

December 20, 2020
Christ Chapel Of Bandera
Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study

Not needed to follow this writing/lesson is a referenced Study Guide. An attempt has been made where anybody with a Bible will find easy reading.

Sunday, December 20, 2020. The Gospel Project; Adult Daily Discipleship Guide ESV; Volume 10, Number 2; Winter 2020-21; The Word Became Flesh.

Quote from Billy Graham:

Our faith can stand up to any question, but sometimes people ask questions – and keep asking questions – just to avoid facing their own spiritual needs and acknowledge who Jesus really is.

Opening Prayer:

In class: Ask an attendee to open with a word of prayer.

On WEB site: Lord God, Creator of all, Ruler of all, we unprofitable sinners humbly come before You to thank You for sending Your Son from heaven to dwell among men. Your Son, Jesus, the Messiah, the only hope sinners have for a right relationship with You, humbled Himself, was mistreated by Your creation, was put to death, all for mere man's sake. Jesus defeated evil and rose again from the dead giving man the hope of redemption. Those who have accepted the abundant grace and mercy available through Jesus Christ, through Jesus and Jesus alone, give thanks to You. Amen.

Disclaimer:

I am not seminary trained. Other than being a Christian, I do not claim any special relationship with God. Therefore, feel free to disagree with anything and everything I write/say.

The Lesson:

Using the Bible translation of your choice, read John 1:1-18.

Questions for thought:

“In the beginning,” the beginning of what?

“The Word,” who or what was/is the word?

“The Word” created all things?

“The Word” was/is the life and light of men?

“The Word” was/is the Light?

Then why did men not comprehend “The Word”?

When did all this, this plan, this idea, all this work for “The Word” come about?

Eph 1:4 says, “Just as He [God] chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him.”

Acts 2:23 says, “This Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death.”

II Thes 2:13 says, “But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.

I Tim 2:5 says, “For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and man the man Christ Jesus.”

The study guide says in the two paragraphs on page 32:

The Old Testament law that governed the life of Israel came through Moses for the purpose of preparing for and pointing forward to the grace and truth found in Jesus. The law revealed God’s character and His righteous requirements for His people. But the law’s intent was never for us to jump through hoops, keep the rules, and try to become righteous through our own efforts. No the law showed us that we could never be righteous in our own works; therefore, the law confines us all under sin and shows us that we are indeed sinners in need of a Savior (Gal 3:19, 22-25).

What the law could not provide – salvation – Jesus provided for us through His life, death, resurrection, and the sending of the Holy Spirit (see Rom. 8:3-4). Though the law was good and true, Jesus, the one and only Son of God the Father, brought grace and truth to us in a fuller sense. The law was a shadow pointing to the substance, who is Christ (see Col. 2:17; Heb. 10:1). The Scriptures stress that Jesus is the reality, the revelation of God and the fulfillment of all the Law and the Prophets. The entire Old Testament pointed to Him so we would find life in Him, the giver of grace and truth.

Questions for thought:

In John 1:7, why did the Light need a witness to testify? (So that all might believe through him)

Was such a witness prophesied in the Old Testament? (Yes)

Isaiah 4:3-5

A voice is calling, “Clear the way for the Lord in the wilderness; make smooth in the desert a highway for our God. Let every valley be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; and let the rough ground become a plain and the rugged terrain a broad valley; then the glory of the Lord will be revealed and all flesh will see it together; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

Malachi 3:1 says in part, “Behold, I am going to send My messenger and he will clear the way before me...”

Therefore, was the witness needed to fulfill all prophecies?

Continued questions for thought:

Did “the Light” enlighten every man? (vs 9)

Was “the Light” in the world? (vs 10)

Did “the Light” come to His own, people that should have known Him? (vs 11)

Then why didn’t every man know Him, why didn’t the world see Him, why didn’t His own recognize Him?

Today, do all men receive Him?

Why not?

Is there an excuse to not accept Him?

The Study Guide advises in the last paragraph on page 34:

Do not lose sight of the staggering significance of the incarnation this Christmas. John the Baptist, the last in line of the old-covenant prophets, prepared people for the coming of the Messiah who is also God. He prepared the way of the Lord, the Lord who was the God of Israel. The true light indeed was coming into the world (John1:9).

And continues in the first section of page 35:

“The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world” (John 1:9). What does this light do?

First, the light *illuminates*. We live in darkness without Christ, and the only way we can come to know Him is because the Light – His light – shines in the darkness.

Second, the light *exposes*. The light rightly judges all human kind, our works and our motives. We don’t see our lives accurately until we see them in the light of Jesus.

Third, the light *guides* us. Jesus directs us through the Holy Spirit, the Counselor whom He sent.

Finally, the light *divides*. Though eternal life is offered to all humanity, the light nonetheless divides those who reject Christ from those who turn to Him.

Jesus, the true light, came into the world so that all might believe.

Questions for thought:

Did “the Word” become flesh and dwell among men? (vs 14)

Why?

Did “the Word” give us grace and mercy?

Continued questions for thought:

Did “the Word” give us hope?

Did “the Word” offer us salvation from our sins?

The Study Guide says on page 31:

From eternity, the Second Person of the Trinity, the Son of God, is the Word. The Word came into His creation in flesh to reveal God’s glory to us in fullness. Jesus is the Word. Jesus didn’t come merely to speak God’s message to the world as a prophet of God; rather, Jesus *is* the message of God. As the One who is truly God and truly man, Jesus is God’s ultimate message to a dying world: Who He is and what He has accomplished – in short, the gospel – is the greatest message the world has ever heard.

Jesus, the eternal Word, came into this world in flesh to reconnect us with our original purpose for living, namely, to know God and glorify Him forever. In other words, Jesus came so we would be freed from sin to live for God’s glory just as He did. As we know and follow Jesus by faith, we begin to emulate Him and live with that purpose in mind. This, in fact, was the original purpose for which we were created: All things were created by the Son, through the Son, and *for* the Son for the glory of God (Isa. 43:7; Col.1:16).

It continues on page 36, the second to the last paragraph and the last sentence of the last paragraph:

As the eternal Word, Jesus revealed God to us and He also identified with us as a human being. The last phrase in [John 1] verse 18 – “he has made him known” – means that Jesus came to clarify for us who God is. The reason Jesus came to this earth is because God wants to be known. And Jesus is the fullest way we can know who God is.

We have a Savior who not only suffered *with* us but also suffered *for* us in order to end all suffering one day.

Do we as Christians have a reason to rejoice?

Let us go next-door together rejoicing for the Glory of the Lord will be revealed to us.

Thank you for allowing me to worship the Lord with you today.

Joe Huth