

Take your bibles and open them to John 1- as you turn there- I have not mentioned the structure of the book of John- as you study the books of the Bible natural to see if the book has distinguishable structure- most do- in the Gospel of John there is a clear structure- John 1:1-18 is the prologue, from 1:19-12:50 is called the book of signs, 13:1-20:31 the book of glory- finally chapter 21 is the epilogue- the prologue is John beginning his argument to lead people to understand and embrace the purpose of his Gospel- that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ the son of God and that by believing you may have life in his name- it is in the prologue that he introduces the many themes he will continually discuss- themes like light, darkness, world, witness- all are crucial to John's gospel-

As John continues the prologue he extends our understanding of who Jesus Christ is- because we are humans and limited by our humanity sometimes our understanding of who Jesus is limited as well- Jesus is vastly more than who we think- throughout John's gospel he extends our understanding of Jesus- think of the I am statements- they extend our understanding of Jesus- this is what John writes-

In extending our understanding of Jesus the first truth he tells us is

**Jesus is creation**- reading through John cannot escape the parallels with Genesis 1- John's opening sentence takes us to before the in the beginning of **Genesis 1:1- in vs. 3** John moves forward to creation itself- does so with the express purpose to inform us that the Word, Jesus Christ, is the instrument of creation- last week we saw the importance of the word with- the word was with God- literally toward God- implying that God and the word, which we

understand as the father and the son, are in a perfect relationship where the son accomplishes the father's will- in the beginning the Word accomplished God's will by creating all that there is- notice creation is not created by the word- creation is through word- that is strategically important- it informs us that the source of all that there is, is the father- yet in that relationship that exists between the father and the son, the Father creates through the Word- this is affirmed in other passages as well- **1 Cor. 8:5-6**- also read Colossians 1:16 and Hebrews 1:2- at the heart of all creation is the person of Jesus Christ- creation would not be creation nor would continue to be creation if Jesus Christ did not create all things- that's painting with a broad brush isn't it- Gen. 1-2 breaks it down into small categories only by comparison- waters and dry ground, plants and trees- John doesn't do that- he just says- all everything- don't let that pass you by too quickly- for in the creation of everything we see the brilliance and power of God- last week Ben was finishing up his science class the unit was on the solar system- go out tonight- look up and find the big dipper- everybody can find that- the big dipper is part of the ursa major constellation- ursa major means large bear- basically the handle of the dipper is the tail of the bear- the ladle the back hind quarter- when you look at the portion of the sky where the big dipper is, that portion of the sky contains at least- 5 different galaxies, a nebula, a star system, as well as many different giant stars, and 7 of the stars that make the big dipper are all bigger than our sun- unimaginably large- a few weeks before that his lesson was on atoms- the building blocks of our universe- let's take a drop of water- a drop of water is about .05 ml- not a lot- within that single drop of water there are roughly speaking,  $5 \times 10^{21}$  atoms- while that is amazing there is stuff even smaller inside the atom- unimaginably small- John says whether it is unimaginably large or unimaginably small the Word created

every bit of it- to make sure you understand this- he repeats himself in the negative nothing was made without him- neither the stars in the sky or the insides of an atom came into being without his handiwork- his creation was created out of nothing- the theological wording used is ex nihilo- God did not use preexisting materials to put together the world in which we live- this world in which we live exists only because God himself acted through the power of his Word- in that power the Word created all that there is- this world that we live on belongs to Him- (that's going to come up later)

**Jesus is life**- John continues this time moving from creation to life- life is the most important part of creation- creation is not static- thinking of a building- or cars- stuff we build- we would never say it is alive- God's creation is alive- how does that happen- why is there life on the earth rather than intimate stuff- where does life come from- John tells us- life is found in Jesus- the way it is worded is important- in him was life- only because life is contained in the word does life exist on this earth- life does not and cannot exist outside of the Word- n-o Jesus, n-o life- now when we think of life we think of our life- not wrong to do so- in fact John wants us to make this connection- the reason is humanity is the only created creation that has a different type of life- let's go back to Genesis 1:26- this is the last day of creation- ura major is in existence- atoms are in existence- now humanity comes into existence- **1:26-27**- God creates male and female what makes us different is God placed within us His image- when we go outside and look at Pilot Mountain through that creation we see God's power- we don't see in the mountain the image of God- when I look at you and you look at me we look at each other- we see the image of our creator- now drop down **to 2:7**- God provides more

