

IBC MOB Lesson 4 – John 1:1-18

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Subj: Last Nite's MOB Sesson--Lesson #4

Men--Last nite--after 3 weeks of exploring the history, literature, and theology of the Gospel of John--we embarked on our first detailed look at this book, beginning with consideration of John 1:1-18, the so-called "prologue" of what's to follow. In his prologue, John introduces his readers to the central themes he will be addressing in the rest of his book. Kostenberger calls these the "glasses" through which John wants his readers to "see" Jesus for who He was and is, and what He has done! And so, at the very beginning of his writing Jesus is presented, he says, as the "preexistent, incarnate Word"--the "Christological umbrella" term which encompasses Jesus' entire ministry as it is narrated in the remainder of His Gospel. All of Jesus' "works and words" flow from the "eternal fount of Jesus' eternal existence as the "Word."

We "clearly see" some of the parallels between John and Genesis--as well as other Old Testament narrative! Kostenberger (again!) notes, among other things, the "striking opening" in John's gospel as "establishing a connection between God's act of creation through His spoken word, and His act of providing salvation through His Incarnate word"!

Jesse Johnson recently called the "incarnation"--God becoming man, so that He could die for the sin of the world--as the "climax of all human history"! It changed everything! No one but the "preexistent Word-become flesh, Jesus" could have filled humankind's need for spiritual birth! The "substitutionary atonement" was necessary for our salvation! II Corinthians 5:21 says that "He (God the Father) has made Him (Jesus Christ, the Son) who knew no sin to be sin for us, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."

This great truth sets the tone for all that is to follow in our study of John! We go back again to John's purpose in writing this book. He said (in John 20:30-31) that "there were many other signs that Jesus performed in the presence of His disciples, but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name."

We'll be seeing what things John, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, selected to include in his book--beginning next week, in Lesson #5, with the first miracle Jesus performed, changing water into wine." Hope you all are challenged and excited, as I am, to move forward in our study of the Gospel According to John!

But before moving forward, however (as Kostenberger challenged us), all of us as believers and followers of Christ need to "...pause to marvel at the wonder of the incarnation"! I can't help but visualize D.C. Washington singing the song he sings so well: "O the Wonder of It All..."

Well, on the Lesson #5!

May God bless your week!

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