



Sermon Title: "Jesus, the Eternal Word"

Scripture: John 1:1-3

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Introduction

So many beloved verses: John 3:16; 6:35; 8:32; 10:11; 11:25; 14:1-3; 14:6; 15:11

The Gospel According to John is unique! It **OMITS**...

- details surrounding Jesus' physical birth
- the institution of the Lord's Supper
- the ascension of Jesus back into heaven
- every parable that Jesus taught

The Gospel According to John is unique! It **INCLUDES**...

- the miracle of Jesus changing water into wine (John 2)
- Jesus' meeting with Nicodemus (John 3)
- Jesus' conversation with the woman at the well in Samaria (John 4)
- the resurrection of Lazarus (John 11)

A. Authorship and Date

Note: The _____ Author of this book is God, the Holy Spirit, and the _____ author of this book is John, the Apostle.

John was an eyewitness to the public & private life & ministry of Jesus Christ! (1 John 1:1-2)

Note: Throughout this book, John refers to himself as "the disciple whom Jesus _____". (John 13:23; 19:26; 20:2; 21:7; 21:20)

Note: John is not being arrogant; he is giving us an _____ to follow! He's showing us how we ought to identify ourselves and think about ourselves as individuals who are "in Christ".

Note: John wrote this book, most likely, sometime between ____ and ____ AD, about 40 to 60 years after the resurrection and ascension of Jesus.

Three Pieces of External Evidence...

1) The _____ Evidence

- Discovery and Translation in 1934
- "P52" or "Saint John's Fragment" at the John Rylands Library in Manchester, England
- Most likely written decades before 125 AD

2) The Community at _____ where the Dead Sea Scrolls were Discovered

- Qumran close to Jerusalem
- Jewish writing and thought preserved in Dead Sea Scrolls
- Terminology and vocabulary consistent with John's writings

- 3) The _____ Presented in this Gospel has been Proven Accurate
- Bethsaida, the praetorium, the village of Bethany, Solomon's Porch, the Kidron Brook
 - two distinct "Bethanys", one located "beyond the Jordan" and another "near Jerusalem"
 - the discovery of the pool called Bethesda from John 5:2 (along with its five porches)

B. Purpose and Theme

- 1) The Penetrating Purpose: John wrote that we might _____ and _____ Christ!
John 20:30-31 -

Note: John is emphasizing the need for _____ ongoing belief, faith, and trust in Jesus.

- 2) The Pervasive Theme: The _____ and the _____ of Jesus permeates every page.
John 1:1, 14 -

I. Jesus, the Eternal Word

- 1) Jesus has existed from eternity _____.
- 2) Jesus has existed from eternity past in _____ with the Father and with the Spirit.
- 3) Jesus is in fact _____.
- 4) All things that exist have been created _____, and because of, Jesus.
- 5) There has never been anything created that wasn't created by _____.

Take Home Questions for Further Study...

1) Why doesn't John go into detail about Jesus' physical birth? How does this serve the overall purpose of the book?

2) Why do you think that John includes seven specific miracles (changing of water into wine, chapter 2; healing of the official's son, chapter 4; healing of the paralyzed man, chapter 5; feeding of the five thousand, chapter 6; walking on water, chapter 6; healing of the blind man, chapter 9; and the raising of Lazarus from the dead, chapter 11) in his book? (Hint: Look at John 2:11)

3) Why does John refer to himself as "the disciple whom Jesus loved"? What can we learn from this?

4) What is John's purpose for writing this book? What does John want us to see? (Hint: Look at John 20:30-31 and John 1:14, 17-18)

5) How can glory and grace be seen in a book? How does Scripture reveal and show us the glory and grace of Jesus?

6) If all things have been created by Jesus, how should this impact the way I think about myself, my job, my family, my possessions, my money, etc? (Hint: Look at Colossians 1:16)

7) How does John stress the fact that Jesus is not a created being but the Creator of all things? Why does John stress this? Why is this point so important?