



*EST FONDS VITAE*

## **DATE**

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## **SERIES**

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John: That You May Believe

## **TITLE & PASSAGE**

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*Believe and Proclaim*  
John 20:30-31

## **OCCASION**

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A message presented by Pastor Marc Minter on the Lord's Day to the congregation of First Baptist Church of Diana, TX.

## **INTRODUCTION**

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John's Gospel might be boiled down to a few potent proclamations, and John's purpose statement is certainly one of the most important. It is clear that John wants his reader to believe in Jesus, and his desire is motivated by both the person of Christ and the gift Christ alone can give to those who believe. Both in John's words and in his example, he calls his reader to believe in Jesus Christ and to proclaim life in His name to all who will believe. May God help us all to believe and proclaim.

## **MAIN POINT**

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Life is only in the name of Jesus Christ, so we must believe and proclaim it.

EMAIL QUESTIONS TO [PASTOR@FBCDIANA.ORG](mailto:PASTOR@FBCDIANA.ORG)

## SCRIPTURE READING

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### John 20:19–31 (ESV)

19 On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” 20 When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.

21 Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” 22 And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.”

24 Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. 25 So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe.”

26 Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” 27 Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.” 28 Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” 29 Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but 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.

## MAIN POINT

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Life is only in the name of Jesus Christ, so we must believe and proclaim it.

## MESSAGE OUTLINE

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- (1) JOHN’S PURPOSE: “BELIEF”**
- (2) BELIEVE WHAT? AND WHY?**
- (3) JOHN’S “GREAT COMMISSION”**
- (4) SOME APPLICATION QUESTIONS**

## MESSAGE

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### (1) JOHN'S PURPOSE: "BELIEF"

- “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” (v31)
  - John wants his reader to believe in Jesus... truly believe
    - John introduced us to John the Baptist, “a man sent from God... [who] came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, [so] that all might believe through him” (Jn. 1:6-7).
      - And who is this “light”?
        - He is the “light [that] shines in the darkness” (Jn. 1:5).
        - He is the “light of men” who has “life” in Himself (Jn. 1:4).
        - He is the one through whom “all things were made” (Jn. 1:3).
        - He is the one called “the Word,” who was both “God” and “in the beginning with God” (Jn. 1:1-2).
      - John told us that “the world did not know him” (Jn. 1:10), but John also tells us that those who “receive him, who believed in his name, he [the light, the word, the life-giving creator] gave the right to become children of God” (Jn. 1:12).
      - Then John gave us an example of a kind of “belief” that was not true. There were people who “believed” when they “saw the signs [Jesus] was doing” (Jn. 2:23), but Jesus “knew what was in man” (Jn. 2:25) and “did not entrust himself to them” (Jn. 2:24).
      - Next, John told us that true belief is a gift from God, quoting Jesus’ words, “You must be born again... born of the Spirit [of God]” (Jn. 3:7-8).
      - And the rest of John’s Gospel is full of calls to believe as well as examples of both true and false belief...
        - John 3:16 is probably one of the most central passages of John’s Gospel; it is certainly one of the most well-known.
          - “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”

**So**, John wants his reader – he wants us today – to believe... to truly believe!

**But**, what exactly does he want his reader to believe?

Believe in Jesus?

Ok, but which Jesus?

The Jesus that was merely a good man, a prophet, a teacher, an angel, a self-help guru, a life-coach, a motivational speaker, a community organizer, a social justice warrior, an example to follow, a god?

What am I to believe about Jesus?

That He will make my life better, that He will ease my pains and comfort my sorrow, that He will affirm me and speak well of me no matter what I do, that He will never let me face things that are too much for me to handle?

**What exactly does he want his reader to believe?**

It's a good thing John tells us right here...

## **(2) BELIEVE WHAT? AND WHY?**

- “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*” (v31)
  - **Believe what? That Jesus is (1) the Christ and (2) the Son of God**
    - 1) Jesus is the “*Son of God*”
      - The Scripture speaks of the arrival of the “*Son of God*” at a moment in history “*when the fullness of time had come*” (Gal. 4:4).
      - Of this Son, the Father says, “*Your throne, O God, is forever and ever*” (Heb. 1:8; cf. Ps. 45:6-7).
      - And it is precisely because Jesus is the Son of God that “*we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens*” (Heb. 4:14), and He “*continues a priest [for us] forever*” (Heb. 7:3).
        - Jesus is the Son of God and God the Son<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> For more on this subject, see Marc's message “The Triune God” at <http://www.fbcdiana.org/sunday-sermons/>

