

# JOHN

1:1-18

**I**n the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; through him, and without him, nothing was made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

**The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the Father, full of grace and truth.**

## John Witness the True Light

"There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the light, that all through him might believe. He was not that light, but came to witness of that light. That was the true light which gives light to every man coming into the world."

"He was in the world, and the world did not know him, and the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own did not receive him. But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name—who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of man, but of God."

## The Word Became Flesh

"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. His name was John, and he came out, saying, 'This was he whom I said, He who comes after me, he is preferred before me, whose rank he has no equal in this world.' And of his fulness we have all received, and grace for grace. For the law was given through Moses, and grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, he has declared him."

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## A Witness in the Wilderness

"Now this is the testimony which John bore witness to, that the Jews might believe on him. He said, 'I saw the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, like a dove, and I heard his voice, saying, 'This is the Son of God.' And he said to him, 'What are you doing?' He said, 'I am doing nothing, but I am saying to you, 'This man is the Son of God.' And he said to him, 'What are you doing?' He said, 'I am doing nothing, but I am saying to you, 'This man is the Son of God.'"

## The First Disciple

"Again, the next day, John stood with two of his disciples. And looking at Jesus as he walked, he said, 'Behold the Lamb of God.' The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. Then Jesus turned, and seeing them following, said to them, 'What do you want?' They said to him, 'Rabbi' (which is to say, where translated, Teacher), 'where art thou abiding?' He said to them, 'Come and see.' They came and saw where he was abiding, and remained with him for many days. This is the first sign which he did in them, that they should believe on him."

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## John Chapter Two

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### John 2:1-4

**Wedding at .** 1 The next day there was a **wedding celebration** in the village of Cana in Galilee. **Jesus' mother was there,**2 and **Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the celebration.**3 The wine supply ran out during the festivities, so Jesus' mother told him, "They have no more wine."4 "Dear woman, that's not our problem," Jesus replied. "**My time has not yet come.**"

#### **bfc:**

I have to say up front, when I first read Chapter Two, prior breaking the scriptures down "bite by bite" to study, I was not as excited about it, as I was Chapter One. Reason being, this is "very controversial", the subject of wine and partying. I have thought about this all week, and this morning it is time to share my heart and also see what the Commentary says.

This could be an exhaustive study, but we don't have time for that right now, it would be a good in depth study to do some research on, if you have some extra time. Even so, I think it will all come down to each person's relationship with Jesus and their personal convictions from the Holy Spirit within.

**Wedding Celebrations:** Jesus and his disciples were invited along with His mother. This is a time of celebration and joy for the couple being married and starting a new journey and life together, and all that come to celebrate with the couple, chime in with their joy of celebration.

Different people and denominations celebrate differently, that is a given. Our concern with "studying the Word" is not so much to argue or say who is right or wrong, it is to see what the Word of God says, how He speaks "life giving instructions" to us, right where we are at the time of reading it -" **Life Application Studying.**

The awesome thing about Gods Word is this; the same scripture can be read or studied at different dates, times and even years, in a person's life, and each time it is read, it will speak to you "**where you are**" and will help you with your "**current**" circumstances.

We also need to realize, that the culture and lifestyle in the OT was different than ours today. So a wedding celebration in Jesus time would probably be celebrated differently than today. Again, all this could be an in depth study and we won't be delving into that right now, not in this Life Application Study.

Each of us have different personalities and imaginations. I would venture to say, if there were 10 of us sitting in a group discussion, and all 10 of us were asked to describe how they thought the celebration (party) went, we would all have our different views and interpretations.

So having said all this, I will share from my heart, what my convictions are. I personally have never been comfortable in partying settings, prior to salvation or after salvation.

What does Celebration, Wedding and Festivities mean? Let's look them up before we go any further.

**Celebration:** To observe a notable occasion with festivities, observe a holiday, perform a religious ceremony.

**Wedding:** A marriage ceremony usually accompanying festivities.

**Festivities:** Joyous, happy, a time of celebration.

It is obvious, the party involved drinking here. I really am having a hard time with this verse because it goes so much against what "I **feel** is right and wrong". Let me try to make this brief, or we will never get off the first two verses in this chapter.

