

John 20:30-31, 21:24-25 – The Purpose Of The Gospels

Introduction

1. *Alice in Wonderland* – Where are you going?
 - a. Purposelessness creates a depressed spiritual state, apathy, and unintentional living – no vision, no path, no life
 - b. Ex: Richard Dawkins *River Out of Eden*
2. Postmodern culture creates a billion subjective, selfish purposes that clash into one another – no meaning, no morality, no reason for justice
 - a. Ex: Kurt Vonnegut *Cat's Cradle*
3. To say life has meaning, purpose, a rigid moral code, authority exists, morality is Divine, the world thinks these things are immoral.
 - a. To remove purpose and meaning founded in God gives rise to an amoral society where anything goes (Steve Taylor's poem)
4. Why are we here? A purpose driven life centered on individual preference or desires?
 - a. The chief end of man is glorify God and enjoy Him forever
 - b. How do we glorify Him if we do not know Him?
5. John's goal: to know God through Jesus Christ the Son & fulfill what we were created for: fellowship with God while we live unto eternal life

Main Idea: The apostle John testifies to the truthfulness of Jesus as the Christ (Prophet, Priest, King), the Son of God, so that you would realize the ultimate purpose in life – to believe in Him and have eternal life.

John's Testimony Of Jesus (John 21:24)

1. John as an eyewitness testifies to the truthfulness of what he has written
 - a. Reject his eyewitness account is to say he is a liar, & untrustworthy
 - b. We cannot understand all that Jesus did, but we have no reason not to trust John's testimony as true
2. John wrote his gospel for a purpose – to secure your faith in Jesus
 - a. John was intentional to tell us what happened so that we believe
3. John uses the plural pronoun, *We* – not uncommon for John (**3 John 12**)
4. John witnessed Jesus' words and works (**John 1:14**) and declares what he saw is true and worthy to be trusted (**John 19:35**)
5. The focus of John in his gospel is not himself, but Jesus

John's Selective History Of Jesus (John 21:25)

1. John uses hyperbole, as some Jews do (**Rabbi Yo-hanan ben Zekcai**) to say the Lord's works could fill the libraries of the world
2. John documents only specific words and works of Christ – He only wrote down what was essential for one to believe in Jesus
3. Jesus' impact on the world is infinitely momentous and His word and works are eternally endless

John's Selection Of Christ's Words & Works (John 20:30-31)

1. John writes Jesus' words & works as the ground for our faith
2. Knowing the Father through the Son gives us eternal meaning, purpose

The Seven Signs Of Christ

3. Within his gospel, John records SEVEN signs – a complete, perfect picture of Christ's works (The first half of John – *The Book of Signs*)
 - a. Water into wine at the wedding in Cana, Walking on water, Healing the noble man's son, Healing man born blind, Healing the paralytic at the Pool of Bethesda, Feeding the 5,000, and Raises Lazarus from the dead
4. Signs are pointers to something greater, a larger reality – who Jesus is as the Christ, the Son of God

The Seven Sermons Of Christ

5. John records SEVEN large discourses, compared to the other gospels
 - a. The New Birth (Chapter 3), The Living Water (Chapter 4), He and the Father are equal (Chapter 5), The Bread of Life (Chapter 6), The Light of the World (Chapters 7-8), The Good Shepherd (Chapter 10), He is one with the Father (Chapter 10)
6. All signs & sermons are meant to lead us to believe in Jesus

John's Record Of Jesus As Christ & Son Of God (John 20:30-31)

Jesus, The Christ

1. He is the Messiah, the Anointed – the One whom all the Old Testament saints looked toward and forward to coming, fulfilling the offices of prophet, priest, and king
 - a. Prophet – Jesus is the very word of God, the visible manifestation of God, who used signs and sermons to reveal God
 - b. Priest – The One whom John the Baptist pointed to and said belord the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, who drove out the money changers in His Father's house, who became the ultimate sacrifice for our sins on the Cross
 - c. King – The One who rules and reigns over heaven and earth, and who on the cross, made all of His enemies His footstool

Jesus, The Son of God

2. John presents SEVEN "I AM" statements to demonstrate Jesus is God
 - a. I Am the bread of life – no one will hunger if they come (**Jn 6:35**)
 - b. I Am the light of the world – follow and you will not walk in darkness (**John 8:12**)
 - c. I Am the door – enter and you will be saved (**John 10:9**)
 - d. I Am the Good Shepherd – Jesus lays His life down for the Sheep – to believe is to live (**John 10:11**)
 - e. I Am the resurrection & the life: though you die, you live (**Jn 11:25**)
 - f. I Am the way, the truth, the life – no one comes to the father by by Jesus – to go through Jesus means eternal life (**John 14:6**)
 - g. I Am the vine – abide in Christ, and you will bear fruit (**John 15:5**)
3. John's gospel proclaiming Jesus the Christ, the Son of God is not merely theological, but political – the Imperial Cult was in Ephesus and to proclaim Christ Lord was to deny Caesar as Lord and the Son of God
4. Nothing has changed in our day – The god of the state and all traditional religions, along with the new age movement are acceptable today
5. Believers claim Jesus as Christ, the Son of God and absolute Ruler, which the world finds unacceptable – John wrote so you would!