:23, “Now there was leaning on Jesus’ bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved.”

**2. THE AUTHOR**

- a. The Gospel of John was written by John the Beloved disciple of Christ.
- b. He was a member of Christ’s innermost circle of disciples, along with his older brother, James, and Peter.
- c. Jesus nicknamed John and James “sons of thunder” (Mk. 3:17)—probably due to their dispositions.
- i. Mark 9:38, “Now John answered Him, saying, ‘Teacher, we saw someone who does not follow us casting out demons in Your name, and we forbade him because he does not follow us.’”
  - ii. Luke 9:54-56, (54) “And when His disciples James and John saw [this], they said, ‘Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, just as Elijah did? (55) But He turned and rebuked them, and said, “You do not know what manner of spirit you are of. (56) “For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men’s lives but to save them.”
  - iii. But, John has often been nicknamed, “the apostle of love.” He wrote more than any other New Testament author about the importance of love.
  - iv. John apparently came by this brashness honestly.
    1. Mt. 20:20-21: (20) Then the mother of Zebedee’s sons came to Him with her sons, kneeling down and asking something from Him. (21) And He said to her, “What do you wish?” She said to Him, “Grant that these two sons of mine may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on the left, in Your kingdom.”
  - v. John is a wonderful example of what each of us should take place in each of our lives after we are saved.
    1. Rm. 12:2, “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed [Gk., *metamorphoo*] by the renewing of your mind,

that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

2. When Paul speaks of our *metamorphosis* in Rm. 12:2, he is not referring to our outward appearance changing, as when a caterpillar becomes a butterfly because he goes on to define it as the RENEWING OF OUR MINDS.

d. John outlived the rest of the original Disciples.

- i. John would have been over 90 years of age when he died, possibly in his mid-nineties.

### 3. THE PURPOSE OF JOHN’S WRITING:

a. Chronologically, the Gospel of John was the last of the 4 Gospels to be written.

b. John wrote a good portion of the New Testament.

c. The Gospel of John records many events in the life of Christ that are not chronicled in the other 3 Gospels because of his theme.

- i. Each Gospel presents the life of Christ from a different perspective.

ii. EX: Elevations on a set of house plans.

iii. Matthew presents Christ as the KING.

1. Mt. 1:1, “The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham....”

2. Mt. 1:6, “and Jesse begot David the king. David the king begot Solomon by her who had been the wife of Uriah.”

3. Matthew is the only Gospel writer to record the wisemen’s visit to Christ.

iv. Mark presents Christ as the SERVANT of God.

1. Mark himself was a “servant” of Paul.

- a. 2 Tm. 4:11 Paul tells Timothy, “Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for ministry.”

v. Luke presents the HUMANITY of Christ.

1. Luke, was a physician Col 4:14, “Luke the beloved physician and Demas greet you.”

2. Luke tells us more of the HUMAN side of Christ's birth than the other writers.
  3. Luke deals more with the miracles of Christ than the other Gospel writers.
  4. Luke (22:44) gives a far more detailed description of our Lord's human suffering in His passion than did the other writers (EX: sweating great drops as of blood).
- vi. The Gospel of John presents Christ in His DEITY.
1. In the Gospel of John the deity of Christ is more fully conveyed than in any other place in Scripture
  2. HIS ETERNAL NATURE: Jn. 1:1-2, (1) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (2) He was in the beginning with God.
  3. John the Baptist acknowledges Jesus as THE SON OF GOD: Jn. 1:34 [John the Baptist speaking], "And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God."
  4. Jn. 2:11, "This beginning of signs [i.e., changing water to wine] Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him.
  5. Jn. 2:19, "Jesus answered and said to them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.'"
  6. Jn. 6:33, "For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."
  7. Jn. 8:58, "Jesus said to them, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.'"
  8. Jn. 10:30, "I and My Father are one."
  9. Jn. 14:9, "Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, "Show us the Father"?'"
  10. Jn. 17:5, Christ said, "And now, O Father, glorify Me with your own Self with the glory which I had with you before the world was."

d. THE OCCASION FOR WRITING THE GOSPEL OF JOHN:

- i. In John 20:30-31:**
  - 1. John gives us his reason for writing his Gospel**
  - 2. (30) And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; (31) but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.**
- e. John wrote his Gospel about 80-90 A.D. after the Romans destroyed the Temple in Jerusalem.**
  - i. In his Gospel, John shows the Jews that Christ is the replacement for the Temple**
    - 1. John 2:18-21, (18) So the Jews answered and said to Him, "What sign do You show to us, since You do these things?" (19) Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." (20) Then the Jews said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?" (21) But He was speaking of the temple of His body.**
    - 2. In chapter 1, John goes to great lengths to present the deity of Christ and that He is the replacement for the Jewish place of worship.**
      - a. Jn. 1:1, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."**
      - b. Jn. 1:2, "He was in the beginning with God."**
      - c. Jn. 1:3, "All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made."**
      - d. Jn. 1:4, "In Him was life, and the life was the light of men."**
      - e. Jn. 1:14, "And the Word became [Lit., "tabernacled"] flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."**