

Through the Bible Course

John

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Key Thought: Christ, the Son of God

Key Verse: 16:28

Author: John, the beloved apostle. There have been many attempts to refute the Johannine authorship, but it is still generally accepted. He was an eyewitness as shown by the exactness of his descriptions as manifested by number of persons, exactness of time, definiteness of place. He was of three most intimately associated with Christ.

Time: Is generally accepted as about 90AD. John died a very old man exiled on Isle of Patmos.

Purpose: Is stated in 20:31. There had arisen some who denied that Christ was God. John wrote to establish the fact that He was God manifest in the flesh. He proves this by setting forth in simplest form the manifestations of His power which would demonstrate to all that He was not a mere man.

- I. The Eternal Son of God – 1:1-5
 1. His pre-incarnation work
 2. His incarnation

- II. Revealed as Son of God by His Deeds and Words (1:6 – 11:57). Testimony of many witnesses as to His deity
 1. John the Baptist – 1:15-37
 - a. verse 29 – behold Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world
 2. Nathaniel – 1:49
 3. Disciples on occasion of first miracle – 2:11
 4. Nicodemus – 3:2, a teacher come from God
 5. The Samaritan woman – 4:29
 6. The Samaritans – 4:49
 7. The nobleman – 4:46-54
 8. His own testimony – 5:17, 18; 6:29; 6:35-40; 8:17, 18, 21-24; 28, 42, 58; 10:7-18; 14:8-10
 9. The Father – 5:36-38
 10. Those who were among 5,000 who were fed – 6:14
 11. The man born blind – 9:35-38

- III. Son of God Reveals Himself More Fully to His Own (12:1 – 17:26). He was rejected by the Jews; and after chapter 12 speaks no more openly, but makes a fuller revelation of Himself to His own followers

1. The last Passover; washing disciples' feet; betrayal foretold – chapter 13
2. Words of comfort and coming of Holy Spirit promised – chapter 14
3. His intimate relationship with them foretold – chapter 15
4. Warning of treatment they would receive the words of encouragement – chapter 16
5. Great prayer of intercession for them and us – chapter 17

IV. Son of God Put to Death – Chapters 18 and 19

1. Forsaken
2. Trial
3. Death

V. Shown to be Son of God by Resurrection from Dead – Chapter 20

VI. Son of God Master of Life and Service – Chapter 21

1. Power to accomplish under His direction – 21:1-14
2. Demands love – 21:15-17
3. Demands followers – 21:18-25

(This outline is based upon one given by Dr. William Parker White)

Because so many today deny the deity of Christ, let me give you here some reasons why Christians throughout the centuries have believe in Him as God.

- I. Names applied to Him which would indicate He was God: The Word of God, the Truth, the Son of God, God, Holy One of God, Only Begotten Son, Lord, King of Kings, Prince of Peace, Immanuel, the First and the Last.
- II. God by voice from heaven called Him His own “beloved Son” – Matthew 3:17; 17:5; Mark 1:11; 9:17; Luke 3:22; 9:35
- III. Jesus claimed to be Son of God
 1. Note places He used formula “I AM,” which could only be applied to God; “I am bread of life” – John 6:35, 38; “I am the resurrection and the life” – John 11:25; 14:6; “I am the Messiah” – John 4:25, 26 (as you read John you can add still more).
 2. He claimed equality with God
 - a. John 5:17, 18; John 10:30; Mark 2:10; Matthew 28:18-20
 - b. People recognized that He made this claim – Matthew 4:3, 6; Matthew 14:33; John 19:7
 3. He said His works showed this
 - a. John 10:37, 38
 - b. John 5:36
- IV. His works demonstrate He was God
 1. He had power over disease, sickness, leprosy, nature, demons and death itself.
 2. Surely no mere man could do the things He did.

- V. Witness of various individuals
 - 1. Refer to outline on John under II.
 - 2. Down through the ages men of all walks of life of all nations have testified to truth Christ is God.