



## International Bible Study Commentary

Verse-by-Verse Bible Lessons Thru the Bible

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### **To Believers, Jesus is More Than Our Savior John 1:1-18**

*But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God (John 1:12).*

The Apostle John opened his book of good news by telling us that Jesus is the Word of God who created our universe and gave us life and light. Jesus gives us light to see physically, mentally, and spiritually so we can reason and understand. Any and every truth we learn and any fact we know involves God and Jesus in some way—they created the universe and us. For example, our scientific studies of the world should lead us into the profound worship of God and give us a desire to learn more about God and the world God created.

Jesus did not keep the truths about God and the universe quietly to himself for us to try to figure out by ourselves. From the beginning, Jesus chose to shine His light into the world for all to see, and by Jesus' light we understand through His creation something about the true God and God's character and nature (see Romans 1:19-20). We learn even more from the Bible! The Bible teaches that God loves us, and each day God reveals more about God's love for the world and us. In the Bible we learn that by

God's grace through faith in Jesus that believers in Jesus Christ can enjoy an everlasting joy and loving friendship with God (see John 15:11-15). For example, God reveals His love for us when we read the Old Testament prophets and the words of John the Baptist who came to prepare people for the coming of Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, into the world. God has revealed and continues to reveal the everlasting love of God through Jesus Christ—the Son that the Father sent into the world for our sake—“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life” (John 3:16). Do you believe in and know Jesus Christ as your loving Savior and Friend?

Jesus is the Messiah that God promised to send into the world. Jesus came personally into the world as a human being conceived by the Holy Spirit in the virgin Mary. Jesus is the true light, and anyone who becomes truly enlightened has been enlightened by Jesus. To understand and live with the knowledge that Jesus is our Savior and Friend, we must be enlightened by Jesus. Jesus is the Word of God, and by His words and actions Jesus revealed the truth about God, creation, and the condition or situation of every human being in the world. Jesus revealed that the world needs a Savior, and He is the Savior of the world. Still, Jesus is more than the Savior of the world—something everyone who believes in Jesus knows.

Sadly, too many who say they believe in Jesus Christ show no interest in learning as much as they possibly can about Jesus—the true Word of God as truly revealed in the Bible, the Word of God written. Sometimes they learn little more than the facts about Jesus dying for their sins and rising from the dead—these are important and essential gospel facts—but there they stop learning. They never learn how Jesus wants to be their Friend and give them “grace upon grace” and more “grace and truth” (see John 1:16-18).

If you read further in the Gospel of John, think about the meaning of John 1:12, “But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power (or the right) to become children of God.” What does it mean *to you*, if anything, to be or become a child of God? What are the blessings a believer receives as a child of God? What does our Heavenly Father expect *of you* as His child? How do our Heavenly Father and Jesus (when on the earth and now) think and treat people as good examples for their spiritual children? What does it mean *to you* in your heart and mind to think about the Father of Jesus being your Father too? If you believe Jesus is your Savior, do you also know that Jesus is or wants to be your Friend and big Brother? Do you want to learn more about the Father and Jesus and how to live daily as a child of God in this world and forever? If so, study the Gospel of John.

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