
John 16:31 - 33 (NLT) ³¹Jesus asked, "Do you finally believe?"

John 17:1 - 5 (KJV) ¹These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee: ²As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. ³**And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.** ⁴I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. ⁵And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.

4 GREAT REALITIES

"I made known your name to the people you gave me out of the world (they were yours, and you gave them to me!), and they have kept your Word. Now they have come to know [four great realities]:

- [a] *that everything you gave to me [and that they have experienced in me] comes from you;*
- [b] *that the words you gave to me are the very words I gave to them (and they have accepted them as such [i.e., as the very words of God]);*
- [c] *that I really [and not just figuratively] came down from your very side;*
- [d] *and that [in short] they have come to believe that you sent me.*

Why This Gospel Was Written

John is selective in what he includes, and his selections point to a distinct purpose, one he provides for us in 20:30-31.

John 20:30-31 (NASB)

³⁰Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.

In this purpose statement, John offers two primary reasons for writing:

- 1) That you might believe Jesus is the Christ (the Messiah) and the Son of God (a divine human person)
- 2) That believing you may have life.

Thus, John's purpose centers on telling us:

- 1) Who Jesus is;
- 2) Why we should believe on Him.

1) Who Jesus is:

Prov 8:22 - 33 (NLT)

²² “The LORD formed me from the beginning,
before he created anything else.
²³ I was appointed in ages past,
at the very first, before the earth began.
²⁴ I was born before the oceans were created,
before the springs bubbled forth their waters.
²⁵ Before the mountains were formed,
before the hills, I was born—
²⁶ before he had made the earth and fields
and the first handfuls of soil.
²⁷ I was there when he established the heavens,
when he drew the horizon on the oceans.
²⁸ I was there when he set the clouds above,
when he established springs deep in the earth.
²⁹ I was there when he set the limits of the seas,
so they would not spread beyond their boundaries.
And when he marked off the earth’s foundations,
³⁰ I was the architect at his side.
I was his constant delight,
rejoicing always in his presence.
³¹ And how happy I was with the world he created;
how I rejoiced with the human family!
³² “And so, my children, listen to me,
for all who follow my ways are joyful.
³³ Listen to my instruction and be wise.
Don’t ignore it.

We were created by Jesus:

“And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ.” (Ephesians 3:9)

In the context of this verse, Paul is testifying concerning his divine call to preach the gospel, especially proclaiming God’s great plan to the Gentiles as well as the Jews.

In support of this revolutionary concept, Paul refers to the great fact of creation. All men, and indeed “all things,” had been created by one God. Furthermore, it was by the Lord Jesus Christ that God had created all things. Before the revelation of this mystery, the Gentiles had been “without God in the world” (Ephesians 2:12). The phrase “without God” (Greek *atheos*, from which we get the word “atheist”) is used only this once in the New Testament, and it indicates plainly the barrenness of all pagan religions. “But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ” (Ephesians 2:13).

Thus, by Jesus Christ all things were created, and by Jesus Christ “all things” will be gathered “together in one” in the “dispensation of the fullness of times” (Ephesians 1:10). This is all part of the same “mystery of his will,” according to

the preceding verse, Ephesians 1:9. In the last chapter, Paul again refers to this now-revealed “mystery” when he urges the Ephesians to pray that he might be able to “make known the mystery of the gospel” (Ephesians 6:19).

Thus the “gospel of your salvation” (Ephesians 1:13), which we like Paul are commanded to make known, is the glorious news that Jesus Christ is both Creator and Consummator of all things, and that by His work of salvation all who believe, whether Jews or Gentiles, receive eternal salvation. “All things were created by him,” and He has shed His blood “to reconcile all things unto himself” (Colossians 1:16, 20).

An Indiana cemetery has a tombstone over a hundred years old with the following inscription,

“Pause, stranger, when you pass me by:

As you are now, so once was I.

As I am now, so you will be.

So prepare for death and follow me.”

An unknown passerby had scratched these additional words on the tombstone;

“To follow you I’m not content,

Until I know which way you went.”

MMM

No Jesus, No Peace

Know Jesus, Know Peace

John 17:3

³And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.