

# CARIBBEAN SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

*Educating and training ministerial leadership*



## **BIB423 John's Gospel and Letters**

**Professor:** Dr. Mike Peterson

### **Mission Statement**

CST is committed to connect, serve, and train for Pentecostal ministry, leadership, and missions throughout the world.

### **I. Course Description**

The author examines the life, character, and ministry of Jesus Christ. This examination includes not only the historical context but also the divine perspective presented by John the Evangelist. The study of this course increases the student's understanding of John's Gospel and the Letters and aids her or him in their interpretation.

**II. Course Objectives**—As a result of these studies, the student should be able to:

- A. Discuss the uniqueness of John's vocabulary and use of signs, symbols, and interviews in his Gospel.
- B. Describe the structure of the Gospel and its significance.
- C. Explain the purpose of John's Prologue and what it reveals about the Logos or incarnate Word.
- D. Identify the relationship between the seven signs in the Gospel of John and the teaching of Jesus that accompanied each sign.
- E. Discuss the general contents of this Gospel and identify key passages.
- F. Explain given theological issues presented in this Gospel such as the deity of Christ, His relationship to the Father, the work of the Holy Spirit, and the implications of Christ's death and resurrection.
- G. Interpret any passage of this Gospel correctly and effectively in your preaching, teaching, or witnessing.
- H. Compare John's Gospel and Letters with the Synoptic accounts and explain similarities or differences in the accounts.

### **III. Required Textbooks**

Bruce, F. F. 1988. *The Gospel and Epistles of John*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company.

The New International Version of the Bible (NIV)

### **IV. Course Requirements**

- A. Read the textbook in its entirety before beginning your study time.
- B. A Mid-term exam and a Final exam (perhaps proctored by Geraldine; when you are ready to take the exams, have Geraldine email me and I will send them).

- C. Term quiz at the beginning of each chapter (**Note:** Terms are located under **VIII. Vocabulary List** below. Also, have a proctor (perhaps Geraldine) to give you the Term Quiz at the beginning of each chapter. Geraldine can send me the results of how many terms are incorrectly answered by email.
- D. Read John’s Gospel carefully **before the course begins** and note the following information: You will discover images, ideas, and concepts that will come as news to those of us primarily familiar with Matthew, Mark, and Luke.
  1. Make a schedule that allows you to read John’s twenty-one chapters with some leisure.
  2. Take several deep breaths before reading each section to prime your mind and imagination. Read slowly.
  3. Highlight those passages that get you thinking, and enter a question mark when you find yourself at odds with the text.
- E. In Roman numeral IX below (John–Study Questions), answer each of the stated questions in a brief yet complete manner.
- F. Study a map of the era of John and locate the various towns, bodies of water, and other geographical details. A map quiz will be given toward the end of the course.
- G. **Course Project:** See the instructions in **VII. Course Project** below.
- H. **All course work is to be submitted via email to** [mike.peterson@agmd.org]. If you have questions, please contact me at the above email address. Thanks

**V. Course Procedures**

Classroom lectures, group discussion, audio-visual presentations, handouts, and case studies constitute some of the various methods that will be utilized in order to attain the course objectives.

**VI. Evaluation Procedures**

The final grade will be determined on the following:

Term Quizzes	10%
Map Quiz	5%
Study Questions	20%
Mid-term exam	20%
Final exam	20%
Paper/project	25%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

**VII. Vocabulary List**

<b>Lesson 1</b>
<b>Tradition</b> —the handing down of information, beliefs, and customs by word of mouth or by example from one generation to another without written instruction
<b>Synoptics</b> —a descriptive, collective term for the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke because they are similar in language, content, and order of events

<b>Johannine</b> — relating to or characteristic of the apostle John or the New Testament books written by him
<b>ca.</b> — abbreviation for the Latin circa, meaning “approximately, about”
<b>Harmonize</b> — bring into harmony, agreement, or accord; to interweave different accounts into a single narrative; with respect to the four Gospel accounts, to

make a single chronological record of all the events in all four Gospels without repeating anything	quality of having infinite duration
<b>Lesson 2</b>	<b>Manifestation</b> — something that is readily perceived by the senses, especially by sight, or that is easily understood or recognized by the mind; something that has been made evident or certain by showing or displaying
<b>Structure</b> — something arranged in a definite pattern of organization	<b>Immanence</b> — the quality or state of remaining or operating within a domain of reality; of the Deity: indwelling the universe and time
<b>Glorification</b> — the culmination of the divine purpose in the career of Jesus; the passion or death of Jesus—a definite historical event; the hour of Christ’s greatest humiliation and supreme glory	<b>transcendence</b> the quality or state of existence beyond the limits of ordinary experience; the quality or state of being prior to, beyond, and above (the universe or material existence)
<b>Prologue</b> — introduction to a literary work	<b>Impartation</b> — the giving, conveying, or granting a part or share of; the communicating of knowledge
<b>Deity</b> — supreme Being; God; divinity; having the rank or essential nature of God	<b>Condescension</b> — voluntary descent from one’s rank or dignity in relations with an inferior
<b>Epilogue</b> — a concluding section added to a book, novel, poem, or other written work that rounds out or interprets the work	<b>Experientially</b> — having to do with or based on experience
<b>Controversy</b> — dispute; quarrel or strife; a discussion marked especially by the expression of opposing views	<b>Theophanies</b> — visible manifestations of Deity
<b>Consummation</b> — the ultimate end; completion in every detail	<b>Insubordination</b> — refusal to obey; rebellion; resistance to authority
<b>Lesson 3</b>	<b>Subordination</b> — state of being placed in or occupying a lower class or rank
<b>Genealogy</b> — an account of the descent of a person, family, or group from an ancestor or from older forms	<b>Lesson 4</b>
<b>Incarnate</b> — embodied in flesh, especially in human form; invested with bodily and especially human nature and form	<b>Proselytes</b> — those who have been converted from one belief, religion, or party to another; converts to Judaism
<b>all-pervasive</b> —having the power to go or spread throughout; be throughout	<b>Compelling</b> — forceful; irresistible; driving or urging forcefully or irresistibly
<b>referents</b> persons, things, or ideas that a word or symbol stands for or refers to; those that refer or are referred to	<b>Insufficiency</b> — lack; too small a supply; inadequacy
<b>Abstract</b> — not concrete; thought of apart from any particular object or actual instance; expressing or naming a quality or idea rather than a particular object	<b>Sufficiency</b> — the quality or state of being enough to meet the needs of a situation
<b>Prerogatives</b> — exclusive or special rights, powers, or privileges	<b>Commercialization</b> — the process of making something a matter of business or trade; process of applying the methods and
<b>Eternality</b> — quality of endless existence;	

spirit of buying and selling
<b>Sanctuary</b> — sacred place; the most sacred part of any place of worship; place of refuge or protection
<b>Lesson 5</b>
<b>Superficial</b> — shallow; concerned only with the obvious or apparent; presenting only an appearance without substance or significance
<b>Supremacy</b> — the quality or state of being the highest in rank, authority, degree, or quality
<b>Transformation</b> — the process of being changed in character or condition
<b>Generation</b> — the act of producing offspring or bringing into being; procreation
<b>Regeneration</b> — spiritual renewal or revival; rebirth of the spirit
<b>Preeminence</b> — superiority to others; a standing out above all others
<b>Lesson 6</b>
<b>Blasphemy</b> — abuse or contempt of God or sacred things; the act of insulting or showing lack of reverence for God
<b>Invalid</b> — someone who suffers from disease or disability
<b>Paralyzed</b> — affected with the loss of ability to move
<b>Theology</b> — the study of God and His relations to the world
<b>Christology</b> — theological term for the study of the person and work of Christ
<b>Soteriology</b> — theology dealing with salvation, especially as effected by Jesus Christ
<b>Eschatology</b> — a branch of theology concerned with the final events in the history of the world or humankind
<b>Deficiency</b> — quality or state of being

inadequate or not up to a normal standard
<b>Disillusionment</b> — disenchantment; state of being set free from believing something that appears to be real or true but is not
<b>Appropriate</b> — (verb) to take exclusive possession of; to set apart for or assign to a particular purpose or use
<b>Exclusive</b> — not divided or shared with others; very selective
<b>Lesson 7</b>
<b>Sarcasm</b> — a sneering or cutting remark; act of making fun of a person to hurt his or her feelings
<b>Opportunism</b> — policy or practice of using every opportunity to one's advantage without considering whether such an action is right or wrong in each particular circumstance
<b>Duplicity</b> — deceitfulness; pretense; secretly acting in one way and openly acting in another in order to deceive
<b>Paradox</b> — something such as a person, condition, or act with seemingly contradictory or opposing qualities or phases; contrary to expectation
<b>pragmatism</b> philosophy based on the belief that the truth, meaning, or value of ideas must be judged by their practical consequences; concern with practical results or values
<b>Adulation</b> — excessive praise, flattery, or admiration
<b>Apocryphal</b> — of doubtful authorship, authenticity, or inspiration; describes the fourteen books of the Apocrypha, writings that appear in the Septuagint and the Vulgate but not included in Jewish or Protestant Bibles because of their questionable origin or content

<b>Canonicity</b> — the quality or state of conforming to a general rule; conformability to the standards of the canon of Scripture
<b>Contradiction</b> — statement or act that opposes another; denial; disagreement; inconsistency
<b>Insinuation</b> — a sly, subtle, and usually derogatory utterance; the act or process of tending gradually to cause doubt, distrust, or change of outlook
<b>Lesson 8</b>
<b>a priori</b> — from cause to effect; based on opinion or theory rather than on actual observation or experience
<b>a posteriori</b> — from effect to cause; from particular cases to a general rule; based on actual observation or experience
<b>Intertestamental</b> — related to the period of approximately 400 years between the last events recorded in the Old Testament and the first events recorded in the New Testament
<b>a fortiori</b> — describes an argument used in drawing a conclusion that is inferred to be even more certain than another
<b>Resuscitation</b> — the process of reviving from apparent death or from unconsciousness; bringing back to life or consciousness
<b>Lesson 9</b>
<b>Traitor</b> — one who betrays another's trust or is false to an obligation or duty
<b>Betrayer</b> — one who places a friend in the hands of an enemy by treachery or disloyalty; one who deceives
<b>Discernment</b> quality of being able to see or understand the difference; quality of being able to grasp and comprehend what is obscure

