

The Intimate Gospel 2018-09-23

John 20:30-31

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.

Eyewitnesses to an event....landscape pic

- 4 Gospels: 4 accounts of 1 Person, Jesus Christ....Each with distinct aspect of Jesus.
 - Matthew = King/lion written primarily for Jews;
 - Mark = Servant/ox written to the Romans;
 - Luke = Son of man/man (Jesus' humanity) written to the Greeks;
 - John = God/eagle written to all who will believe.
 - Matthew, Mark, Luke = Synoptic: similar order, chronology, language.

92% of material in John only found in John.

- Gospel of John was the last gospel written (80's or early 90's A.D.) so most likely knew about other gospels and did not feel the need to duplicate what they had written.
 - Unique to John.
- Uniqueness not proof of discrepancies/contradiction among Gospels
 - Like eyewitnesses to event....Each has different perspective.
 - Amazing how coherent a picture of a single man and single set of events emerges from 4 such different points of view.
 - John had more intimate perspective than others.

Author: John, Father = Zebedee, disciple James = brother Mark 3:13-19

- Mother may have been sister of Jesus's mother Mary.
- Follower of John the Baptist when Jesus called him @ 25 years old.
 - Believed to have been youngest disciple.
- Peter, James & John = "inner circle" of disciples closest to Jesus.
 - John closest to Jesus. BFF! 13:23; 19:26-27, 21:25

Jesus's closest friend had more thorough/complete understanding of Him.

- John concluded that Jesus was, is and always will be God!
 - Evidence so overwhelming/convincing that in every Gospel of John chapter we see Jesus Christ's deity.
 - As I'm preaching through Gospel of John, I'll be wondering, "Is this when the Lord opened John's eyes that He is eternal God?"

Only in John is Jesus called "the Word;" Lamb of God; 7 great "I AM" statements of Jesus that show who He was and reveal his divinity

- Bread of life (6:51), Light of world (8:12), Door (10:9), Good Shepherd (10:11, 14), Rez & Life (11:25), Way, Truth & Life (14:6), True Vine (15:5).

John's selective, eyewitness account of person/ministry of Jesus Christ written so readers would know who Jesus is so they believe in Him and have eternal life in His name. John 20:30-31, Matthew 16:13-16, John 3:18, 9:35-38

- Key word in Gospel of John is "believe" (pisteuo), occurs 98 times

- John uses the verb but never the noun. *Gospel*

By forcing us to recognize authentic deity of Jesus Christ, John calls us to either worship Him or reject Him. There's no middle ground.

- I'm looking forward to this wonderful opportunity to fellowship w/Jesus, know His heart and ultimately worship Him in more intimate, deep way.