

New Testament Overview Spring 2022

Session 5: John's gospel and letters

Psalm 119:1-8

Blessed are those whose way is blameless,

who walk in the law of the LORD!

Blessed are those who keep his testimonies,

who seek him with their whole heart,

who also do no wrong, but walk in his ways!

You have commanded your precepts to be kept diligently.

Oh that my ways may be steadfast in keeping your statutes!

Then I shall not be put to shame, having my eyes fixed on all your commandments.

I will praise you with an upright heart, when I learn your righteous rules.

I will keep your statutes; do not utterly forsake me!

5.1 Introduction

5.2 John's Gospel

The author:

Date:

Purpose: John 20:30-31

Structure:

1:1-18 Prologue: The Word

1.19-10.42 Jesus reveals himself in word and deed

1.19-51 Prelude to Jesus' public ministry

2-4 Early ministry: signs, works and words

5:1-7:53 Rising Opposition: more signs, works and words

8:12-10:42 Radical Confrontation: climactic signs, works and words

11-12 Transition: Life and Death, king and suffering servant

11:1-44 The death and resurrection of Lazarus

11:45-12:50 The decision to kill Jesus, triumph, death, unbelief

13-20 Jesus reveals himself in his cross and exaltation

13-16 The Farewell discourse

17 The Prayer of Jesus

18-19 Trial and execution

20 Resurrection

21 Epilogue: Jesus, Peter and John

Unique Contribution:

John 1-5

Visits to Jerusalem

Helps us understand synoptics

Access to wider sense of historical realities – John 21:25

The Trinity

- The person and work of Christ – Jesus is God 1:1, 1:18, 20:28; I am statements
- The relationship between Father and Son
- The role of the Holy Spirit

5.3 John's letters

Author:

Date: early 90's

Purpose:

1 John: *Jesus came in the flesh, and genuine belief in him works out in obedience to God and love for his people*

2 John: *a letter to a church warning about the dangers of traveling preachers who are false teachers – walk in truth and love*

3 John: *to Gaius warning about Diotrephes, and the abuse of power*

The false teaching (comes through most clearly in 1 John)

- Docetism
- Perfectionism
- Antinomianism

1 John emphasises:

- humanity of Christ
- future eschatology
- test the Spirits
- reminder vs. claims of sinlessness

Structure of 1 John

- I. Prologue 1:1-4
- II. The tests of life: cycle one (1:5-2:27)
 1. Sin vs obedience 1:5-2:6
 2. Love for one another 2:7-17
 3. Correct Christology 2:18-27
- III. The test of life: cycle two (2:28-4:6)
 1. Sin vs. righteousness 2:28-3:10
 2. Love for one another 3:11-24
 3. Correct Christology 4:1-6
- IV. The tests of life: cycle three 4:7-5:21
 1. Love for one another 4:7-21
 2. Correct Christology 5:1-15
 3. Sin vs life 5:16-21

2 John

- i. Greetings v1-3
- ii. Letter body v4-11
- iii. Closing v12-13

3 John

- i. Greetings v1-2
- ii. Letter body v3-12
- iii. Closing v13-14

John's letters for us today:

What is love? 1 John 3:16-18, 4:7-12, 2 John 6

Who is Jesus? 1 John 2:1-2, 4:14-5, 5:1

What about error? 1 John 1:8-10, 2:21-25, 2 John 7-11