

Treasures New and Old

The Word of God, Part 1

☑ **Target: Read God's Word!**

Key Verses

Romans 10:17—Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.

Matthew 4:4—It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'

John 3:16—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.

Suggested Bible Reading

☐ John chapters 1–7

Other Recommended Reading

☐ *Understanding God's Word (Get Activated! publication)*

Prayer and Praise: Your Glory! (Adapted from Psalm 19)

The heavens declare Your glory, O God; and the firmament shows Your handiwork.

Your law, O Lord, is perfect, converting the soul: Your testimonies are sure, making wise the simple.

Your statutes are right, rejoicing the heart: Your commandments are pure, enlightening the eyes.

Your fear is clean, enduring for ever: Your judgments are true and righteous altogether.

More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.

Moreover by them are Your servants warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward.

Meditation: "A New Creation: It Takes Time"

2 Corinthians 5:17—Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

When we pray, "Jesus come into my heart," Jesus comes into us, but it can take considerably longer for *us* to get into Jesus, "*in Christ!*"—In other words, not just having Jesus come into our hearts, but us getting into Him, getting immersed in Him, rooted and grounded in Him and into His Word. *Then* the more we do that, the more it's true that old things pass away, and behold, all things become new!

That's a big change and a big process, and it takes time. When you receive Jesus as your Savior, everything old does not immediately pass away and all things suddenly become new!

Salvation is the most important decision you make in your life, the most important step. It is passing from the old life into a new life, and everything will be, or should be, different. But it takes time. You don't just automatically say "presto" and you're completely different from that time on.

<To think about> *Are you taking time to build your relationship with Jesus? Are you taking at least a little time to read His Word each day?*

Getting to Know the Bible: The Gospel of John

The four Gospels of the New Testament—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John—tell the beautiful story of Jesus' life on Earth. If you read the fourth Gospel first—the Gospel of St. John—you will find that it is one of the easiest to understand. John had great depth in his understanding of Jesus and His revelation of God's truth to us. Therefore John's Gospel explains the meaning of salvation clearer than the other Gospels.

The purpose of the Gospel of John is clearly stated in John 20:31:

"But these [accounts of Jesus' life] are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name."

John was the son of Zebedee, a fisherman on the lake of Galilee, and the brother of James, also an apostle. Jesus surnamed John and James "Boanerges," which means "the sons of thunder" (Mark 3:17), which suggests that they were quite fiery disciples. John was also known as the "disciple whom Jesus loved." He was a close friend of and worked with the apostle Peter, as is seen in the Gospels and in the book of Acts. He also wrote the book of Revelation and the three Epistles, 1 John, 2 John, and 3 John.

Each chapter in John's Gospel reveals a characteristic or work of Jesus:

- Chapter 1: The Son of God
- Chapter 2: The Son of Man
- Chapter 3: The Divine Teacher
- Chapter 4: The Soul Winner
- Chapter 5: The Great Physician
- Chapter 6: The Bread of Life
- Chapter 7: The Water of Life
- Chapter 8: The Defender of the Weak
- Chapter 9: The Light of the World
- Chapter 10: The Good Shepherd
- Chapter 11: The Prince of Life
- Chapter 12: The King
- Chapter 13: The Servant
- Chapter 14: The Consoler
- Chapter 15: The True Vine
- Chapter 16: Giver of the Holy Spirit
- Chapter 17: The Great Intercessor
- Chapter 18: The Model Sufferer

- Chapter 19: The Uplifted Savior
- Chapter 20: The Conqueror of Death
- Chapter 21: Restorer of the Penitent