

STATEMENT OF FAITH

We trust the reality that God is love (1 John 4:8). Love is other-centered, not self-seeking. The full representation of the love of God came in human flesh through the person of Jesus Christ, who created all things in the universe by the word of His mouth, lived a life of service to humanity and saved us from our sins, our rebellion, our own desire to live without Him. By His death and resurrection we have assurance of a future without pain, hurt and selfishness.

We also trust the ancient scriptures hold the evidence for the story of this passionate God, how He intended the world to be, what happened to get the world in the mess that it is in and if this mess is ever going to end.

Throughout these studies from the books of the bible we will see enough evidence that can give us assurance God loves us deeply, has won the hearts of most of the universe, except for this little planet, but His light is shining on the heart of humanity brighter and brighter each day. As restored followers of Christ, we will also show outwardly how to live a life of other-centered love, helping others in physical, material, emotional and spiritual need.

INTRO

*The book of John is a first-person narrative, from a disciple of Jesus. His book is not part of what are called synoptic.**

WHY DID HE WRITE THE BOOK?

John 21:24-25

1) LIGHT VS. DARKNESS

John 1:1-18

The idea of light and darkness in the opening verses of John are evidence that this language is not only physical and literal, but also spiritual. John equated Jesus to the light and that He would bring light to the world. The darkness can not prevail (v. 5). In verse 18 we see that the light that Christ came to bring to the world was about the person of God - v. 18, "No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known."

2) WATER TO WINE

John 2:1-11

In his first miracle, Christ used his power for the benefit of people at the party. All miracles after this were also just for the benefit of others and never used for His own benefit.

3) PURIFICATION OF THE TEMPLE

John 2:12-22

Christ's indignation against the sellers in the temple shouldn't be equated with hot-headness and hatred of us sinners. Many biblical authorities say Jesus cleansed the temple twice. One at the beginning of His ministry and another at the end. In John we read the first. Matthew, in his Gospel, probably mentions the second purification, and there we see that children and the sick are directed to Jesus after the sellers leave, and if he angrily whipping everything and everyone, would they approach Him?

notes:

* Synoptic gospels are the three that are nearly identical, like Matthew, Mark and Luke.

4) NICODEMUS

John 3:1-21

Nicodemus was a Jewish leader with extensive knowledge of the scriptures. Unfortunately, he felt embarrassed to be seen with Jesus in broad daylight, and didn't want to be noticed talking with a simple carpenter who was hated by other leaders, he asked Jesus to meet him at night. Jesus, the King of Kings, instead of saying, "Never ... do you know who you're talking to?", graciously accepted the proposal of Nicodemus and went straight to the point with him.

All God wants from us is simple: we must be born again. Our fleshly life must give way to spiritual life.

5) ETERNAL LIFE AND CONDEMNATION

John 3:14-21

Jesus showed what would have to happen in order that all of us could live in this spiritual life. Jesus would have to be raised up on the pole (cross) as the serpent built in the wilderness. Back in Exodus, all who were bitten and poisoned by the serpent would be healed if they looked at the bronze snake sculpture. Jesus showed that in the same way, all of us, poisoned by sin, would be cured only by accepting Christ's sacrifice on the cross.

God loved the world and sent His Son to save and not to condemn. Nobody who is on Christ's side is condemned, but whoever does not accept the light and prefers darkness is judged / convicted and receives the consequence of this rebellion, which is death.

notes: