

“Jesus Christ: Creator, Savior, Light, and Life” | Eric J. Bargerhuff, Ph.D. | 01.09. 2022  
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Eric J. Bargerhuff, Ph.D. who is the Vice President for Academic Affairs and Professor of Bible and Theology at Trinity College of Florida spoke to us this morning at North Pointe Church. This Go Deeper will include some differences between the Gospel of John and the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Read about these differences and then discuss the questions below with your family members or Small Group.

## Unique features of the Gospel of John that are different than Matthew, Mark, and Luke:

Omissions (what it's missing):

- 1) No account of Christ's birth
- 2) No record of Christ's baptism
- 3) No mention of Jesus' temptations in the wilderness
- 4) No account of Jesus' transfiguration on the mountain
- 5) No report of Jesus casting out a demon
- 6) No *institution* of the Lord's Supper
- 7) No Ascension account
- 8) No parables

Additions (things John includes that others don't):

- 1) Jesus' ministry in Judea
- 2) The idea that Jesus' total ministry lasted three years
- 3) The miracle of turning water into wine
- 4) Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus, the woman at the well, raising of Lazarus
- 5) Lengthy conversations to disciples during His final week and at the Last Supper

## Things that John tends to emphasize:

- 1) Who Jesus is as the Son of God (Messiah).
- 2) The theme of salvation from sin and God's sovereignty in salvation.
- 3) An emphasis on the "already not yet" – signs, kingdom coming, the hope of the future.
- 4) The person of the Holy Spirit
- 5) Jesus as the fulfillment of OT feasts, festivals and OT allusions (temple, bread, etc.).
- 6) The misunderstanding that the disciples and people had of Jesus' ministry.
- 7) Dualisms – “opposites” – light and darkness, life and death, truth and lie, sight and blindness, from above and below, etc.
- 8) The “people of God” as a major theme

## Go Deeper questions:

1. If you “become what you behold,” how does this apply to your own life? What do you spend most of your time focusing on and how can you purposefully keep your focus on Christ?
2. John the Baptist waited at least 30 years before it was his time to be dramatically used by God. What do you think is God's purpose for your life and how could it involve introducing others to Jesus Christ?
3. Jesus came to His own people (Israel) but the majority of them rejected him. Why do you think their hearts were so hard? (See John 3:19-20; 2 Cor. 4:4)
4. When someone does in fact believe, what is actually taking place? (see John 3:3; Acts 16:14)
5. In what areas of your life have you experienced Jesus' “grace upon grace”? How does the idea that God's grace is greater than any of your sin affect the way you view your past sins and failures?