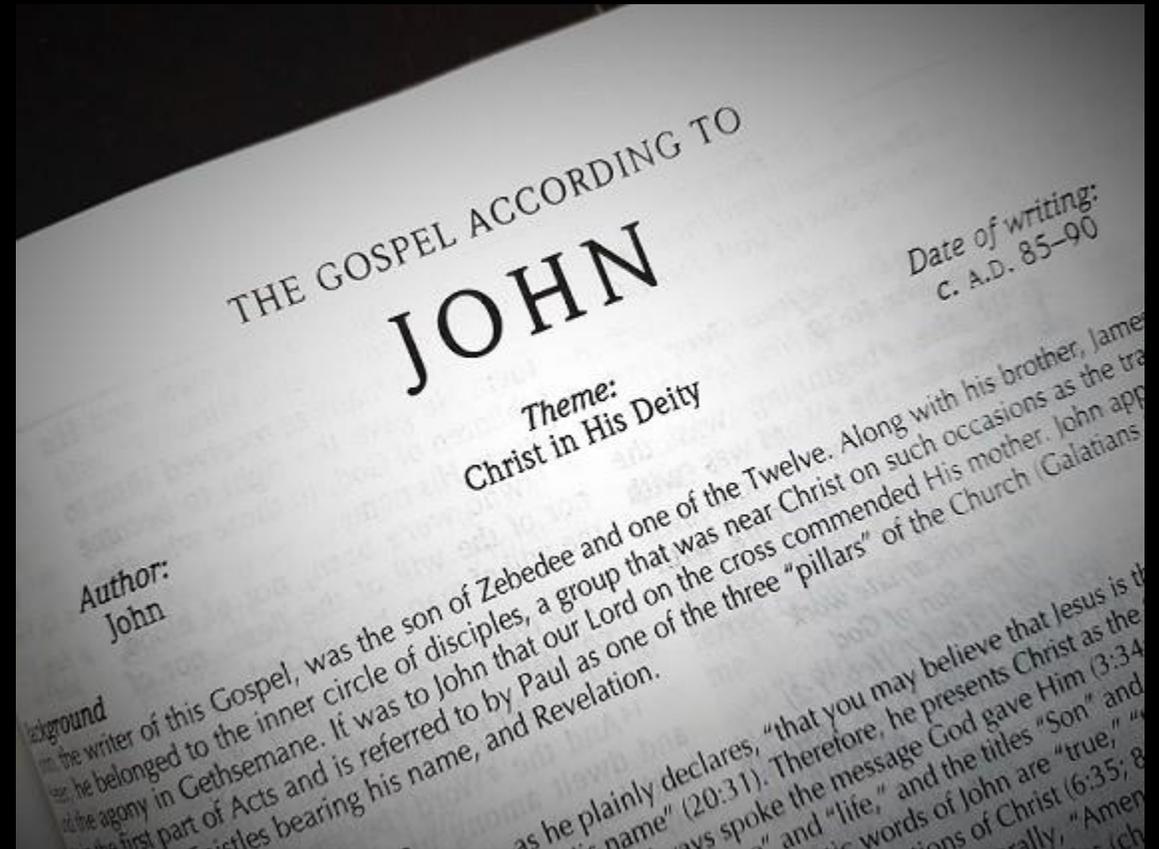


Verse by Verse

John 8



Previously in John

Previously in John

- In **Ch. 2** Jesus performed his first **miracle** or **sign**, when he turned water into wine at a wedding.
- In **Ch. 3**, we witnessed Christ's dialog with **Nicodemus**.
- In **Ch. 4**, he told the Samaritan woman that he could give her **living water**.
- In **Ch. 7** at **Jerusalem** for a festival, he again promised **rivers of living water** to all who would believe in him.

John 8 Introduction

John 8 Introduction

- This chapter begins with a **woman caught in adultery**.
- While this passage is not present in the earliest surviving manuscripts, it does seem to be genuine.
- From there Jesus makes a remarkable statement, saying that he is **the light of the world**.