Some say drinking is ok and some say it is not, what do you say? My problem with the drinking is this; where are you (what environment are you in when drinking and how much are you drinking) and why are you doing the drinking? Most often, when people are "drinking" they drink to get "drunk" and forget all their problems and do stupid things, the door to sinning against God, swings wide open.

When in the wrong environment, with the wrong people living the wrong lifestyles, **you will get sucked into the sinfulness** of the environment and atmosphere around you. The flesh gets pretty weak and sloppy **when drunk** with wine or any type of alcohol.

**This is the clincher**; what would Jesus think if He saw you in such a stupor? What kind of witness is it for Him? If someone saw you or heard of your partying and drinking, and you had been trying to win them to the Lord, what do you think that would do to them? Do you think you could cause someone to stumble because of your actions? Do you feel good about what you did the morning after? Do you wake up feeling refreshed and ready to have a great day? Can you go to church on Sunday morning, with a **clear and clean conscious** after being out the night before "drinking" and partying? Do you justify the sinfulness that is involved with the drinking and partying? Do you get caught up in this lifestyle to "be a part of the group, to be accepted"?

The Bible doesn't have any reports of Jesus getting in a drunken stupor. When he drank wine, it did not "alter" His personality, Jesus was the Son of God and SINLESS. He is our "example", therefore, you talk to God about drinking and see what He really tells you. **Enough said.**

In the last part of this scripture Jesus says: "My time has not yet come". What did He mean by this? At this point in our study, lets pull out the old commentary and see what we find regarding these verses.

**Believers Bible Commentary:**

The supply of wine had failed. When the mother of Jesus realized what had happened, she presented the problem to her Son. She knew that He could perform a miracle in order to provide wine, and perhaps she wanted her Son to reveal Himself to the assembled guests as the Son of God. Wine in the Scriptures often speaks of Joy. **When Mary said, "They have no wine," she gave a very accurate description of men and women who have never been saved. There is no real, lasting joy for the unbeliever.** The reply of the Lord to His mother seems cold and distant. But it is not as strong as a rebuke as would seem to us.

The word woman used here is a title of respect, similar to our word "lady". Mary had wanted to see Jesus glorified, but He must remind her that the time for this had not yet come. Before He would appear to the world as the all-conquering Christ, He must first ascend to the altar of sacrifice, and this He did at the cross of Calvary.

**John 2:5-8**

5 But his **mother told the servants**, "Do whatever he tells you". 6 Standing nearby were six stone water jars, used for Jewish ceremonial washing. Each could hold twenty to thirty gallons. 7 **Jesus told the servants**, "Fill the jars with water." When the jars had been filled, 8 he said, "Now dip some out, and take it to the master of ceremonies." So the **servants followed his instructions**.

**bfc:**

**I see four things; submission to authority, respect, and faith, trust.**

**Submission**= Yield to the governing authority, to commit to another, to make available, to permit oneself to be subjected to another.

**Authority**=An individual cited or appealed to as an expert, power to influence or command thought, opinion, or behavior.

**Respect**=An act of giving particular attention, consideration, high or special regard, esteem, to consider worthy of high regard.

**Faith**=Loyalty, allegiance to duty or a person, firm belief, without doubt or question.

**Trust**=Assured reliance on the character, ability, strength, or truth of someone; one in which confidence is placed; something committed or entrusted to one to be cared for in the interest of another, hope, confident; rely on the truthfulness or accuracy of another.

**We also see the first miracle and beginning works of Jesus.**

**Believers Bible Commentary:**

Mary understood the meaning of His words, and so she instructed the servants to do "whatever He commanded" them. Her words are important ones for everyone of us. Notice that she did not direct men to obey her, or any other human being.

**She pointed them to the Lord Jesus** and told them that He was the One who should be "obeyed". The teachings of the Lord Jesus are given to us in the pages of the NT. As we read this precious book, we should remember the last recorded words of Mary, "Whatever He says to you, do it".

