

Gospel of John



Faculty Contact

Paul Birston paulbirston@shaw.ca paulbirston@glbc.ca (204) 471-7720 (cell/text)

Please contact me anytime you have comments, suggestions, questions or you would like to talk about this course or your overall learning and ministry goals.

Course Description

The Gospel of John is one of Scripture's most spiritually profound revelations of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit in the clearest most accessible yet deeply meaningful language the Bible. John's Gospel also reveals many important dimensions of God's relationships with His people, individually and corporately, and the experience of *life* Jesus came to bring them. This course is an in-depth verse by verse study of John's Gospel to deepen our faith and relationships with God, to develop our Biblical worldviews and equip us for ministry with God in its many dimensions: preaching, teaching, worship, prayer, evangelism, apologetics, benevolence, visitation and counselling, etc. In addition to standard introductory studies of authorship, structure, etc. the course attends to the intricate interrelationships and development of John's major themes, his language and other unique features of his Gospel in relation to his letters and Revelation, Matthew, Mark and Luke, the other New Testament letters, Jewish Old Testament social and religious backgrounds and the geography of Israel that enhance our understanding of the Gospel of John's deep spiritual truths.

Course Objectives

Bible

1. Know God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit in their relationship to one another and to us.
2. Deepen our understanding of how John's entire Gospel works to fulfil God's stated purpose for it to bring people to believe in Jesus and have eternal life in His name (John 20:30-31).
3. Become conversant with all the major truths and themes of John's Gospel, their close interrelationships and how they magnify the person and work of Jesus Christ.
4. Observe and appreciate the power of John's language and the intricate structure of his Gospel and how they work together to develop his major themes.
5. Understand unique features of John's Gospel relative to Matthew, Mark and Luke, features they have in common, and how their witnesses work together to inform our knowledge of God, Father, Son and Spirit, keeping in mind further dimensions of God's person and work that He reveals in the other books of Scripture.

6. Recognize common truths, themes and features that John's Gospel shares with his three letters and Revelation and ways in which they reinforce one another and move forward to the culmination of God's purposes in John's Revelation of Jesus Christ.
7. Enhance our awareness of the people, religious, social, historical and geographical settings of John's Gospel that deepen our appreciation for his communication of eternal truth and its perpetual relevance to every generation.

Bible & Ministry

8. Understand and apply our lives to all we learn in John from chapter 1 to 21 about how Jesus makes disciples, training, testing and bringing them together in His body to continue God's eternal ministry of eternal life and sanctification. Even though Jesus and John do not mention the assembly (*ekklesia*, "church"), the entire Gospel has much to teach us about our relationship to each another in the one body of Jesus Christ.
9. Meditate upon and memorise select verses in context to enhance our relationship with God and our effectiveness in ministry to others.
10. Research and articulate the many ways that John's Gospel can equip us, empower us and renew us in all dimensions of ministry: preaching, teaching, worship, prayer, evangelism, apologetics, benevolence, visitation and counselling, etc.

Worldview

11. Enhance our Biblical worldviews by articulating God's revelations about His son, His Spirit, His world and His purposes through John's Gospel, articulating answers to these twelve questions:
 1. Who is God?
 2. What is the nature of external reality, the world around us? (i.e. real or an illusion)
 3. What is a human being?
 4. Where do we come from?
 5. What happens to a person at death?
 6. Why is it possible to know anything at all?
 7. How do we know what is right and wrong?
 8. What is the meaning of human history?
 9. How do we perceive time? (i.e. linear, circular cycles, etc.)
 10. Is the worldview/culture open or closed?
 11. Is the centre of this worldview/culture its groups or individuals?
 12. Where are we going, how does the world end?
12. Articulate ways we by our thoughts, actions and words can graciously communicate God's worldview to others and fulfil His purpose for the Gospel of John in their lives: **"So then, many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that by believing you may have life in His name"** (John 20:30–31).

Readings

The Gospel of John

Through the term at your own pace read John's three letters and Revelation and reflect on the significance of the great theological truths and themes present in all John's writings.

Reading & Assignment Schedule

Reading ahead and reflecting on God's Word will help you get the most from our time together each week. Credit students, please see course assignments on Pages 4–6.