## 2) Jesus is “*the Christ*”

- Who is “**the Christ**”? and, Is Jesus “**the Christ**”?
  - These were both big questions in the minds of the first-century Jews (Jn. 1:20-25, 3:28, 4:29, 7:26-31, 7:41-42, 10:24).
- “**Christ**” is a title or designation that means “**the anointed one**” or “**the specially consecrated and set apart one**”
  - It is also interchangeable with the Old Testament designation: “Messiah”
- Peter spoke to his fellow Jewish people in the book of Acts: “**God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer... Moses said, ‘The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers [i.e. from among the Jewish people]... God, having raised up his servant [Jesus], sent him to you... to bless you by turning every one of you from your wickedness’**” (Acts 3:18-26).
  - Therefore, the biblical claim is that Jesus is the Christ or Messiah of God, who was prophesied from long ago to be the Savior, King, Redeemer, Priest, Messenger, Prophet, and Mediator.
    - Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah, the anointed one, the Son of Man and Son of God, the pinnacle of human history, and the one in whom the fullness of God is pleased to dwell, and the one through whom God reconciles all things (Col. 1:19-20).
- **Believe why? Because Jesus alone can give life!**
  - Believe, “**that by believing you may have life in his name**”
    - What does this mean?
      - So, remember that favorite passage in John we looked at already? John 3:16...
        - The **contrast** there is between **life** and **death**, so let’s see how this binary is explained.
      - “**16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life** [real life, the kind of life humans

were meant to have, the life that was lost when Adam and Eve sinned in the garden].

- **17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world** [when Christ first came to earth it was not as holy judge], **but in order that the world might be saved through him** [He came as the one and only savior the world would know].
- **18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned** [i.e. is not condemned as guilty before God, is not under divine judgment, is not an object of God's wrath], **but whoever does not believe is condemned already** [i.e. already stand as a condemned person under God's judgment and wrath]..."
- There are at least three takeaways:
  - One: our natural, default status before God is "condemned sinner."
  - Two: Christ saves sinners from condemnation and death, giving them life... eternal life.
  - Three: only those who believe are saved; and all those who do not believe are condemned.
- This is John's point in our passage this morning: "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**" (v31)

**So**, we see that life is only in the name of Jesus Christ, so we must believe!

**But**, we must also proclaim it.

You see, John gives us this purpose statement of his Gospel immediately after he recorded his own account of a resurrection appearance of Jesus, an unwilling believer, and a Spirit-empowered commission.

### **(3) JOHN'S "GREAT COMMISSION"**

- The purpose statement (v30-31) comes right on the heels of John's record of Jesus' resurrection appearance and His commissioning or "**sending**" (v21) of His disciples into the world to be Holy-Spirit-empowered ambassadors.

- Jesus commissioned them as ambassadors to declare “**Peace**,” just as Jesus Himself declared, and to call people to “**believe**,” just as Jesus Himself urged.
- There are ***striking similarities*** in the Gospel-writers’ accounts of Christ’s commissioning actions and statements.
  - The Great Commission passage in Matthew 28:18–20
  - Luke ends his Gospel by saying, “**Then he [Jesus] opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, ‘Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that *repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations*, beginning from Jerusalem. *You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high*’” (Luke 24:45–49)**
  - John’s record of Christ’s commissioning: “Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As ***the Father has sent me***, even so ***I am sending you***.’ And when he had said this, ***he breathed on them*** and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. If ***you forgive*** the ***sins*** of any, they are forgiven them; if ***you withhold forgiveness*** from any, it is withheld’” (v21-23)

**So**, this is the pattern:

First, Christ is sent from the Father as the agent of peace, forgiveness, and life to all who believe; therefore, we must believe.

Second, Christ sends His people as messengers of peace, forgiveness, and life to all who believe; therefore, if we believe, we must also proclaim.

Life is in the name of Jesus Christ, so we must believe and proclaim it.

Life is only in the name of Jesus Christ, so we must believe and proclaim it.

## **(4) SOME APPLICATION QUESTIONS**

### **1. Do you believe that you, apart from Christ, are under condemnation?**

- a. Do you believe you are guilty before God?
- b. Do you believe you are a sinner?
- c. Do you believe you deserve God's judgment and condemnation?
- d. Do you believe you will face God one day, having to answer for every thought, word, and deed of yours?
- e. Does that concern you?

### **2. Do you believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God?**

- a. Do you believe that Jesus is God's Messiah?
- b. Do you believe that Jesus was the long-awaited prophet-priest-king, sent from God to save His people from judgment?
- c. Do you believe that Jesus' life and death were purposed by God as a ransom guilty sinners like you?

### **3. Do you... will you proclaim the one message of life?**

- a. If you believe this stuff, do you tell anyone?
  - i. When is the last time you talked with someone about their status before God?
  - ii. When is the last time you had a gospel-conversation with someone?
  - iii. Do you have any friends or family members who know you well enough to know that you love them? And have you spent any of that relational capital by leaning in on them a bit with eternal truths?
- b. What are you waiting for?
  - i. Will you talk with someone about their status before God this week?
  - ii. Will you think about ways you can engage in a gospel-conversation with someone this week?
  - iii. Will you ask those people you know and those people you love to have a weightier conversation with you this week?

## SUGGESTED RESOURCES FOR THIS PASSAGE/TOPIC

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*The Risen Christ – Peace, Power, and Purpose* by John Piper

<https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/the-risen-christ-his-peace-power-and-purpose>

*These Things are Written So You May Believe* by James M. Boice

<https://www.monergism.com/these-things-are-written-so-you-may-believe>

*That You May Believe* by John Piper

<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/that-you-may-believe>

*Written So That You May Believe* by Peter Nelson

<http://www.goshenbaptist.org/Written-So-That-You-May-Believe>