

## VII. Key Teachings in the Book of John

- A) The universe has a beginning. **John 1:1**. It is not eternal as some believe.
- B) Jesus is God and man. **John 1:1,14**. He left heaven to enter our history to pay the ransom for our sins.
- C) Jesus is not a created being as Jehovah Witnesses claim. **John 1:1**.
- D) Jesus is the Word. God communicates with his people. **John 1:1**. Written Scriptures are the foundation of God's communication with mankind and not our feelings.
- E) Jesus is the only way to God. **John 14:6**. This is hotly disputed in our time.
- F) The Word of God is Truth. **John 17:17**. Therefore, truth is not relative to who we are or where we are.
- G) Jesus wants his followers to be united. **John 17:20-21**. The divisions of the church world are entirely against the plans of God.

FOUR LISTS OF APOSTLES OF CHRIST in the order listed by the writers				
Matthew 10:2-4		Mark 3:16-19	Luke 6:12-19	Acts 1:13
Simon	brothers	Simon	Simon	Peter
Andrew		James	Andrew	James
James	brothers	John	James	John
John		Andrew	John	Andrew
Philip		Philip	Philip	Philip
Bartholomew		Bartholomew	Bartholomew	Thomas
Thomas		Matthew	Matthew	Bartholomew
Matthew		Thomas	Thomas	Matthew
James son of Alphaeus		James son of Alphaeus	James son of Alphaeus	James son of Alphaeus
Thaddaeus		Thaddaeus	Simon the Zealot	Simon the Zealot
Simon the Cananaean		Simon the Cananaean	Judas, son of James	Judas, son of James
Judas Iscariot		Judas Iscariot	Judas Iscariot	

*If Matthew, Mark and Luke had copied from one another, their lists would have matched.*

This lesson available for printing at: <http://goo.gl/rlpzUY>

## Bible Personality Series -

### John, the Apostle

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The apostle John is familiar to us because he wrote so much of the New Testament. He was the human author of a Gospel and three epistles (letters) that bear his name, as well as the book of Revelation. Aside from Luke and the apostle Paul, John wrote more of the New Testament than any other writer. Jesus had a special affection for John and John didn't let his readers forget it. **John 13:23; 19:26; 20:2; 21:7 and 21:20**.

#### I. John's Parents

- A) John's father was the fisherman Zebedee. **Mark 1:20**.
- B) The fishing business was large enough to have employees. **Mark 1:20**
- C) John's mother followed Jesus and helped support the ministry. **Matthew 27:55-56; Luke 8:1-3**.

#### II. John's Call to Apostleship. John 1:35-39

- A) We assume that unnamed disciple is John who became the Apostle of Christ. He *had* been a follower of John the Baptist. **Vs.35** Since he was also a fisherman, we conclude that following John the Baptist did not take his full attention.
- B) John wanted to get acquainted with Jesus after His baptism. **Vs. 37-39**. He chose to follow Jesus the rest of his life.

#### III. John's Inner Circle Role With Jesus

- A) The inner circle men were Peter and Andrew, James and John. Andrew was not always present. **Mark 5:37-42**. See chart on page 4.
- B) The inner circle were at the Transfiguration of Jesus. **Matthew 17:1-8**.
- C) It was Peter and John who who led the charge beginning in Act 3:1 **“Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the ninth hour, the hour of prayer.”**

- D) They also took the Gospel to Samaria in Acts 8:14-15: [Now when the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent them Peter and John, who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit.](#)
- E) Paul commented that John was a pillar among the Apostles in Galatians 2:9. [“. . .and recognizing the grace that had been given to me, James and Cephas and John, who were reputed to be pillars, gave to me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship, so that we might go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised.](#)

#### IV. John's Disposition as a Young Man.

- A) John and his brother wanted a village of Samaritans destroyed right now for their treatment of Jesus and his traveling group. No trial, no waiting, just immediate judgment. **Luke 9:51-56.** Notice it is not John who writes this.
- B) John wanted a leading role in the Kingdom that he knew Christ was setting up. **Mark 10:35-41**
- C) Three years with Jesus moved this Son of Thunder toward becoming an apostle of love. At the very points where he was most imbalanced, Christ gave him equilibrium, and in the process John was transformed from a hothead into a loving, godly elder statesman for the early church. We will discuss this in part V.
- D) John's zeal for the truth shaped the way he wrote. Of all eight or so writers of the New Testament, he is the most black and white in his thinking. He thinks and writes in absolutes. He deals with certainties. Everything is cut-and-dried with him. There aren't many gray areas in his teaching, because he tends to state things in unqualified, antithetical language.

For example, in his Gospel, he sets light against darkness, life against death, the kingdom of God against the kingdom of the devil, the children of God against the children of Satan, the judgment of the righteous against the judgment of the wicked, the resurrection of life against the resurrection of

damnation, receiving Christ against rejecting Christ, fruitfulness against fruitlessness, obedience against disobedience, and love against hatred.

He loves dealing with truth in absolutes and opposites. He understands the necessity of drawing a clear line.

#### V. John's Mature Years 1 John 2:1-11

- A) Believers are his children. Vs. 1.
- B) We can know we are saved. vs. 3.
- C) Believers must hold to the spoken or written word. Vs. 7.
- D) John uses black and white language. Vs. 9.
- E) He was put on an island by the government. Revelation 1:9. [“John, your brother and fellow partaker in the tribulation and kingdom and perseverance which are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.”](#)  
God used him in spite of his isolation.

#### VI. Lessons from the Man John

- A) John was nearly always in Peter's shade. Only one or two sentences quoting John are in the four Gospels. This man operated nicely without being in the lead.
- B) John stressed that he was an eye-witness of Jesus throughout his ministry. Being an eyewitness of what Jesus has done for us adds credibility to our own testimony. **1 John 1:1**
- C) John had the gift of writing things down. Most of the other Apostles did not make history as writers, but John was the third most frequent writer after Luke and Paul.
- D) John learned love from Jesus ("the disciple whom Jesus loved") and that eventually molded his character so he would be called the Apostle of Love in late life.