

## WHY THE GOSPEL OF JOHN WAS WRITTEN

(John 20:31)

The Gospel of John is arguably the most read and the most loved book of the Bible. It's so simple that young children could understand its truths and so profound that brilliant scholars continue to explore its theological depths. When it comes to its genre or literary type, this book falls under the category of historical narrative known as the Gospels. Matthew, Mark, Luke and John are four Gospels about the one saving gospel or good news of Jesus (1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

The Gospel of John is a historical narrative of the life, ministry, teachings, miracles, suffering, death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus (1 John 1:1). With regard to its purpose, **the Gospel of John was written that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and that by believing, we may have life in His name.** As we reflect on the goal of John in writing this book, we'll consider two foundational truths that the Gospel of John sets forth.

### 1. *The Gospel of John sets forth the* \_\_\_\_\_.

The theological emphasis of John's Gospel is supremely about Jesus. John used the name of Jesus 237 times throughout his Gospel. His agenda in writing his book is to present to his readers the identity of Jesus as the Christ and the Son of God (John 20:31). In referring to Jesus as the Christ, John identifies Jesus as the One who fulfills the Old Testament promise and prophecies of the coming Messiah. Christ is the Greek word for Messiah which literally means the Anointed One. As the Christ, Jesus is the Anointed Prophet, Priest and King who perfectly fulfills and meets our ultimate need for a Divine Revealer, Divine Reconciler and Divine Ruler (John 1:18; 4:26-27; 1:29; Isaiah 53:4-6; John 1:49; 12:15).

John not only presents Jesus as the Christ. He also declares in his Gospel that Jesus is the Son of God (John 20:31; 5:20-25). Jesus used this title "Son of God" to identify Himself as having the same divine nature as God. Throughout the Gospel of John, we will encounter the Lord Jesus making specific claims as God through His seven "I am" sayings - "*I am the Bread of Life*" (John 6:35); "*I am the Light of the World*" (John 8:12, 9:5); "*I am the Door*" (John 10:7); "*I am the Good Shepherd*" (John 10:11,14); "*I am the Resurrection and the Life*" (John 11:25); "*I am the Way, the Truth and the Life*" (John 14:6); and "*I am the True Vine*" (John 15:1). The reality of Jesus as God as established throughout John's Gospel compels us to fall at Jesus' feet and bow in reverent worship as we exalt Him as our Lord and our God!

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### 2. *The Gospel of John sets forth the* \_\_\_\_\_.

The Gospel of John records at least seven selected sign-miracles which displayed the Messianic identity and divine nature of Jesus. These miraculous signs include the changing of water into wine (John 2:1-11), the healing of the royal official's son (John 4:46-54), the healing of the invalid man (John 5:1-18), the feeding of the five thousand (John 6:1-15), Jesus walking on water (John 6:16-21), the healing of the man born blind (John 9:1-41) and the raising of Lazarus from the grave (John 11:1-57). The purpose of all these miraculous signs is to call people to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God (John 20:31). The true belief that John calls us to have is more than intellectual knowledge. Authentic belief which is the essence of genuine saving faith requires full trust and total reliance on Jesus alone for eternal life (John 3:16; 5:24; 10:10; 17:3).

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