

Sunday School – 6/14/09

John 1

1. Review last week
 - a. The author is unknown but it is assumed to be the Apostle John based on a number of factors (not conclusive)
 - b. Purpose: to build faith in Christ (20:31)
 - c. Significant differences between other three gospels
 - d. Major point is theological and not Christological (detailing Christ's life)
 - i. Messianic status (Anointed One: prophet, priest & king)
 - ii. Jesus as Son of God
 - iii. Uses significant titles like: I am, the Way, the Truth, the Life
 - iv. Frequent mention of the Holy Spirit
2. Memorize John 1:1-5
3. Important Elements
 - a. Word (Logos)
 - i. Key to understanding the whole Gospel
 - ii. Principle, reason, thought, concept; story, narrative, history
 - iii. Used widely in Greek literature – reason & creative control (stoics)
 - iv. OT- activity & revelation; wisdom of God personified (Word of Wisdom)
 - v. Word became flesh – became human and was incorporated into the full flow of human affairs
 - vi. Dwelt among us – tabernacled, referring back to when God was in the Tabernacle
 - b. John the Baptist
 - i. Mother was Elizabeth, Jesus' mother's relative (likely cousin) Luke 1:36
 - ii. Mother was from the line of Aaron and father was a priest (Luke 1:5)
 - iii. Many believe that the author John was a disciple of John the Baptist and some even believe that he was Jesus' half cousin (in dispute, primarily because there are so many John's and little is known about any one of them)
 - c. Light (7-9)
 - i. Close connection between life & light (life depends on light)
 - ii. The spiritual enlightenment that we received exclusively through the coming of the Word
 - iii. Bring man illumination into God's character, salvation and plans; and illuminate man's way
 - iv. Contrasted with darkness
 - v. Also found in OT and Jewish theology
 - d. Grace & Truth (v14, 17)
 - i. God's grace and a revelation of His truth
 - ii. Found frequently in John
 - iii. Contrast – how can it be both grace (unmerited favor) and **truth** (define both)
 - iv. In today's philosophy, it is either one or the other...but in our God it is both
4. Summary of Chapter
 - a. Prologue 1:1-18
 - i. Beginning parallels opening of Genesis
 - ii. Sets out the Word as both divine (**explain**) but also deity (**explain**)

- iii. Jesus playing an active role in creation (vv3,4,10)
 - iv. John the Baptist as a witness
 - v. References to the world mean not only the physical creation but also those opposed to God.
 - vi. Verse 11 – Israel did not recognize him
 - vii. One blessing after another (v16) – progression of gracious experiences
 - viii. No one has ever seen Him (v18) – yet they witnessed him
 - b. Introduction of John the Baptist
 - i. Notice the authority he is given – he clearly has a strong following and the religious leaders have noticed
 - ii. Use the dialog with the Jews as a contrast between John the Baptist & Jesus
 - iii. The Lamb of God – Jews would have understood this as the sacrificial lamb, but not in the form of a person
 - c. Calling of the disciples
 - i. Notice in verse 37 there are two disciples but only one is mentioned – was the other John the author?
 - ii. The way Andrew immediately goes to find his brother is an indication that he recognizes the great importance of Jesus
 - iii. Early recognition of Jesus as the Son of God
5. Application/Meditation: How does Jesus bring meaning to your life?
6. Memorize John 1:1-5