Week 1	John 1:1–14	Introduction Part 1
Week 2	John 1:15–2:25, Introduction Part 2...	
Week 3	John 3	
Week 4	John 4	Paper Topic Due
Week 5	John 5	
Week 6	John 6	
Week 7	John 7:1–8:11	
Week 8	John 8:12–9:41	
Week 9	John 10	
Week 10	John 11	
Week 11	John 12–13	
Week 12	John 14–15	
Week 13	John 16–17	Paper Due
Week 14	John 18–19	John's Worldview Due
Week 15	John 20–21	Memory & Final Weekly Work Due

Course Assignments & Evaluation

Bible

Weekly Reading Summaries, Exegesis & Questions	30%
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Bible & Ministry

Research Paper	30%
Memory Verses & Applications	20%

Worldview

John's Worldview

20%

Bible

Weekly Reading Summaries, Exegesis and Questions

30%

Each week at least one day before class read the Scripture verses in the schedule above. By 5:00 p.m. EST (or 10:00 p.m. Kenya, Joseph) on the *Thursday before class* send the following three items to me by email in one word processing file that you update weekly so your word file will be additive and ultimately include your weekly assignments for every chapter of John:

1. A brief one to two line summary of each chapter of John's Gospel we will discuss in the upcoming class. By the end of the course you will have summaries of all twenty-one chapters that will help you recall their contents, structures and locations of passages for future reference. A "mental map" of the Bible books is extremely helpful in your own spiritual growth and in the many works of ministry including preaching, teaching, apologetics and evangelism. If you wish, as you read week by week you may also add some cross references between your summaries to indicate related theme developments through the Gospel (they're amazing!).
2. A brief exegesis and reflection on any section of the Biblical text scheduled for discussion in class. Briefly discuss any features of the text you find spiritually and practically meaningful. Minimum 150 words.
3. Two questions that arise from your reading of the weekly verses that we can discuss together in class.

Bible and Ministry

Research Paper

30%

1. Write a research paper on any clearly defined passage in John's Gospel and its related historical, literary and eternal truths that you consider important for the church and the world today. Submit your choice of passage by week 4. Your passage should be well defined and no more than one chapter in length.
2. The body of your papers will be a minimum of 8 pages. Follow the form and methods we have discussed in your previous classes.
3. In your paper conclusion discuss how your chosen passage can help us in our personal spiritual growth and in our ministry with God and His church. Your concluding applications for ministry should be at least 20% of the length of your paper.

Memory Verses & Applications

20%

1. Memorise a minimum of two verses each week of your own choice from each of the 21 chapters of John's Gospel, except for chapter one from which you are asked to memorise John 1:1–5. Always remember to think about the wider context of your verses when you memorise and meditate on them.
2. Record your verses each week in a word processing file along with the following in 3.
3. For application, with each selection of verses include a brief written reflection of two or three sentences (or the equivalent in point form) on how your chosen verses can advance God's purpose for John's Gospel to bring people to believe in Jesus and have life in His name (20:30–31).

Worldview

John's Worldview

20%

1. In a minimum of six pages, describe John's worldview, integrating Scripture quotations from his Gospel to answer the following 12 questions:
 1. Who is God?
 2. What is the nature of external reality, the world around us? (i.e. real or an illusion)
 3. What is a human being?
 4. Where do we come from?
 5. What happens to a person at death?
 6. Why is it possible to know anything at all?
 7. How do we know what is right and wrong?
 8. What is the meaning of human history?
 9. How do we perceive time? (i.e. linear, circular cycles, etc.)
 10. Is the worldview/culture open or closed?
 11. Is the centre of this worldview/culture its groups or individuals?
 12. Where are we going, how does the world end?
2. In a brief conclusion, express how your chosen quotations from John might help church members and unbelievers move closer to a Biblical worldview that aligns with God's view of His world.
3. This assignment is informal and is based solely on Scriptures from the Gospel of John and your own insights based upon them. Use double spaced 12 pt. font with standard default margins.

Online Class Resources Folder

Resources uploaded to Populi will also be available in this online folder so you will have access to them after the Populi page closes at the end of term.

<https://app.box.com/s/9tuecxgn1y55ontjgqmwixjhbv15w7hv>

Great Lakes Bible College
January 11, 2021