<b>Lesson 10</b>
<b>Passion</b> — intense, driving, or overmastering feelings; the sufferings of Christ between the night of the Last Supper and His death
<b>Condescend</b> — come down willingly or graciously to the level of those inferior in rank; stoop or lower oneself
<b>Depravity</b> — the quality or state of being marked by corruption or evil; a corrupt act or practice
<b>Lesson 11</b>
<b>Tangible</b> — capable of being perceived, especially by the sense of touch; substantially real; capable of being precisely realized by the mind
<b>Ethic</b> — the discipline of dealing with what is good and bad and with moral duty and obligation; a set of moral principles or values
<b>Vitality</b> — strength, energy, or vigor; enduring power
<b>Paraclete</b> — a descriptive term for the Holy Spirit; advocate, intercessor, one called alongside to help
<b>Pruning</b> — cutting out useless or undesirable parts
<b>Lesson 12</b>
<b>Tribulation</b> — distress or suffering resulting from oppression or persecution
<b>Intercessory</b> — interceding; related to prayer, petition, or entreaty in favor of another
<b>Lesson 13</b>
<b>Ecclesiastical</b> — of or having to do with the church or clergy
<b>Emeritus</b> — retired from active service, but still holding one's rank and title; person honorably discharged or retired from service
<b>Vacillation</b> — inability to take a stand;

indecision; wavering in mind, will, or feeling
<b>Lesson 14</b>
<b>Futile</b> — completely ineffective; serving no useful purpose; useless
<b>post-resurrection</b> — following the raising of Jesus from the dead
<b>Typological</b> — of or relating to a doctrine of theological types (persons or things as in the Old Testament believed to foreshadow others as in the New Testament)
<b>Phantom</b> — image of the mind that seems to be real; a vague, dim, or shadowy appearance; ghost; appearance without material substance
<b>Discipleship</b> — the activity of one who accepts and assists in spreading the doctrines of another; a lifestyle of following Jesus, obeying His will, and witnessing to others about Him

## VIII. Course Project

In this project you will explore the word *believe* in connection with the seven specific signs (miracles) recorded in John's Gospel. Develop a definition of *belief* and comment on the result of belief or unbelief in individual lives.

Your project should include: (1) A chart outlining specific aspects of the seven signs (miracles) found in the Gospel of John; (2) An essay discussing belief as illustrated in the seven signs found in the Gospel of John.

### Project Instructions

This project includes two parts: (1) a chart and (2) an essay.

1. Prepare a chart similar to the example given below. Make columns to record the information under the following headings: Sign and Scripture passage (include Scripture passage), Scripture reference to belief (all verses with the words faith, belief, believing, and believed), Individual or group affected, Observations about belief, and Lessons (truths) learned about belief (these are the practical life applications about belief). Include all seven signs in your chart. Some signs are explained more fully by Jesus in additional passages. List additional passages in column two. (More weight will be given to lessons learned about belief.) One sign has no specific references to belief, which should be noted in column two adjacent to that sign. Document the resources you use (for example, commentaries and dictionaries).

<b><i>Sign and Scripture Passage</i></b>	<b><i>Scripture reference to belief</i></b>	<b><i>Individual or group affected</i></b>	<b><i>Observations about belief</i></b>	<b><i>Lessons learned about belief</i></b>
Wedding at Cana: turning water into wine (John 2:1–11)	John 2:11	Jesus' mother  Disciples	Jesus' mother had faith in her son (v. 5).  (Additional observations)	Needs provide opportunity for belief.  (Additional observations)

2. Write an essay on the lessons (truths) you learned about belief from the seven signs (miracles) found in the Gospel of John. (Refer to the chart you prepared in Question 1.) Your essay should also include a definition of the word *believe*, the behavior associated with belief or the act of believing, and the goal John intended for his hearers as a result of belief. You may also include the results of unbelief. Document the resources you use.

**Writing Instructions:** Your document should be a minimum of six pages with reference list. The document is to be double-spaced, 12 point Times New Roman font, one inch margins, and typewritten). You may use your Bible, notes, and research material. Your reference list should include a minimum of three references not including your textbook.

## IX. John—Study Questions

1. What is John's word for miracles? Why?
2. List all of Jesus' miracles in John's gospel.
3. Briefly trace the tension in John between two worlds.
4. Set forth John's view of light.
5. Summarize John's view of Jesus as love. Cite specific verses.
7. How does John use “belief” as a concept?
8. How do you think John 21 functions in the overall plan of John?
9. Which of John's theological agendas is reflected in 13:1ff?
10. How do John 1-3 contribute to understanding Jesus' identity?
11. In what way is John 6 a turning point in John's gospel?
12. Who is John? Write a brief biographical sketch.
13. To whom did John likely write?
14. When was John's gospel probably written?

## X. Bibliography

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