details on the creation of humanity- man is lying there on the ground- and God leans over and does something to man that he did not do in any other creation- into man God breaths the breath of life- God did not breath life into Pilot Mountain- humanity, man, woman, you, me contain within us the image and the breath of God- this creates an intimacy with us not shared with other parts of creation- we see this immediately- God speaks to the man and the woman- God gives them responsibilities- and God gives them himself- when God enters into the garden of Eden he does not walk with the trees- he does not speak with the animals- he walks and talks with the man and the woman, Adam and eve- you and I are granted the same ability to have this relationship with God- a life where we know God and God knows us- there is a huge problem- it has three letters- SIN- sin has destroyed that life- before sin in the fall of man- life was perfect- creation was perfect- work was perfect- life with God was perfect- all that perfection was shattered after the fall- including life- sin leads to death- not just a physical death- it also leads to a spiritual death- we start to think is the only thing to life death- as I mentioned statistics are clear- 1 out of 1 die- John's gospel says no- John will repeatedly draw our attention to life- but not just our physical life John is going to direct us to- it is a life that is contained or defined by biology- it is a spiritual life- this life is infinitely more important than our spiritual life- just as there is physical death there is also a spiritual death- this death leads to an eternal separation- Matthew 10:28 puts it this way- do not fear those who can kill the body but cannot kill the soul, rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell- John's gospel clearly tells us how to escape spiritual death- it is through the life giving Word- who not only gives physical life but also gives spiritual life- most succinctly summed up in John 3:16- whoever believes in him shall have life- come to me that you may have life-

I come to give you life and give it to you abundantly- the reason he can do that is because life is in him- now through him we are reconciled back to God- the separation that our sin created is reversed through Jesus Christ- given a new life, a spiritual life a life in communion with God, that will last beyond this physical life-

**Jesus is light**- Finally John connects life with light- just as the Word was God- the life was the light of man- again John takes us back to Genesis 1:3- what were the first recorded words of God- let there be light- and there was light- God has always been a God of light- read on in the OT we discover that God manifested himself as light- the Israelites would know when God's presence was in their midst because God's glory would appear in the Tabernacle and Temple and his light would radiate throughout the camp- now God reveals the word is the light- as the light he comes to light the path that leads to God- what stands opposite light- darkness- vs. 5 the light shines in darkness- light is amazingly powerful- you can go into a large, windowless room- go to the center of the room- light a little candle- the light from that little candle will dispel vast amounts of darkness- no matter how small a light it will shine in the darkness- end of verse 5 and the darkness has not overcome it- overcome has a more aggressive connotation than we may think- it's not that the darkness is trying to understand the light, the darkness is actively trying to pull people into it- **John 12:35** Jesus says walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you- for John darkness is this present evil age in which we live- I know I'm borrowing words from Paul but that is John's sentiment as well- need to understand the darkness doesn't want men to have the light- darkness doesn't want humanity to make their way back to God- darkness tried over and over to extinguish the light- Cain

kills Abel- wickedness of Noah- the killing of the Israelites in Egypt- the corruption of David- the slaughter of babies when Jesus was born- Jesus nailed to the tree- all attempts by the darkness to extinguish the light- but you know what it didn't work- in fact it never will work and John tells us this- what does the light do in vs. 5- it shines- for the first time John does not use the past tense- so far it has been was or where- now John says the light shines- the light is always active- always shining- the light of the Word will never cease to shine in the world- the darkness will never win- Jesus is eternally victorious over the darkness-

That is what the world needs to hear- for contained in that truth is the message hope found only through the gospel- the world as we know is not a neutral place- it is dark, it is hostile, it is full of death, it is hopeless- see the hopelessness all around us- hopeless about Ukraine- hopeless about global warming- hopeless about injustice- hopeless about housing market- hopeless about inflation- hopeless about gas prices- right now everywhere you look the world says it's hopeless- John 1 says no it is not- it is not hopeless because into this darkness comes Jesus Christ- even though the world is darkened by sin, by our sin, making everything appear to be hopeless God in his great love for us sends Jesus into the world- Jesus comes as the powerful creator, comes as life, comes as light- shines the way to Himself so that we may believe in him that through him have life- that is the hope the world needs-  
Heb 10:23