

John's Primary Theme: Believe (Pisteuo)

I. "BELIEVE"

A. John's mission statement - his reason for writing (John 20:30-31)

- (a) Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.
- 2. *Things to notice:*
 - a) Jesus did many more signs than John records
 - (1) *cf 21:25 - the world could not contain the books that would be written if all the things Jesus did were written down.*
 - b) Jesus' disciples witnessed these signs
 - (1) *Both those written in this Gospel and others that were not*
 - (2) *The first thing John records (after telling us who Jesus is through the Prologue and John the Baptist's witness) is the collecting of Jesus' disciples*
 - (a) So that we would know that the disciples (Apostles) were there to witness the signs
 - (b) One of the purposes of the Apostles was to get a firsthand account of Jesus' life and then transmit it (preaching and writing)
 - c) Jesus' work on earth has a purpose; John's Gospel is not just descriptive, it's prescriptive
 - (1) *This is not intended to be a history lesson alone; it is not just information for the sake of data accumulation*
 - (2) *God superintended the recording of Jesus words and supernatural acts so that you can know that they actually happened... and in knowing that they happen(ed) you BELIEVE*
 - d) What is it that we are supposed to believe?
 - (1) *That Jesus IS AT THE SAME TIME:*
 - (a) Jesus of Nazareth, the man in the flesh who worked, ate, slept, laughed? and cried here on earth... AND
 - (b) The Messiah, the promised savior of the world, the one written about thousands of years ago... AND
 - (c) A member of the triune God who was before the time, space, and matter that He created
 - i) Specifically, He is the Son, the Lamb of God who takes away sin
 - e) Believing does something, it changes something. What does it do, what does it change?
 - (1) *Believing gives us life*
 - (a) It changes our relationship with God. We are sinners, He is holy and righteous
 - (b) Left to ourselves we don't know Him (Prologue)
 - (c) We were dead in our sin, now we have life
 - f) What kind of life is it?
 - (1) *Life in His name*
 - (a) Believing doesn't give us life independently... an eternal solitude (if such a thing were possible)
 - (b) It is a life IN HIM!
 - i) John 17:6, 11, 12, 26 - Jesus shows us God's name and keeps us in God's name that God's love might be in us and Jesus might be in us.

B. Again, John 20:30-31 - The Chain of Revelation

1. *Jesus comes to earth as GOD/MAN and does signs that his disciples see...*
2. *His disciples see the signs and write them down (like John's Gospel)...*
3. *John's audience reads his Gospel and learns about Jesus...*
4. *Learning about Jesus, we BELIEVE...*
5. *Believing, we have life...*
6. *Life in Jesus!*