In the place where the wedding was being held, there were six large stone vessels, containing twenty or thirty gallons of water apiece. This water was used by the Jewish people for cleansing themselves from defilement. For instance, if a Jew touched a dead body, he was considered unclean until he went through a certain ceremony of cleansing.

Jesus gave instructions to fill the waterpots with water. This the servants did "immediately". The Lord used the facilities that were available when He was about to perform a miracle. He allowed men to provide the waterpots, and to fill them with water, but then He did what no man could ever do, changed the water into wine! It was the servants and not the disciples who filled the vessels with water. In this way, the Lord avoided the possibility of any charge or trickery. Also, the waterpots were filled to the brim, so that no one could say that wine had been added to the water.

The miracle had now taken place. The Lord instructed the servants to draw some out from the vessels and take the contents to the master of the feast. From this it is clear that the miracle had been instantaneous. The water did not become wine over a period of time, but in a second or so.

## John 2:9-10

9 When the master of ceremonies tasted the water that was now wine, not knowing where it had come from (though, of course, the servants knew), he called the bridegroom over.10 "A host always serves the best wine first," he said. "Then, when everyone has had a lot to drink, he brings out the less expensive wine. But you have kept the best until now!"

### bfc:

Being truthful and transparent is painful. You are probably wondering "why" I said that, because it has nothing to do with the verse we're looking at. As I sit here and read these verses, the two portions of scripture that seem to be talking to me is underlined.

1. Water was not wine.
2. But you have kept the best until now.

I am thinking, "What am I going to get out of this, to become personal, something that applies to my life and relationship with Jesus?" Some of what I am hearing is, "Don't over spiritualize this!" - "Don't think you need to strain to make something out of this, and then don't let pride get in the way when God does reveal new insight to me".

I so hate dealing with "pride". When you think you have it under control and it's not creeping up so much anymore, there it is, lurking in the background of any accomplishments, giftings or goals obtained. This flesh is constantly wanting to take credit for any good thing that comes from God! Maybe you don't deal with this, blessings upon you. Ok, enough said, confession is good for the soul, so let me move on.

I think for now, I will just move forward and share what the Believers Bible Commentary has to say, then maybe later, I will know if I am to share anything else from my heart.

**Believers Bible Commentary:**

The master of the feast was the one who had charge of arranging the tables and the food. When he had tasted it, he realized that something unusual had happened. He did not know where the wine came from, but he knew that it was of very high quality so he immediately called the bridegroom.

**What should be the attitude of Christians toward wine today?** Wine is sometimes prescribed for medicinal purposes and this is entirely in accordance with the teaching of the NT, (1 Timothy 5:23) Regarding use at the table, Christians ought to **act prudently in all situations and in all cultures**, seeking before all the glory of the Lord and not the selfish gratification of their own desires. **The bible warns against drunkenness** (Rom 13:13, Gal. 5:21, Eph. 5:18, 1 Pet. 4:3, 1 Cor. 6:12. **Finally, the saints should refrain from any behavior that would cause someone else to stumble. (Rom. 14:21).**

The usual practice at a wedding was to serve the best wine first when men could best detect and enjoy its flavor. Later on, having eaten and drunk, they would not be as aware of the quality of their beverage. At this particular wedding, the best wine came last. **There is a "spiritual meaning" in this for us.**

The world commonly offers people the best it has to offer at the outset. It holds out its most attractive offers to young people. Then when they have wasted their lives in empty pleasure, the world has nothing but dregs for a person's old age. The Christian life is the very opposite. It gets better all the time. Christ keeps the best wine until the last. The feast follows the fast.

The people were going through a dreary round of rituals and ceremonies, but life for them was tasteless. They were strangers to divine joy. the Lord Jesus was seeking to teach them to put their faith in Him. He would turn their drab existence into fullness of joy. The water of Jewish ritual and ceremony could be turned into the wine of joyful reality in Christ.

## John 2:11-12

11 This miraculous sign at Cana in Galilee was the first time Jesus revealed his glory. And his disciples believed in him.<sup>12</sup> After the wedding he went to Capernaum for a *few days with his mother, his brothers, and his disciples*.

### **bfc:**

First time Jesus shows Himself for who He really is and what He came to earth for, thank you Jesus! He had to perform a miracle to open the eyes of people so they would believe who He was.