John 8 Introduction

- His claims get more controversial when he says that some of his detractors have **the devil** as their father.
- By contrast, he claims that **his own Father is God**.
- He follows this up by then **claiming to be God** as well.

John 8 Key Verses

John 8 Key Verses

- John 8:31-32 (ESV)

³¹ So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

Discourses in John 1 – 12

Discourses in John 1 – 12 ¹

1. The new birth 3:1–21
2. The water of life 4:1–42
3. The divine Son 5:19–47
4. The bread of life 6:22–65
5. The life–giving Spirit 7:1–52
6. The light of the world 8:12–59
7. The good shepherd 10:1–42

John 8 Outline

John 8 Outline

1. An Adulteress Forgiven 7:53 – 8:11
2. The Light of the World 8:12-30
3. The Truth Will Set You Free 8:31-38
4. “Your Father the Devil” 8:39-47
5. Before Abraham Was, I am 8:48-59

1. An Adulteress Forgiven 7:53 – 8:11

1. An Adulteress Forgiven 7:53 – 8:11

- Your Bible probably has some kind of special marking or footnote pertaining to this passage.
- It doesn't appear in 12 of our 13 oldest manuscripts.
- The one that has it also has other extra material.
- A few later manuscripts put it in different spots.
- It is missing in the works of early Greek teachers and early translations like Old Latin, Syriac or Coptic.

1. An Adulteress Forgiven 7:53 – 8:11

From manuscript current evidence, it seems unlikely that this portion was part of the original text of John's Gospel, or at least in this place ... At the same time, the character of the story makes it seem obvious that it is genuine ...

*– David Guzik,
enduringword.com*



1. An Adulteress Forgiven 7:53 – 8:11

... and many scholars note that it is historical and factual ... There is some debate as to where it belongs in the Gospel accounts, but there is good reason to believe it belongs. ²

*– David Guzik,
enduringword.com*



1. An Adulteress Forgiven 7:53 – 8:11

- 8:11 I personally agree that this is an authentic story of Jesus, regardless of where it goes.
- Part of why I hold to that opinion is the ideal balance that Jesus strikes at the end.

Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more.”

1. An Adulteress Forgiven 7:53 – 8:11

- 8:11 The church has often erred on either side of Christ's perfect balance.
- Some, being more judgmental than Jesus, would almost word this as,
Jesus said, "~~Neither do~~ I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more."

1. An Adulteress Forgiven 7:53 – 8:11

- 8:11 The church has often erred on either side of Christ's perfect balance.
- Others, in an effort to be more open-minded and "loving" than Christ himself, might put it, Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin ~~no more~~."

1. An Adulteress Forgiven 7:53 – 8:11

- Following Christ's example we can learn a few things:
 1. We should always stand firm on sin. He never gave the woman a free pass on her adultery.
 2. We should always treat people with compassion, unlike the crowd that wanted her to be stoned.
 3. Christ is after repentance, not punishment, and this is what we should focus on too.

