

SLOW FOOD BIBLE STUDIES: THINKING THROUGH JOHN'S GOSPEL CHAPTERS 13:31-17:26 (37 studies)

In line with the understanding of the early church, it is assumed that the writer of the Fourth Gospel is to be identified with John the apostle who is also the 'beloved disciple' of the final few chapters. His narrative is clearly covering the same events as the Synoptics, but with striking differences. John is writing an independent Gospel from the start, with the declared aim of leading any reader, whatever their background, to faith in Jesus Christ (Jn 20:31). There is a multitude of excellent commentaries and helps available, including J C Ryle (vol 3 1873, reissue by Banner of Truth 1987), William Temple (Macmillan 1940), RVG Tasker (Tyndale 1960), Don Carson (IVP 1991), Bruce Milne (IVP BST 1993), Donald Guthrie (IVP NBC 4th ed 1994) and Tom Wright (SPCK 2004). As always, the cross-references are to be regarded as *à la carte* rather than fixed menu. For John chapters 18-21 see 'Resources > Bible Studies' on the TISCA website, or TNV 78 (May 2019).

- 13:31-33** How does the cross 'glorify' God? *Isa 63:1-4; Jn 12:28-33; Rev 5:13.*
- 13:34-35** What is the new commandment and why is it 'new'? *Jer 31:31-34; 1 Jn 2:7-8; 1 Jn 4:9-11.*
- 13:36-38** Why did Simon Peter let Jesus down? Why might I? *Mt 26:41; 1 Cor 10:12; Heb 4:14-16.*
- 14:1-3** Am I afraid of death? Why needn't I be? *Ps 23:4-6; Acts 7:54-60; Phil 1:21-23; 1 Th 4:13-18.*
- 14:4-7** Why is Jesus unique? Does it matter if I don't think he is?
Mt 11:25-30; Acts 4:12; 2 Tim 2:5-6.
- 14:8-11** In what way do Jesus' words and works show us the Father?
Jn 6:45-46; 1 Tim 3:1; Heb 1:1-3.
- 14:12-14** How could Christ be carrying on his work on earth through me?
Mt 5:16; Eph 2:8-10; 1 Jn 4:17b.
- 14:15-18** What does Jesus tell us here about the gift of the Spirit?
Acts 2:17-18, 38-39; Eph 1:13-14; Rev 3:20.
- 14:19-21** Is knowing God simply a matter of carrying out Christ's commands?
Jn 1:18; Phil 2:10-16; 2 Pet 3:18.
- 14:22-24** What kind of relationship does Jesus want me to have with him and the Father?
2 Cor 6:16; Gal 2:20; Rev 21:3.
- 14:25-26** How can I be sure that I am hearing Christ's words? *Isa 50:4; Jn 15:26, 16:7; 1 Jn 2:27.*
- 14:27-28** Why is Jesus' physical 'absence' not a problem? *Mt 28:20; Phil 4:4-7; 2 Th 3:16; 1 Pet 1:8-9.*
- 14:29-31** How is Jesus able to confront the power of evil? *Mt 26:39; 1 Pet 1:19; 1 Jn 3:5.*
- 15:1-4** How can I bear fruit for Christ (I)? *Jn 12:24; Rom 7:4-6; Gal 6:7-10.*
- 15:5-8** How can I bear fruit for Christ (II)? *Ps 1:1-3; Jer 17:5-10; Hos 14:5-8; Lk 8:15.*
- 15:9-11** What is the source of true joy? *Ps 16:11; Ps 90:14; Eccl 5:18-20; Hab 3:17-18.*
- 15:12-15** What kind of friendship does Christ promise? *Gen 18:17; Ps 25:14; Rom 5:8, 8:32.*
- 15:16-17** Am I in the right place and doing the right things? *1 Cor 15:58; 1 Cor 16:9; Col 4:2-4.*
- 15:18-21** If I belong to Christ, what reaction should I expect from people generally? Why?
Lk 6:20; Jn 17:14; Acts 14:22; 2 Tim 3:12.
- 15:22-25** Is opposition to Christ always irrational? *Ps 35:19; Mt 10:22; John 1:11, 7:7; 1 Pet 2:19-21.*
- 15:26-27** If I am a witness for the Lord, what impact can I hope to make?
Prov 16:7; 1 Jn 5:6b, 10a; Rev 12:11.

- 16:1-4a** What is the worst that could happen to me as a disciple of Jesus Christ?
Lk 21:12-19; Heb 10:32-39; Rev 2:10.
- 16:4b-7** Why is it an 'advantage' not to have Jesus around in human form?
Jn 7:37-39; Acts 2:32-33; 2 Cor 5:16.
- 16:8-11** Why are people today so slow to believe?
Acts 2:36-37; Acts 8:29-31; Acts 17:30-32; Rev 22:17.
- 16:12-15** Is the Bible God's word to me? *Jn 6:63; Jn 14:26; Rom 8:16; 2 Cor 3:14-18.*
- 16:16-22** When am I going to 'see' Christ? *Ps 17:15; Isa 26:16-19; Rom 8:23; 1 Cor 13:12; 1 Jn 3:2.*
While the original reference of this discussion seems to have been to the interval between Jesus' physical death and resurrection, for John's first readers and for us it may point to the day of resurrection still to come.
- 16:23-24** Why pray? *Ps 116:17; Mt 7:7-8; Lk 18:1-8.*
- 16:25-28** When I pray, do I need Jesus to 'put me through' to God?
Ps 116:1-9; Mal 4:16-18; Eph 2:18; Heb 10:19-23.
- 16:29-33** Given my own fallibility and the power of temptation, how can I have true peace?
Isa 26:3-4, 12; Rom 16:20; 1 Jn 4:4.
- 17:1-5** What is Jesus' mission on earth? *Lk 15:3-7; Phil 2:8-11; Rev 7:9-12.*
- 17:6-8** How does Jesus describe Christians? Does this describe me?
Jn 1:12-13; 2 Tim 2:19; 1 Pet 2:9-10.
- 17:9-11** Is Jesus' prayer being fulfilled where I am? *1 Cor 1:10; Eph 4:1-3; Col 3:12-17.*
- 17:12-15** Do I belong to this world? *Rom 12:1-2; Col 1:13-14; 1 Jn 2:15-17.*
- 17:16-19** What am I here for? *Jn 20:21; Rom 8:28-29; 2 Cor 5:17-19.*
- 17:20-23** What kind of unity is Jesus praying for? *Isa 52:6-10; Mt 18:19-20; Rom 15:5-6.*
- 17:24-26** How much am I loved? *Jer 31:3; Jn 13:1; 2 Th 2:16-17.*
- 17:1-26 review** What is Christ praying for me at this moment? *Rom 8:34; Heb 7:25.*