

The Pastor's Bible Study

An interactive study of the Gospel of John¹

Week 2 ~ Exploring John 1:1-18

Personal Study Time:

(Use the following suggestions in your personal Bible study time this week to prepare for our class discussion next Saturday.)

Day 1: Read John 1:1-18 through twice, then answer the following questions in your Gospel of John notebook.

- What does the Prologue to the Gospel tell us about Jesus? List the various qualities and actions of Jesus recounted there. Of these qualities and actions which, according to the text, seems to be the central, or most important characteristic of Jesus?
- Compare and contrast John 1:1-18 with Gen 1:1-3 and Heb 1:1-4. List the similarities and differences and write a paragraph or so detailing what you learn about the Prologue to the Gospel from the comparative study.

Day 2: Reread John 1:1-18 and then answer the following questions in your Gospel of John notebook.

- Why do you think the Prologue begins in eternity instead of at the birth of Jesus?
- List the events in the career of Jesus (as described or hinted at in the Prologue) that lead Him from the Father's side (1:1) down to earth and then back to the Father's bosom (1:18).
- After you've answered today's questions choose one of the application questions on the back side of this page to enhance your study.

Day 3: Reread John 1:1-18 and then answer the following questions in your Gospel of John notebook.

- List those items in the Prologue that refer to the human side of the plan of salvation. What is the implication of each? Why do you think the human side of salvation plays a minor role in this passage? Explain your answer.
- After you've answered these questions choose one of the application questions on the back side of this page to enhance today's study.

Day 4: Reread John 1:1-18 and then answer the following questions in your Gospel of John notebook.

- Describe those who fail to comprehend the light (1:5,10,11).
- Describe those who do comprehend it (1:12-14,16).
- After you've answered these questions choose one of the application questions on the back side of this page to enhance today's study.

¹ Quoted and/or adapted from Jon Paulien and George R. Knight, *John: Jesus Gives Life to a New Generation*, The Abundant Life Bible Amplifier (Boise, Idaho: Pacific Press, 1995).

Day 5: Reread John 1:1-18 and then answer the following questions in your Gospel of John notebook.

- In a paragraph or two analyze the roles that John the Baptist and Moses play in relation to Jesus in this passage.
- After you've answered these questions choose one of the application questions below to enhance today's study.

Day 6: Reread John 1:1-18 and then answer the following question in your Gospel of John notebook.

- Compare the message of John 1:1-18 with three other "early Christian hymns" in the New Testament; Phil 2:5-11, Col 1:15-20, and 1 Tim 3:16.
- After you've answered these questions choose one of the application questions below to enhance today's study.

Applying John 1:1-18 to Your Life

1. Does the Prologue's exalted description of who Jesus is make you feel more or less willing to entrust your eternal destiny to Him? Write out a prayer to God that describes how the Prologue makes you feel about Jesus.
2. Can you think of analogies between natural birth and spiritual birth (cf. 12, 13)? How is life in a family like life in the church and vice versa?
3. Law and grace (v.17) are both aspects of God's nature. How can a person keep these aspects of God's character in balance? Can you think of a time when your understanding of law and grace was out of balance? What were some of the practical consequences of that imbalance?
4. To what extent have you allowed Jesus to "dwell" (14) in you? Is He locked outside the front door? Have you given Him a key so He can enter whenever He wants? Does He need to "call ahead" first? Would He be most at home in your kitchen, living room, bedroom, family room, or utility closet? What parts of your "house" are off-limits to Him?
5. The Prologue to John's Gospel makes it clear that Jesus is both fully human and fully divine. How is it possible for Him to be both at the same time? Can you think of some ways that people tend to emphasize one aspect over the other? What difference does one's doctrine of Christ make in everyday life?