

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

... IS THE REVELATION THAT JESUS IS THE CHRIST WHO DIED FOR OUR SINS ...

JESUS | OUR SINS

Christ died for our sins.

- (1 Corinthians 15:3 ESV) For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures.

Jesus is the Christ who died for our sins.

- (John 20:31 ESV) But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.



JESUS AND OUR SINS ...

**A JUXTAPOSITION BY WHICH WE ARE
ABLE TO INTERPRET LIFE.**

1) Introduction – Jesus and our sins ...

The Sinfulness of Sin – J.C. Ryle ... No proof of the fullness of sin, after all, is so overwhelming and unanswerable as the cross and passion of our Lord Jesus Christ and the whole doctrine of His substitution and atonement. Terribly black must that guilt be for which nothing but the blood of the Son of God could make satisfaction. Heavy must that weight of human sin be which made Jesus groan and sweat drops of blood in agony at Gethsemane and cry at Golgotha, 'My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?'

Nothing, I am convinced, will astonish us so much, when we awake in the resurrection day, as the view we will have of sin and the retrospect we will take of our own countless shortcomings and defects. **Never until the hour when Christ comes the second time will we fully realize the sinfulness of sin.** [John Charles Ryle, *Holiness (Moscow, Idaho: Charles Nolan, 2002), 8.*]

- A. Jesus and our sins ... a juxtaposition by which we are able to interpret life.
- B. We can neither interpret the reality of life here and now nor life with God in eternity if we do not place these concepts side-by-side in our investigation.
- C. A juxtaposition is the act or an instance of placing two or more things side by side often to compare or contrast or to create an interesting effect; the placement of contrasting ideas or images side by side with the intent of making a text interpretable.

2) John the Apostle is the human author

- A. John the Apostle, not John the Baptist, is the inspired human author of this book.

He does not mention himself by name but by "the disciple whom Jesus loved." The John named in the gospel is John the Baptist.

- B. John is also the human author of the three letters—1 John, 2 John and 3 John—and the book of Revelation.
- C. He clearly states his purpose in writing 1 John as he has done in the gospel.
 - (1 John 5:13 ESV) **I write these things** to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, **that you may know that you have eternal life.**
- D. In Revelation the Lord himself states John's purpose and commands him to write.

- (Revelation 1:1 ESV) The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him **to show to his servants the things that must soon take place.** He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John.
- (Revelation 1:11 ESV) Saying, "**Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches,** to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea."

E. Christ named John and James the Sons of Thunder.

- (Mark 3:17 ESV) **James** the son of Zebedee and **John the brother of James** (to whom he gave the name Boanerges, that is, **Sons of Thunder**).

F. At his very end on the cross Jesus entrusted the care of his mother to John.

- (John 19:26–27 ESV) When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "**Woman, behold, your son!**" 27 Then he said to the disciple, "**Behold, your mother!**" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

3) John's stated purpose in writing

John's stated purpose in writing this book is to reveal that Jesus is the Christ that we may believe and that by believing we may have life in his name.

- A. John's stated purpose "in this book" was to reveal that Jesus is the Christ.
 - (John 20:30–31 ESV) **Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book;** 31 but these are written **so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.**
- B. Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples which are not written in this book.
 - (John 21:24–25 ESV) **This is the disciple who is bearing witness** about these things, and **who has written these things,** and we know that his testimony is true. 25 Now there are also many other things that Jesus did. **Were every one of them to be written,** I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.

C. These miraculous signs were performed in the presence of his disciples to transform John and the others to be compelling witnesses to the gospel.

- (1 John 1:1–2 ESV) That which was from the beginning, which we **have heard**, which we **have seen** with our eyes, which we **looked upon** and **have touched** with our hands, **concerning the word of life**— 2 the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it **and proclaim to you the eternal life**, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us.

D. We need to allow the Holy Spirit of God to impact our lives with the amazing significance of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus—God came to Earth and died for sinful humans.

4) A closer look at John's stated purpose

A. These were written down to powerfully and convincingly establish the identity of Jesus as the Christ that we may believe.

B. These were written down to powerfully and convincingly establish the identity of Jesus as the Son of God that we may believe.

C. These were written down to powerfully and convincingly establish that everything the Bible says about Jesus is true so that by believing we may have life in his name.

