

2020 New Testament Reading Plan

Living Hope Fellowship, Chico
Directed Study, Week 11
John 3–9

Witnesses & Testimony

The OT Law required things to be established by 2 or 3 witnesses. John/Jesus make much of the multitude of witnesses who give testimony that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. (See 1:7, 8, 15, 19; 3:11, 26, 28, 32, 33; 4:39; 5:31, 32, 33, 34, 36, 37; 8:13, 14, 17, 18!)

1. How many "witnesses" can you spot?

The Gift of Eternal Life

Salvation (aka eternal life) is given by a sovereign & trinitarian God to whomever he chooses. Life comes from the one who has life in himself (Father, 5:21; Son 5:21; Spirit 6:63).

Father - 3:27; 4:10; 5:21, 24; 6:32, 37-39, 44, 65

Son - 3:15, 16, 36; 5:21, 39; 6:27, 33, 40, 44, 51, 57, 70

Spirit - 3:8; 4:14; 6:63

Scriptures - 5:39; 6:68

2. Where do we find information about eternal life? What must one do to get eternal life? (If you're having trouble, read John's purpose statement in 20:30-31).

Signs

John catalogs 7 *signs* Jesus performed to prove Jesus is the Christ. This week, we look at 5 of them. The signs Jesus performs are meant to cause people to *believe*. Ironically, Jesus' most strident opponents demand signs but discount the ones in front of them. They're blind!

Sign #2 = Healing of the official's son (4:46-54)

Sign #3 = Healing the paralytic (5:1-15)

Sign #4 = Feeding the 5,000 (6:5-14)

Sign #5 = Walking on water (6:5-14)

Sign #6 = Healing the blind man (9:1-7)

(Also see 3:2; 4:48; 6:26, 30; 7:31)

3. Who believes in Jesus through these signs? Who doesn't? God, open our eyes!

Why Would Anyone Want to Kill Jesus?

John 5 gives two reasons why the religious elite want to kill Jesus: healing on the **sabbath** and Jesus identifying God as "**my Father**" (5:9-18; see 7:19-26; 8:37, 40, 59). Jesus' emphasis on God as "the Father" was ground-shaking enough. To call God "my Father" was equal to a claim to deity and therefore seen as blasphemy. Chapter 5 is a massive development in John's theology of the Father/Son relationship.

4. How is God's Son seen to be equal with God himself?