

An Outline of John's Gospel

- I. Prologue: The Identity of the Son of God (1:1-18)
- II. Jesus Proven to be the Christ & the Son of God in His Public Ministry (1:19-12:50)
 - A. The Son of God Revealed (1:19-4:54)
 - 1. Beginning of Jesus' Ministry: John's First Witness, First Disciples, First Sign (1:19-2:11)
 - 2. Beginning of Jesus' Public Ministry: Cleansing the Temple, Personal Witness, John's Final Witness, Samaritan Harvest, Second Sign (2:12-4:54)
 - B. The Son of God Rejected (5:1-12:36)
 - C. Conclusion (12:37-50)
- III. Jesus Proven to be the Christ & the Son of God in His Passion and Resurrection (13:1-20:31)
- IV. Epilogue: The Future Mission of the Son of God (21)

Making Disciples

Gospel of John, Part VI

John 1:35-51

Stuart W. Bryan

I. Discipling the Nations

II. First Disciples (1:35-51)

A. Preacher Evangelism (35-39)

B. Family Evangelism (40-42)

C. Friendship Evangelism (43-51)

III. Principles for Evangelism

A. God uses His people to bring others to faith

1. Salvation is "of Him" (cf. 1 Cor 1:26-31)

For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, that no flesh should glory in His presence. But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption—that, as it is written, "He who glories, let him glory in the LORD."

As the NASB translates verse 30, "by His _____ you are in Christ." If anyone is going to be saved, to come to an awareness of their own sin and their need for Jesus to take away the guilt of their sin, then the Lord must grant them salvation. Salvation is of the Lord.

2. All things for the sake of the “elect” (cf. 2 Tim 2:10, 24-26)

If salvation is “*of the Lord*”, then why do we need _____? The Scriptures insist that while salvation is wholly and completely of the Lord, the Lord uses means to accomplish the salvation of His people. Note Romans 10:14 (NASB):

“How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how will they believe Him whom they have not heard? And will shall they bear without a preacher?”

Paul articulates *the harmony of election and evangelism* in 2 Timothy 2:10:

“Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.”

Paul goes on to say that all ministers of the Gospel have this same basic calling:

A servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will. (2 Tim 2:24-26)

B. Jesus should be at the center of our witness (cf. 1 Cor 2:1-2)

Our goal in bearing witness is to keep the focus on Jesus: Who is Jesus? What are you going to do with Jesus? Once that question is resolved, then other issues will also be addressed. But the critical thing, John wants us to see, is the identity of Jesus.

And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. (1 Cor 2:1-2)

Dale Bruner transforms Genesis 30:15-16 in light of Jesus’ declaration in 1:51:

Surely the Lord is in this Jesus, and I did not know it...How awesome is this Jesus! He is none other than the house of God, and He is the gate of heaven!

C. Jesus is the One who must save and disciple His people (cf. 2 Cor 4:5-7)

For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus’ sake. For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.

Paul makes three critical observations about evangelism:

- a. We don’t preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord (5).
- b. God is the One who must shine in our hearts and give understanding (6).
- c. Our very weakness highlights the glory of the God (7)!

IV. Conclusion