“I am” Sayings in John

“I am” Sayings in John

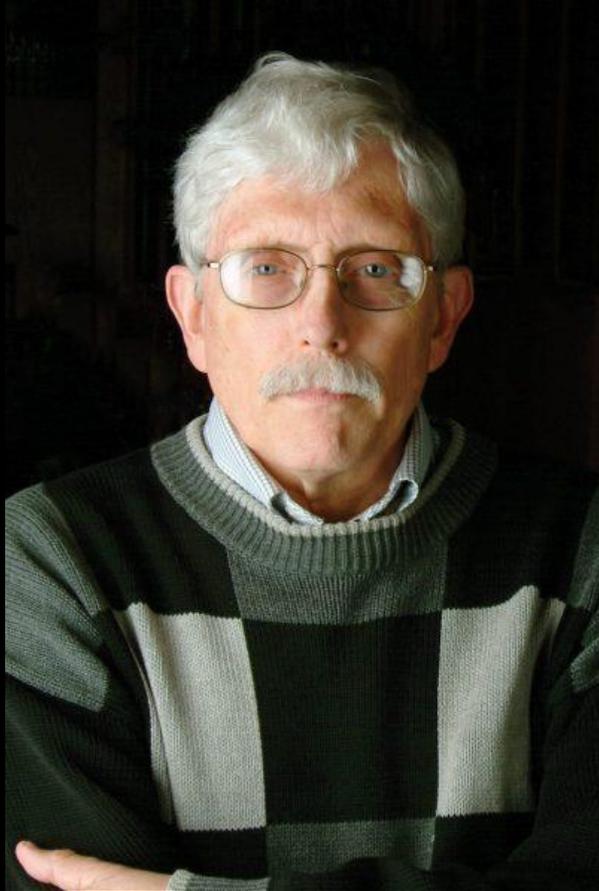
1. I am the bread of life 6:35, 48, 51
2. I am the light of the world 8:12, 9:5
3. I am the gate 10:7, 9
4. I am the good shepherd 10:11, 14
5. I am the resurrection and the life 11:25
6. I am the way, the truth and the life 14:6
7. I am the true vine 15:1

2. The Light of the World 8:12-30

2. The Light of the World 8:12-30

- Last week we spoke about the water ceremony that took place during the Feast of Booths.
- It gave us context for the “rivers of living water” that Christ said would flow from those who believe in him.
- As it happens, there was also a ceremony involving light that will help us understand this passage.

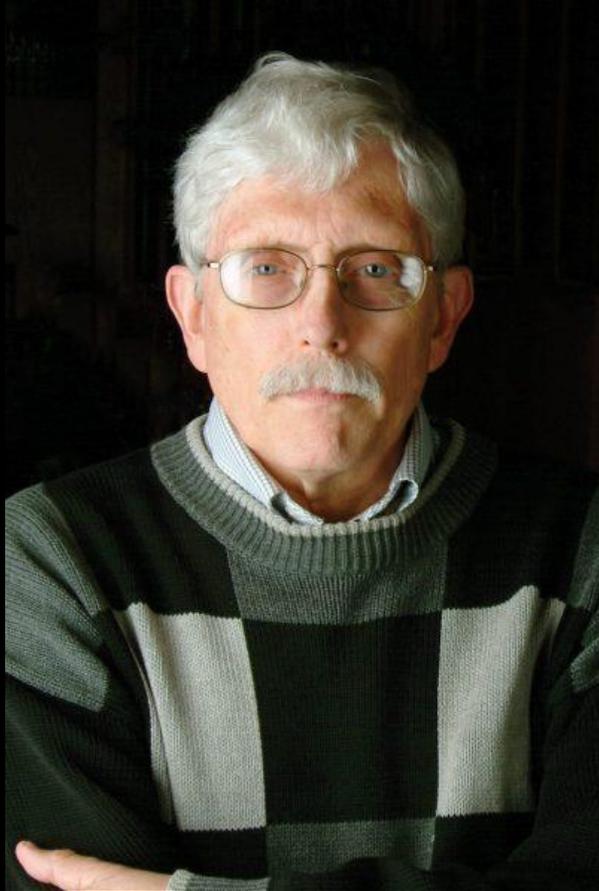
2. The Light of the World 8:12-30



At dusk, the priests would light four huge lamps in the court of women in the temple, high enough that they had to climb ladders to light them ... This took place on the Temple Mount, the highest point in Jerusalem, and it was said that all of Jerusalem was lit by these lamps ...

– Grant Osborne (1942 – 2018), Trinity Evangelical Divinity School

2. The Light of the World 8:12-30



... There was singing and dancing throughout the night ... Jesus ... spoke these words while standing in the treasury “where the offerings were put” (8: 20) in the court of women, meaning he was standing beneath these golden bowls as he spoke.³

– Grant Osborne (1942 – 2018), Trinity Evangelical Divinity School

2. The Light of the World 8:12-30

- As we might expect, however, not everyone believes what Jesus says.
- **8:13** Some Pharisees accuse him of a sort of self-promotion, **bearing witness about himself**.
- If they only understood, this was completely absurd.
- No one ever humbled himself more than Jesus Christ.

