

Episode #2-30 John 20 Part 4 – John’s Great Theme

I. The purpose of the gospel of John is to produce believers in the fact that Jesus is the Christ, the One anointed by God to be the Savior of the world, and that Jesus is the Son of God, God represented in human form.

II. We have considered the Lord’s death on the cross for our sins, His burial, and His resurrection. Now, we are considering the various witnesses to the Lord’s resurrection as we have them in the book of John. First, we saw Mary Magdalene, who met the Lord at the tomb. Next, we learned how ten of the disciples saw the Lord in a locked room where He appeared.

III. John 20:30-31. The purpose of John’s great treatise.

A. Verse 30. Here John is completing his treatise. The resurrection is his final evidence, and Thomas is his final witness. Now his conclusion. The book of John is not a comprehensive record. He only chose to record what he was inspired by the Spirit to choose. There was other evidence!

B. Verse 31. No other book boldly proclaims itself THE book written to produce believers. Eonian life is promised to those who believe these things!

1. What does it mean to believe Jesus is the Christ? Christ = Greek, “Messiah” = Hebrew, “Anointed One” = English. To anoint is to smear or pour oil on one ceremonially. To the Hebrew, this signified setting apart, designating, or electing for a certain office, task, or service. Jesus Christ was marked out by God, given a task, and commissioned as a Servant. His role is King, Judge, and Governor in God’s government. He was designated as Deliverer for His most important work: the cross.
2. What does it mean to believe that Jesus is the Son of God? In English, son = male child. Israel was nomadic, and the family was ruled by the patriarch. Later, when they were settled in the land, the family business was run by the male leader. When that man died or retired, who would take over? Often the oldest boy, he who became the “son.” When he took over the business, he would be the representative of the father, even if the father was still alive. The Lord Jesus is the true Representative of the Father. Not “God’s little boy,” but One Who acts on behalf of God and represents Him perfectly. He is the visible, physical, touchable representative of the invisible, unknowable God.
3. If we believe, we receive eonian life!
4. You = a second person pronoun. What is the antecedent? There is none in the context. This is a common literary device wherein the reader of the book is to substitute himself in for the word “you.” Anyone who reads this book can have life in His name. The promise of the book of John!
5. What does “in His name” mean? With His permission or authority. You have His permission to believe, and His permission to receive eonian life!
6. For more on how John’s gospel compared to what Paul says his gospel is, listen to the bonus audio on the website, “John’s Gospel Vs. Paul’s Gospel.”

IV. Conclusion: John’s Treatise draws to a close. He has presented his case. Now, the focus shifts to us. What will we do with the information he has given us? Will we believe? Or will we reject, and go on trying to please God through our own good works and actions, or else ignoring God and living for ourselves? The question comes back to you: what will you do with the truths of John? The choice to believe or not to believe is up to you!