The miracle we receive is "salvation-eternal life", when we believe in Jesus. The disciples and His family had Jesus for a short time, we have Him forever, always and **inside of us 24/7**. The very Word of God, in our hands and placed upon our hearts is Jesus speaking to and through us. I don't think I will ever be able to totally "grasp" the awesomeness of all that He has given me.

**Having the human nature we were born with, we think we have to "see" to believe.** Jesus teaches us through His Word to "see" by faith and trust. We act upon and move forward according to what He speaks to us. We will see the "evidence" of our faith and trust in Him later on. This would be a good time to stop and share some examples of faith walks you've had lately, and what the outcome was.

We also see Jesus spending time with His family, something we need to do more of in this fast paced and busy world we live in. Since He also spent time with His disciples, I like to think He was pouring more teaching into them, preparing them for "battle" so to speak.

**John 2:13-15**

**Jesus Clears the Temple.** 13 It was nearly time for the Jewish Passover celebration, so Jesus went to Jerusalem.14 In the Temple area he saw merchants selling cattle, sheep, and doves for sacrifices; he also saw dealers at tables exchanging foreign money.15 Jesus made a whip from some ropes and chased them all out of the Temple. He drove out the sheep and cattle, scattered the money changers' coins over the floor, and turned over their tables.

**Believers Bible Commentary:**

The Passover was an annual feast commemorating the time when the children of Israel were delivered from slavery in Egypt and were led through the Red Sea to the wilderness, and then to the promised land. The first celebration of the Passover is recorded in Exodus 12.

Being a devout Jew, the Lord Jesus went up to Jerusalem for this important day on the Jewish calendar.

Coming to the temple, He found that it had become a market place. Oxen and sheep and doves were sold there, and the moneychangers were carrying on their business as well. The animals and birds were sold to the worshippers for use as sacrifices.

It is known that these moneychangers often took unfair advantage of those who traveled from great distances. The whip which the Lord made was probably a small lash made of cords. It is not recorded that He actually used it on anyone. Instead, it is probably that it was merely a symbol of authority which He held in His hand. Waving the whip before Him, He drove the merchants out of the temple and overturned the tables of the moneychangers.

**John 2:16-18**

16 Then, going over to the people who sold doves, he told them, "Get these things out of here. Stop turning my Father's house into a marketplace!" 17 **Then his disciples remembered this prophecy from the Scriptures: "Passion for God's house will consume me."** 18 But the Jewish leaders demanded, "What are you doing? If God gave you authority to do this, show us a miraculous sign to prove it."

**bfc:**

Passion for Gods House consumed me. Passion for God's Word consume me, Yes! Fill me with more passion to serve you in my life and in the church. Help us to have servants hearts. After reading some of the comments from the Commentary posted below, it brought a few things to my mind, I had to come back and share.

Not only are we to have a passion to serve Jesus in our lives and church, but to daily strive to keep our bodies and minds clean of junk. Our bodies are to be presented as a "living sacrifice". That will involve some work on our part. Watching out for what we see, hear, speak and yes, Eat.

Our bodies are the temple where Jesus lives. We need to take care of what He gave us, and I personally battle this weight watching every day of my life. I have learned that I can pray and ask God each day for "new" infilling of the Fruits of His Holy Spirit and one of them is "self-control". When He starts giving you this gift, it benefits every area of your life. Amen!

**Believers Bible Commentary:**

The law permitted the poor to offer a pair of doves, since they could not afford the more expensive animals. To those who sold doves, the Lord issued a command to take these things away. It was not fitting that they should make His Father's house a house of merchandise. In all ages, God has warned His people against using religious services as a means of getting rich.

There was nothing cruel or unjust in any of these actions. Rather, they were simply an indication of His holiness and righteousness.

When His disciples saw what was happening, they were reminded of Psalms 69:9 where it was predicted that when the Messiah came, He would be utterly consumed with a zeal for the things of God. Now they saw Jesus manifesting an intense determination that the worship of God should be pure, and they realized that this was the One of whom the Psalmist had spoken.

