



John: The Great "I AM" Gospel
Pre-Series Study

Read *Exodus 3:13-15* & *John 8:54-59*

Preview of the upcoming series: Getting the identity of Christ correct is paramount. His deity is not proposed by myth, wishful-thinking disciples, future scholars, theologians, or historic agenda-driven church councils. It is established by Jesus Himself and rooted in inerrant Scripture. From the doctrine of the person and nature of Christ flows correct doctrine on all other Christian subjects and disciplines: Scripture, salvation, church, end-times preparedness. This first study lesson is to get us thinking, studying, conversing, and exploring the Gospel of John.

1. We will learn much about John in next week's 1st message. But what do you know already? Various answers. God the Holy Spirit had him write one of the 4 Gospels. It contains many unique, memorable, and important passages. He was an Apostle, in the Inner circle. Sometimes a Momma's boy. His brother was James. He later writes Revelation. Lived the longest of all the Apostles.

2. Almost everyone knows John 3:16. Is this verse anyone's favorite? Can you recite it by heart? Often called "the summation scripture of the Bible". It's God's best "one liner". A Show stopper. The passage is, indeed, very good, but needs context and surrounding doctrine to avoid error. John 3:16 is a great example of the many powerful, theological themes and doctrines in this series. John focuses on what Jesus said vs. what Jesus did (= Matthew, Mark, & Luke)

3. John was an Apostle, a prophet, a teacher, & a pillar of **absolutes**. What are absolutes? How does our culture feel about them? Review these Western philosophical movements:

- Modernism (reason, physical, science, deny all supernatural)
- Post-modernism (relativism)
- Post-post modernism (no truth exists anywhere. = Dark hopeless world. Create your own). See also *Judges 17:6* (Repeated in *Judges 21:25*) & *John 18:38*

4. How do each of these stand in stark contrast to God as revealed in Scripture? God is a god of absolutes. See *1 John 1:5* & *James 1:17*

5. John is the king of contrast. Read the following passages and note the contrasting absolutes.

- *John 3:19*—Light and Darkness
- *John 5:24*—Life and Death—Eternal Life and Judgment
- *John 8:44*—Truth and Lies
- *John 15:9*—Love and Hate
- *1 John 4:3*—Christ and Antichrist
- Not from John, but from Jesus Himself in the Gospels, further revealing a God of absolutes. How about this hot button topic: *Mark 10:6*—Male and Female