- (John 20:31 ESV) But these are written **so that you may believe** that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and **that by believing you may have life in his name**.

D. Jesus came to live on this earth with one purpose in mind—to die for our sins that we may have life.

5) We have life in his name by believing

That is the simple truth of the gospel and it is communicated repeatedly throughout the Gospel of John and the New Testament. There are too many people who are deceived and/or confused who undermine the truth of the gospel because they refuse to accept the simple truth God gives us in his word regarding salvation.

A. We need to pay much closer attention to what we have already heard—what has been written.

- (Hebrews 2:1 ESV) Therefore **we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard**, lest we drift away from it.

B. Christ died for our sins.

- (1 Corinthians 15:3–4 ESV) For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: **that Christ died for our sins** in accordance with the Scriptures, 4 **that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day** in accordance with the Scriptures.

C. Jesus is the Christ.

- (Matthew 16:13–17 ESV) Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, **"Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"** 14 And they said, **"Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets."** 15 He said to them, **"But who do you say that I am?"** 16 Simon Peter replied, **"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."** 17 And Jesus answered him, **"Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven."**

D. The strong, unmistakable, resounding, repeated statement in Scripture is that we have life in Jesus's name by believing in him.

- (John 1:12–13 ESV) But to all who did receive him, **who believed in his name**, he gave the right to become children of God, 13 **who were born**, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, **but of God**.
- (John 3:14–15 ESV) And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15 **that whoever believes in him may have eternal life**.
- (John 3:16 ESV) For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, **that whoever believes in him** should not perish but have eternal life.
- (John 3:18 ESV) **Whoever believes in him** is not condemned, but **whoever does not believe** is condemned already, **because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God**.
- (John 3:36 ESV) **Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life**; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.
- (John 6:28–29 ESV) Then they said to him, "What must we do, to be doing the works of God?" 29 Jesus answered them, **"This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent."**



- (John 6:35 ESV) Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, **and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.**”
- (John 6:40 ESV) **For this is the will of my Father,** that everyone who looks on the Son **and believes in him should have eternal life,** and I will raise him up on the last day.
- (John 6:67–69 ESV) So Jesus said to the twelve, “Do you want to go away as well?” 68 Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, 69 **and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.**”
- (John 7:38–39 ESV) **Whoever believes in me,** as the Scripture has said, “Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.” 39 Now this he said about the Spirit, **whom those who believed in him were to receive,** for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.
- (John 8:24 ESV) **I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am he you will die in your sins.**
- (John 11:25–26 ESV) Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. **Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, 26 and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.** Do you believe this?”
- (John 12:44–46 ESV) And Jesus cried out and said, “**Whoever believes in me, believes not in me but in him who sent me.** 45 And whoever sees me sees him who sent me. 46 I have come into the world as light, **so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness.**
- (John 5:24 ESV) Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word **and believes him who sent me has eternal life.** He does not come into judgment, **but has passed from death to life.**
- (John 6:47 ESV) Truly, truly, I say to you, **whoever believes has eternal life.**

A. In the beginning the Word was existing (eimi).

- (John 1:1 ESV) In the beginning **was the Word,** and **the Word was with God,** and **the Word was God.**
- (Revelation 1:8 ESV) “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “**who is and who was and who is to come,** the Almighty.”
- (Genesis 1:1 ESV) In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

B. The Word was with God in close, intimate fellowship.

7) Conclusion – Lost in Eden but found in Christ

A. We can once again be “with God” as Adam and Eve were in the garden before they rebelled—and actually our relationship in Christ is superior to that.

B. This relationship is what we lost in the Garden of Eden.

C. This relationship is what we regain through Christ.

- (John 14:21–24 ESV) Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. **And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.** 22 Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, “Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?” 23 Jesus answered him, “**If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.** 24 Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father’s who sent me.

D. This relationship with the Father and the Son is alive and well in those who have and keep his words.

E. Our love for and obedience to the word of Christ is a spiritual barometer that measures our nearness to or distance from Christ.

- (Psalm 119:47 ESV) For I find my delight in your commandments, which I love.

6) Setting sail – proving that Jesus is God

To set sail is to hoist the sails in preparation for departure; begin a voyage by water.



Will continue our voyage from here next week ...