2. The Light of the World 8:12-30

- 8:23 “You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world.”
- This is one of the harsher statements Jesus makes in the Gospels, and he will get even harsher later on.
- The statement reveals the terrible difference between Jesus and humanity that is trapped in sin.

2. The Light of the World 8:12-30

- Ephesians 2:1-5 (ESV)

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ² in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience ... ⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved.

2. The Light of the World 8:12-30

- In this next section, Jesus will explain something of how that happens.
- But before we leave, highlight the phrase “I am he” in 8:24 and 8:28.

3. The Truth Will Set You Free 8:31-38

3. The Truth Will Set You Free 8:31-38

- Let's camp out for a minute on our key verses.
- 8:31-32 (ESV)

³¹ So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

3. The Truth Will Set You Free 8:31-38

- The word “abide” means to settle down and make ourselves at home somewhere.
- Listen to what John writes in his first letter.

3. The Truth Will Set You Free 8:31-38

- 1 John 2:14 (ESV)

I write to you, fathers,

because you know him who is from the beginning.

I write to you, young men,

because you are strong,

and the word of God abides in you,

and you have overcome the evil one.

3. The Truth Will Set You Free 8:31-38

- One of the big keys to discipleship is to abide in God's word, which means more than a casual acquaintance.
- Similar to that is to let God's word abide in us.
- We make ourselves at home in God's word and we let it also be at home within us.
- This is how we overcome the evil one and how we grow in our faith – but not everyone takes that path.

4. “Your Father the Devil” 8:39-47

4. “Your Father the Devil” 8:39-47

- 8:41 We were not born of sexual immorality
- Very possibly they are referring here to the circumstances of Christ’s birth.
- Not knowing about or understanding the virgin conception of Jesus, they assume something else.
- These people may be descendants of Abraham, but there is not enough family resemblance.

4. “Your Father the Devil” 8:39-47

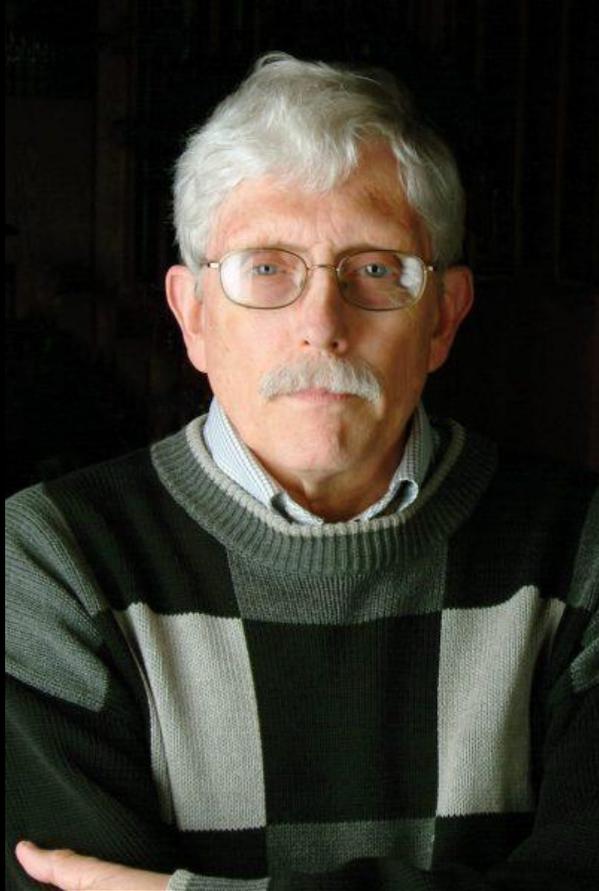
- 8:43 Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word.
- This is the opposite of the discipleship we talked about earlier.
- Under the influence of Satan, the world cannot understand God’s word and cannot bear to listen to it.

