Spirit of Grace Herald

The Ministry of Dennis & Benedicta Pollock

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Spirit of Grace Ministries

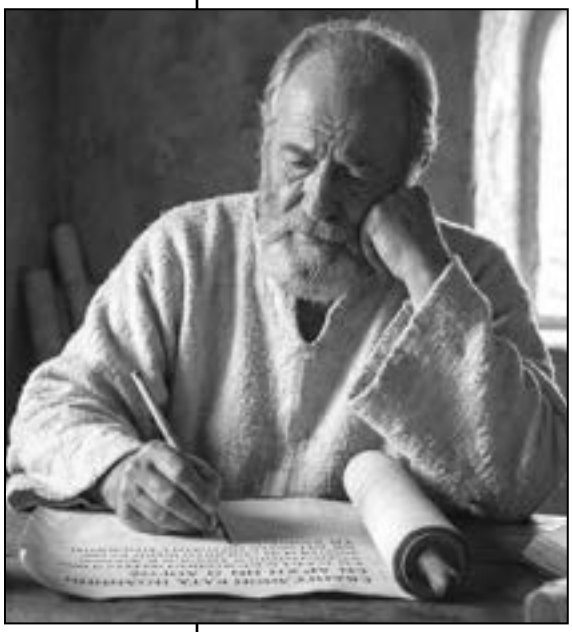
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Uniqueness of John's Gospel

Many Christians do not recognize just how different John's gospel is from the other three. Let's consider some of the ways in which John is such a unique gospel. Rather than share the birth of Jesus or the beginning of His ministry, John's opening is radically different, writing:

> **In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. (John 1:1-3)**



John seems determined to let his readers know that the Jesus he will be writing about was and is no ordinary man. He is the Word of God, co-creator of all things with the Father and is Himself God in human flesh. In a couple of paragraphs John wipes out the notion that Jesus was merely a great teacher or a wise philosopher. When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, God was visiting our little planet, and offering salvation, forgiveness of sins, and eternal life to all who would trust in Him.

Another area in which John differs has to do with the stories of miracles. It is not as though the other three gospel writers didn't refer to Jesus' miracles – they surely did. But John tells of different miracles that somehow the others left out. The raising of Lazarus from the dead is a great example. This is such an outstanding miracle, and made such a powerful impact upon the Jews, it is surprising that this is not told by Matthew, Mark, and Luke. But they say nothing about it at all, while John goes into great detail about this dramatic event. Likewise it is only John where we read about the woman at the well, or the healing of the man born blind at birth, or the converting the water to wine at the wedding in Cana, or the discussion about the new birth between Jesus and Nicodemus.

Another aspect of John's gospel which is unique, has to do with the conflicts Jesus had with the Jewish theologians and leaders in Jerusalem. John writes much about Jesus' time in Jerusalem, where major clashes with the Jewish intelligentsia occurred which led to these proud scholars deciding that the only answer to the "Jesus problem" was to kill Him. And it was in Jerusalem where Jesus lashed out at these men, saying: "**You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him**…" and condemning them with this charge, "**He who is of God hears God's words; therefore you do not hear, because you are not of God**." (John 8:47).

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These Jewish leaders were used to being revered, honored, and flattered. For this young thirty-year-old Galilean to say such things was too much. Murder became their only solution.

Another area in which John differs from the first three gospels is Jesus' constant references of salvation through faith in Himself. Some have suggested that Jesus never once preached about salvation through faith, but you have to wonder if they have ever read the gospel of John, even once. The concept of salvation through faith in Jesus inundates the gospel of John, and comes from the very mouth of Jesus Himself. Here Jesus says:

- "**I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live**." (John 11:25)
- "**For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life**." (John 3:16)
- "**He who believes in Me has everlasting life**." (John 6:47)

When John's gospel account is added to the first three gospels, the story of Jesus is complete, at least as far as we are concerned. With these four amazing biographies we have all the info that we need to be saved and live forever with God.

NEXT MONTH: AFRICAN JESUS CONFERENCE



In September we have scheduled a Jesus Conference in the nation of Kenya. This is a vital part of our ministry to equip God's servants to minister Jesus effectively in their field of service. The Africans will watch 20 videos of Benedicta and me, teaching the fundamentals of Jesus: Who He is, What He taught, what He did, and the necessity of keeping Jesus at the forefront of all ministry, whether in a Sunday school class, a Sunday morning sermon, or a Bible teaching presentation.

We also plan to hold a free medical clinic to provide medical resources for poverty stricken Africans who cannot afford ordinary medical attention. Please pray for this mission, and consider a generous donation to make it possible. The Africans cannot afford to fund these outreaches. We must depend upon tender-hearted American Christians to support this work.

To support SOGM: Send your check to SOGM, PO Box 2068, McKinney, TX 75070 or donate online by going to www.spiritofgrace.org, click on the "donate" button