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Teacher's Lesson No. 7

LESSON THEME:—JOHN

John 1:1-10

- **KEY WORD**—“**BELIEVE.**”
- **KEY VERSE**—John 20:31.
- **KEY PHRASE**—“**CHRIST IS THE DIVINE SON OF GOD.**”

WRITER—The Apostle John who wrote five books in all—this gospel, the three epistles and Revelation. His father, Zebedee, a fisherman of Bethsaida, was in good circumstances, and his mother, Salome, was a devout follower of the Lord. John was about 25 years of age when called by Christ early in His ministry, and so devoted was he to the Master that he was called “the beloved disciple,” John 12:23. With James and Peter he was selected by Christ to witness His transfiguration, and go with Him in the garden of Gethsemane. John was present at the raising of Jairus’ daughter, and at the crucifixion, and was the first disciple at the tomb after the news of the resurrection. In His later life he is thought to have been the pastor of the church at Ephesus, and was banished from there to the Isle of Patmos where he wrote the Revelation.

DATE—About 90 A.D. **Place**—Ephesus.

PURPOSE—“That ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing ye might live through His name,” John 20:31.

GREAT FACTS:—

John Is a Gospel of:—

1. Divinity.
2. Eternal Life.
3. Spirituality.
4. Trinity.

THE TIMES OF JOHN—Jerusalem had been destroyed twenty years previously, and the temple with it, which weakened the religion of the Jews. The gospel had been preached all over the Roman Empire and had made a great impression everywhere. All the books of the New Testament except this gospel and Revelation had been written, so that the facts and doctrines of the gospel were getting to be well known. Already, however, false teachers were arising who denied that Jesus Christ was truly the Son of God come in the flesh. John therefore, writes just those scenes, works, and words of Jesus that reveal His divine person and power, grace and glory.

Great Fact I -- The Gospel of Christ's Divinity.

The gospel of John is the most read and the best loved because it focuses on the person of Jesus Christ. If John did not know Christ, then no one knew Him, for John had not only the best, but the latest knowledge of Jesus. With John everything in heaven and earth, of time and eternity all centered about Christ. John taught that

1. Christ was God the Son,
2. that He existed back in the beginning with God the Father,
3. that in Him the prophecies of the Old Testament were fulfilled,
4. that He was the perfect teacher;
5. perfectly sinless,
6. the perfect example,
7. that He wrought miracles as no one else ever did,
8. that He arose from the dead,
9. that He will return for His servants.

LESSON—Because Christ was divinely sent, divinely announced, and divinely attested. Because He spoke divinely, lived divinely and created divinely. Because of His perfect character, perfect teachings, and perfect salvation, we should say with Thomas, “Thou are my Lord and my God!” We should always reverently speak of Him as the Lord Jesus Christ, and take every opportunity of praising that Name as being above every name!

Great Fact II -- The Gospel of Eternal Life.

John teaches that the soul by sin has lost its spiritual life, its first purity, its harmony and happiness arising from peace and friendship with God. The soul left God like a falling star from its central sun, and is truly described as being dead; dead in sin, dead to God, and dead to heaven. In John 5:24 we see that Christ came to give us eternal life. Eternal because it is not temporary and fading. Eternal because it is not

material and eternal because it is the life of God, which restores His image to the soul. This eternal life comes by believing in Christ. As we believe, the Holy Spirit applies the very life of Christ Himself to our hearts, and a spiritual nature is born in us, John 10:10.

LESSON—The “I Ams” of Christ are not only beautiful, but full of meaning. “I am the life,” means a new nature from Christ. “I am the Way,” means progress in Christ. “I am the Vine,” means fellowship with Christ. “I am the Good Shepherd,” means the watch-care of Christ. “I am the Bread of life,” means spiritual food from Christ. “I am the Light of the World,” means spiritual instruction from Christ. “I am the Resurrection and the Life,” means final triumph in Christ.

Many years ago a friend who had an orange orchard told the great Evangelist D.L. Moody to take some fruit whenever he wanted any. He, therefore, did not go to an orange tree and pray that the oranges would fall into his pocket, but walked up to a tree, reached out his hand and took the oranges. The friend said “Take,” and he took. God offers us the gift of eternal life. Romans 6:23. He says, “Take!” Shall we take it?

Great Fact III -- It Is a Spiritual Gospel.

John’s gospel is known as the spiritual gospel because it deals much with the heavenly origin and life of our Lord, and of the spiritual facts of the Christian life. It is the gospel of

1. The spiritual birth. In reply to Nicodemus, John 3:3, Jesus taught that all must be born again, which means that every sinner must have the change of heart that is wrought by the Holy Spirit when he repentantly believes in Jesus Christ. Natural birth makes us like our earthly parent, and spiritual birth makes us like our Heavenly Father. If you had an incurable thief in the family, it would help little to give him a change of clothing, or supply him with fine shoes or adorn him with jewelry. No, nothing on the outside would help; it would take a complete change in the man’s thoughts, desires and nature. Thus when the Holy Spirit would change a lost wicked man, He begins not with his outward words and acts, but with his heart. He makes him to hate every sin and to love every virtue. A new spiritual nature leads to new ritual conduct.
2. Spiritual worship. While the heathen worshipped the sun, moon, etc., “Greeks their unknown God,” and the Samaritans the God of the temple, Jesus taught that true worship did not depend upon so-called holy

places, or holy ordinances, or holy ritual, but rather upon the sincere, reverent prayer and praise of each heart, John 4:24. Worship is the loving attempt to pay our unpayable debt of love—the expression of devoted hearts. Public worship of God in the presence of His people is a necessity of the Christian’s life, but spiritual Christians will always think less of the forms and ceremonies than they will of the power and spirit of worship.

3. Spiritual growth. Christ is ever represented as giving better, larger, more abundant life, John 10:10. It is more abundant life than that which was forfeited by sin, more abundant than that which was promised by the law of Moses, yes it is far exceeding abundant, more than we are able to ask or think. This larger life must have an ever-growing fruitfulness. Jesus had often said to His disciples, “Come unto Me, Follow Me, Learn of Me, Abide In Me,” but in the fifteenth chapter He says, “Be increasingly fruitful for Me.” He expects us all to be third-degree fruit bearers, not only to bear fruit and more fruit, John 16:2, but much fruit, John 15:8. This fruit which is ninefold and is specified in Galatians 5:22-23, will prove the reality of our religion, and also glorify the Father.

Great Fact IV -- The Gospel of the Holy Trinity.

John teaches that there is only one true God, but that in the Godhead there are three eternal distinctions, which are represented to us under the figure of persons and these three, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are equal. Christ declares that He and the Father are one, John 10:30. In John 14:16, all Three Persons are brought together in one verse. Indeed as we read through this gospel, particularly John 15-16, we clearly see three manifestations of the one God, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

Remind the students to read the following for the next session:

REQUIRED READING PRIOR TO NEXT SESSION:

- Day One—Results of Pentecostal sermon,—Acts 2:37-47.
- Day Two—Preaching and Holy Spirit given to Gentiles,—Acts 10:34-48.
- Day Three—First missionary journey,—Acts 13:3-13.
- Day Four—Church council at Jerusalem,—Acts 15:1-20.
- Day Five—Second missionary Journey,—Acts 18:23-28.
- Day Six—Third missionary journey,—Acts 19-21.

- Day Seven—Paul’s Roman ministry,—Acts 28:16-31.

BONUS READING PRIOR TO THE NEXT SESSION:

The entire book of Acts.