4. “Your Father the Devil” 8:39-47

- We should read this verse slowly to truly grasp it.
- **John 8:44** (ESV)

You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

4. “Your Father the Devil” 8:39-47



Satan’s primary strategy is deception; he does not so much overpower people as lead them astray. Falsehood is at the heart of his character, “for he is a liar and the father of lies.” The only time he will ever tell the truth is when it enables him to deceive more easily.⁴

*– Grant Osborne (1942 – 2018)
Trinity Evangelical Divinity School*

4. “Your Father the Devil” 8:39-47

- Rejecting Jesus Christ is no small thing.
- It is the difference between belonging to God or belonging to the devil.
- In Christ, we are able to hear and understand the words of God.
- Outside of Christ we cannot hear them – we cannot even bear to listen to them and take them in.

4. “Your Father the Devil” 8:39-47

- Now for the biggest claims of all – which many in the crowd simply could not tolerate.

5. Before Abraham Was, I Am 8:48-59

5. Before Abraham Was, I Am 8:48-59

- Jesus could not deny his true identity.
- He came from God, knew God the Father deeply and personally and knew him from all eternity.
- Had they received him, they would have understood this – much as Abraham did.

5. Before Abraham Was, I Am 8:48-59

- 8:56 Abraham first rejoiced when he saw Christ's day prophetically in the promises of the covenant.
- Abraham then no doubt was glad with all of heaven when Jesus came to earth.
- But his crowd refuses to listen.
- What Jesus is saying is simply too much for them.

5. Before Abraham Was, I Am 8:48-59

People's opposition to the gospel is frequently not based on rational objections or intellectual argument but is at the root moral rebellion against God, a willful assertion of human autonomy ... that prefers life without God over life with and under God. ⁵

*– Andreas Köstenberger,
Midwest Baptist Theological Seminary*



5. Before Abraham Was, I Am 8:48-59

- 8:58 Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.”
- This is possibly the most profound statement Jesus ever made.
- It is a claim to absolute deity – that he is the “I Am” of the Old Testament.
- The phrase “I am” is also in the Greek of 8:24 & 28.

John 8 What We Just Read

John 8 What We Just Read

1. An Adulteress Forgiven 7:53 – 8:11
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John 8 Key Verses

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³¹ So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

John 8 Key Points

John 8 Key Points

1. Following Christ, we should always stand firm on sin while still treating people with compassion.
2. He is the **light of the world**, which means that in him we see clearly and do not walk in darkness.
3. If we want to be true **disciples** we will abide in God's word and let God's word abide in us.
4. Those who reject Christ are, according to Jesus, **children of the devil**. Only he can save us.

John 8 Key Points

5. He can do so because **he is God**. He is the **I Am** of the Old Testament.
6. In other words, before Abraham ever existed, Jesus existed eternally.
7. As usual in **John**, Jesus is pushing us toward a decision. **What are we going to do with Christ?**

John 8 A Prayer

John 8 A Prayer

- Heavenly Father,
- Help us to take an attitude toward sin and toward sinners much like the one that Jesus had.
- Help us to demand repentance in ourselves, earnestly desire it in others, but help us to avoid condemning them, knowing that we ourselves have sinned.

John 8 A Prayer

- Cause us to always see Christ as the light of the world, so that we might walk in that light and not walk in darkness ever again.
- Make us Christ's true disciples, people who would abide in your word and let your word abide in us. Let that word transform us and help us to grow.
- Since we know and understand that Jesus is truly God, we worship him even as we worship you, Father.

John 8 A Prayer

- We know that people's eternity hangs in the balance and is decided on their response to Christ.
- Make us useful in the proclamation of the gospel, in calling children of the devil out of darkness, out of the bondage and slavery of sin, and into freedom, into the bright, clear vision of your marvelous light.
- In Christ,
- Amen

John 8 References

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