

- B. We receive of the fulness. John 1:16,17.
 - 1. The law came by Moses; Christ brought something better. Rom. 6:14,15.
 - 2. Grace *and* Truth --(The O.T. was *shadow* but Jesus brought the *real* thing).

VII. No Man Has Seen God - v.18 (1 John 4:12).

- A. Former messengers and prophets were limited in their knowledge.
 - 1. They had seen the manifestations of Him.
 - 2. What they knew they had told accurately, but they were limited.
- B. Jesus knew God *fully*. John 5:37, 6:46

VIII. The Son Hath Declared The Father v.18

- A. Only one who can. Col. 1:15
- B. "Which is in the bosom of the Father." He knew Him intimately. Implies that He declared, not His wisdom nor His power nor His majesty, but His *heart*.
- C. "Declared" John 14:9,10; Heb 1:3. He manifested *Him* by becoming flesh.

Conclusion:

- 1. The main topic headings contain John's thesis! The remainder of the book is written to give evidence in support of this thesis.
- 2. Jesus declares God to us.
- 3. We are to declare Jesus to the world.

The Thesis Of The Gospel Of John

John 1:1-18

Introduction:

- 1. The writer of the book is John the Apostle; the purpose for which he wrote: "That you may believe that He is the Christ..."
- 2. The thesis of his book --his position or proposition which he advances --and offers to maintain by argument, is stated in John 1:1-18.
 - a. This may well be called a "summary" of his book.
 - b. He states what he is going to prove--then proceeds to prove it!
- 3. The key verses are 1, 14, and 18--the intervening verses are explanatory.
- 4. Topic headings in this study are the major statements in the three key verses.

I. In The Beginning Was The Word - v.1

- A. The pre-fleshly state of Christ.
 - 1. He existed in the beginning. Gen. 1:1, John 17:5
 - 2. Jesus is eternal. John 6:22; Micah 5:2
 - a. "I am" John 8:58
 - b. Came from somewhere, to go somewhere, hence neither bound by birth nor death. John 8:14; 16:28.
 - 3. Matthew and Luke start with His ancestry, but John goes beyond that.
- B. He is called the "WORD"
 - 1. He is the medium of communication between God and man.
 - 2. John starts his epistle the same way, "the Word of Life".
 - 3. Such expressions were often used in first century--John uses it to state correct doctrine concerning Jesus.

II. The Word Was With God v.1

- A. "With" implies friendship --a partaker of heaven's blessings-- intimate association.
 - 1. Proves that there is more than one person in the Godhead. They are plural, yet singular. John 17:20,21.
 - 2. John 17:5
 - 3. Philippians 2:6,7 (ASV)
- B. His relationship to the Father. John 1:2,3
 - 1. Had a part in creation. Heb. 1:1-3; Col. 1:15-17.
 - 2. "With" -- "*pros*" in Greek -- suggests united activity.

III. The Word Was God - v.1

- A. He had all the attributes of Deity.
 - 1. Not an inferior being --not *like*, but *was*. (Greek, imperfect = past action continuing to the present)
 - 2. Activity in creation shows His equality with the LORD. (YHWH)
- B. Often called "God" Heb. 1:8-12; John 20:28 ("God" denotes nature, not name or number.)

IV. The Word Became Flesh - v.14

- A. Flesh suggests human nature, as in Matt. 16:17.
 - 1. A higher order took the form of man. Phil. 2:6,7.
 - 2. Many sacrifices involved in his so doing. 2 Cor. 8:9.
- B. *Became*, or *was made*
 - 1. In v. 1 the verb *was* is in the imperfect tense of continued action.
 - 2. In this verse, a different tense, a *new form of being*.
 - a. The same noun, different verb.
- C. His relationship to man. John 1:4,5.
 - 1. Life --He is the source of all physical and spiritual life. Gen. 1:1, Eph 2:1.
 - a. John 5:26

- b. John 11:25,26
 - c. "The words that I speak ..." John 6:63
 - d. Col. 3:4; 1 John 5:20
 - 2. Light of men.
 - a. Source of knowledge. Eph. 5:13; John 8:12; 12:35,36.
 - b. He is our instruction --by the law; by the Spirit (John 14:16,26); by men (Eph. 4:11; 1 Cor 12:28).
 - c. Shines in darkness --knowledge comes to replace ignorance.
 - d. The darkness cannot overcome the light! The darkness of sin can no more overcome this light than literal darkness can put out the sun.

V. The Word Dwelt Among Us - v.14

- A. Original denotes "pitched tent" or "tabernacle".
 - 1. He ate, drank, slept, etc. with the twelve. 1 John 1:1.
 - 2. "Dwell in tents" -- be one of family. He was tempted (Heb. 4:15); He experienced every human appetite and emotion (John 4:6-8)
- B. Announced by John the Baptist. John 1:6-8;15.
 - 1. John the Baptist was not the Messiah, but a witness of Him.
 - 2. He came to prepare the minds of the people to receive Him; hence he announced his coming.
- C. Jesus is the true light. John 1:9
- D. He was rejected. John 1:10-13
 - 1. Came to His own country and His own people received Him not. (Luke 4:16,28,29).
 - 2. *Some* did receive Him.
 - 3. Those who believed had *power to become* sons of God.
 - a. Not sons as soon as believed.
 - b. Must be born again. John 3:3-5.
- E. "We beheld his glory." Matt. 17:1-5.

VI. The Word Was Full Of Grace And Truth v.14

- A. Christ was the fulness of the Godhead. Eph. 1:23; 3:19; Col. 1:19; 2:9