

A DEVOTIONAL SERIES ON THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN ABOUT JESUS CHRIST

WHY THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN WAS WRITTEN

John 20:31 “. . . these are 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.”

Did you know there are atheists who read the Bible? There are also non-Christian philosophers who read the Bible. Reading the Bible does not automatically create faith in Jesus Christ. John wrote in today's verse that he wrote the Gospel that bears his name “that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ.” Further, he states, “that believing you may have life in His name.”

The Holy Spirit uses the Holy Scriptures as a means (tool) to bring faith and then maintain your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God as you read, hear and study them. Note what St. Paul wrote concerning the Holy Spirit's work, “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him” — these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. (1 Corinthians 2:9-12) In the end, God's word is the means used by the Holy Spirit as Paul wrote about the relationship between the “word” and “your faith:” “So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.” (Romans 10:17)

Jesus taught, “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes Him who sent me has eternal life.” (John 5:24) Romans 15:4 says this word, “was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.” And, the Psalmist says, “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. (Psalm 119:105)

St. Paul wrote regarding the absolute importance of knowing and believing in Jesus: “I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For His sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having a

righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and may share His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.” (Philippians 3:7-11)

Prayer: Lord, Your word is powerful for my salvation (Romans 1:16.) Keep me in Your word and through it by Your Spirit grant me faith that endures to life everlasting. In Jesus' name. Amen.

God's Word is our great heritage
And shall be ours forever,
To spread its light from age to age
Shall be our chief endeavor.
Through life it guides our way,
In death it is our stay.
Lord grant, while worlds endure,
We keep its teachings pure
Throughout all generations.
(LSB 582)