We should remember that the Christian's body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. Just as the Lord Jesus was anxious that the temple in Jerusalem be kept pure, so we must be careful that our bodies be turned over to the Lord for continual cleansing.

**John 2:19-22**

19 "All right," Jesus replied. "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." 20 "What!" they exclaimed. "It has taken forty-six years to build this Temple, and you can rebuild it in three days?" 21 But when Jesus said "this temple," He meant his own body. 22 After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered he had said this, and they believed both the Scriptures and what Jesus had said.

**bfc:**

Unless the veil be lifted, they cannot see nor hear the things of God! Thank God for spiritual sight. Jesus came to die for our sins and **after three days rose again!** People that don't know Jesus as their personal Savior cannot understand His words, that is evident in these verses.

Our bodies are the temple of God. This body/shell is the place that the Holy Spirit of God and Jesus dwells within. When we are reminded of this, it can make a difference in how well we take care of it. God help us take care of what you have given us.

**Believers Bible Commentary:**

In answer, the Lord Jesus made an amazing statement concerning His death and resurrection. He told them that they would destroy His sanctuary, but in three days He would raise it up. The deity of Christ is again seen in this verse. Only God could say, "In three days I will raise it up".

The Jews did not understand Him. They were more interested in material things than in spiritual truth. The only temple they could think about was Herod's temple which was then standing in Jerusalem. It had taken forty six years to build this temple, and they could not see how any man could possibly rebuild it in three days.

The Lord Jesus, however, was speaking about His own body, which was the sanctuary in which all the fullness of the Godhead dwelt. Just as the these Jews had defiled the temple in Jerusalem, so they would put Him to death in a few short years.

Later on, after the Lord Jesus had been crucified and had risen from the dead, His disciples remembered that He had promised to rise again in three days. With such a marvelous fulfillment of prophecy before their eyes, they believed the Scripture, and the word which Jesus had said.

We often come across truths which are difficult to understand. But we learn here that we should treasure the Word of God in our hearts. Some day later the Lord will make it plain to us, even though we do not understand it now. When it says that they believed the Scripture, it means that they believed the OT predictions concerning the resurrection of the Messiah.

## John 2:23-25

23 Because of the miraculous signs Jesus did in Jerusalem at the Passover celebration, many began to trust in him.<sup>24</sup> **But Jesus didn't trust them, because he knew human nature**.<sup>25</sup> *No one needed to tell him what mankind is really like.*

### **bfc:**

Thank God we have been given the opportunity to "believe" in Jesus and ask Him into our hearts to "save us", even though we have not "seen Him". The Christian walk is like this; we walk by faith and trust in Him with all His strength, wisdom, and discernment to guide, direct and assist us in our daily lives.

We can't "see" what is going to happen, we don't know what tomorrow holds for us, therefore we have to trust Him. God's grace is so awesome, He sent Jesus to help us because He knew of our sinful human nature (when we messed up in the very beginning, Adam and Eve). Do you know Jesus as your personal Savior?

You need to realize there is a "difference" between feeling "guilty of your sins" and being sorry about them, but not turning them "over to Jesus". Salvation is a heart thing, not a temporary emotional thing because of something miraculously seen or heard of at some point in your life. Search your heart and be sure you have confessed your sins and "asked Jesus into your heart".

### **Believers Bible Commentary:**

Many profess and believe in Christ. As a result of the signs which Jesus performed in Jerusalem at the Passover, many believed in His name. This does not necessarily mean that they actually committed their lives to Him in simple trust; rather, they professed to accept Him. There was no reality to their action; it was merely an outward display of following Jesus. **It was similar to the condition which we have in the world where many people "claim" to be Christians who have never truly been born again through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.**

Although many believed in Him, yet Jesus did not believe in them. He realized that they were coming to Him out of curiosity. They were looking for something sensational and spectacular. He knew all men, their thoughts and their motives. He knew why they acted the way they did. He knew whether their faith was real or an imitation.

No one knew the heart of man better than the Lord Himself. He had no need that anyone should teach or enlighten Him on this subject. He had full knowledge of what was in man and why man behaved as he did.

