

UPPER ROOM ADULT BIBLE STUDY  
“The Gospel of John”  
Pastor Jim Otte  
Spring – Fall, 2019

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**Lesson 5: John 1:19-34. Don't Shoot the Messenger!**

The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup> He came to his own,<sup>[b]</sup> and his own people<sup>[c]</sup> did not receive him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

- a. “yet the world did not know him” (“gnosko”) – to know. **Two aspects of “know”**
  - a. **Knowing:** intellectual knowing: ‘natural knowledge’ of God derived from seeing the world around us.
    - i. **Romans 1:19-20**. *For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. <sup>20</sup> For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world,<sup>[a]</sup> in the things that have been made.*
    - ii. Natural knowledge, alone, creates a relationship based on fear, because it's focused on God's power (without His love). God's actions in nature (rain, storms, earthquakes, famine, etc.) do not alone point to His love.
  - b. **Knowing:** relationship; intimacy; faith connection of being loved.
  - c. “**did not know**” – choosing to reject the relationship and love which God offers to all
    - i. What contributes to not knowing?
    - ii. What contributes to choose not to know?
- b. “**his own people did not receive him.**” – Jesus' initial ministry reached out to Israel. He received a mixed response!
  - a. Rejected by those who believed they were already “chosen” and did not need forgiveness or salvation.
  - b. Rejected by those whose expectation of Him was to be a political warrior – not a spiritual Savior.
  - c. Accepted by those who realized they were in need of God's mercy and could not achieve salvation by their good works.
- c. “**receive...believed...become children of God**” – when the “light” of the gospel is offered, we “receive” it (we don't reject it). “Receive” keeps the proper

emphasis on God, as the active initiator and people as the passive receivers.  
Reception in faith changes WHO we are, and who claims us as His own.

d. **“born...of God”** – a new birth (born again) into the family of God.

<sup>14</sup> **And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son<sup>[d]</sup> from the Father, full of grace and truth.** <sup>15</sup> (John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”) <sup>16</sup> **For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.<sup>[e]</sup>** <sup>17</sup> **For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.** <sup>18</sup> **No one has ever seen God; the only God,<sup>[f]</sup> who is at the Father's side,<sup>[g]</sup> he has made him known.**

a. **“Word became flesh and dwelt among us”**

- a. The Greek belief, that the divine (essentially good) could not become matter (essentially evil), is contradicted in Jesus.
- b. God, as the supremely, perfect God provides the bridge/mediator between perfect God and imperfect people: Jesus!
- c. Jesus, as the “logos” (the mind of God), is the expression of how God feels about us.

b. “we have seen” – John is testifying as a witness.

c. **“the only Son from the Father”** – the 2<sup>nd</sup> Person in the Holy Trinity!

d. **“grace upon grace.”** – layered grace as God’s underserved love for us

e. **“full of grace and truth”** – Jesus is “grace and truth” embodied.

f. **“the law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.”**

- a. One prime difference between Law and Gospel (grace and truth) is that the Gospel gives life; while the Law condemns.
- b. Moses was a “type” or foreshadowing of Jesus. What parallels exist?

### **Outreach Applications:**

- c. Jesus is the real “\_\_\_\_\_.”
- d. Many people are susceptible to following \_\_\_\_\_ deceptive light.
- e. Filter what people \_\_\_\_\_, through the Word
  - i. Three Biblically conservative principles to remember!
    - 1. Is there more than one verse to support a teaching? (Scripture interprets Scripture)
    - 2. Is the teaching sensitive to the context of a scripture?
    - 3. Does the person believe the whole Bible is the Word of God?