

Eternal Life Through Believing in Jesus

1) Let the Witnesses Testify

John's gospel was written for a specific purpose: that we might believe

'...these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name'
(John 20:31)

Belief is a major theme in John. The word occurs 98 times in the Greek

'This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe'
(John 1:7)

'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God' (John 1:1-2)

To the Greeks the Logos (Word) was the mind of God controlling the world and everyone and everything in it. To the Jews it also had great significance

In Revelation 1:8 Jesus is referred to as the Alpha and Omega. God speaks through His Son

'No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him'
(John 1:18)

'In the beginning...'

The Word existed before creation or time

'And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was'

(Jn.17:5)

'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God' (John 1:1-2)

This sets forth the doctrines of both the deity of Christ and the Trinity

John's logic:

There is a Being known as the Word. This Being is called God yet, at the same time, is distinct from the Father

**Luther says 'the Word was God' is against Arius
'the Word was with God' against Sabellius**

'All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made'
(John 1:3)

**The Word created *all* things that were created.
Therefore, He Himself is an uncreated Being**

'For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him'
(Col.1:16)

In Genesis 1:1, GOD is said to have created all things: in this verse, *Christ* is said to have created all things

1) The JW's translation reads like this: 'In [the] beginning the Word was, and the Word was with God, and the Word was a god'. The claim of the Watchtower Society defending their translation of John 1:1-2 is that because before the second time 'God' is used in the passage, no article appears (i.e. 'God' and not 'the God')

2) They quote two Greek authorities to make them *appear* to agree with their translation. Dr. Julius R. Mantey and Johannes Greber

In response...

1) In Matt.5:9; 6:24; Luke 1:35, 75; John 1:6, 12, 13, 18; Rom.1:7, 17 they translate the exact same grammar for 'God' as 'God' instead of 'a god' when it suits their purpose

2) Both authorities have been misquoted. One of them, Dr. Mantey even wrote to the Watchtower and demanded that his name be removed from the book! 'A GROSSLY MISLEADING TRANSLATION. It is neither scholarly nor reasonable to translate John 1:1 "the Word was a god." But of all the scholars in the world, so far as we know, none have translated this verse as Jehovah's Witnesses have done.' (Dr. Julius R. Mantey). The other 'scholar' quoted in their book *The Word – Who Is He? According to John*, is Johannes Greber. Greber was actually an occult-practicing spiritist, and *not* a scholar of Biblical Greek

'I can assure you that the rendering which the Jehovah's Witnesses give John 1:1 is not held by any reputable Greek scholar'

(Dr. Charles L. Feinberg)

'The Jehovah's Witness people evidence an abysmal ignorance of the basic tenets of Greek grammar in their mistranslation of John 1:1'

(Dr. Paul L. Kaufman)

**The way the JW's have translated this verse
'...is grammatically impossible. It is abundantly clear that a sect which can translate the New Testament like that is intellectually dishonest'**

(Dr. William Barclay)

'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'

(John 1:4-5)

The Logos is the power which creates life and maintains all life in existence

The word translated 'life' is *zoe*, which means 'the life principle,' not *bios*, which is mere biological life

**How is Christ as the life *'the light of men'*?
Every human is morally enlightened.
We are made accountable**

***'...when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them...'* (Rom.2:14-15)**

**Though enlightened by Christ the natural man has switched this light off because he *'loved darkness rather than light'* (John 3:19).
But the light shines in this darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.**

The darkness of the fallen human race did not extinguish the light. In fact it shines even more bright through the gospel.

'But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ'

(2 Cor.4:3-6)

'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'

(John 1:6-7)

We know him as John the Baptist but he is repeatedly presented to us as a witness to Jesus, the Light

When the sun is shining in all its beauty, who needs to be told it is shining? The blind!

Mankind had to be told 'the light' was now in their midst

**God sent John to bear witness of the Light
God would not allow His beloved Son to come into the world unheralded**

**The matter of witness is a serious thing,
establishing truth and giving ground for faith**

There was the witness of...

***Jesus.** *'Jesus answered and said to them, "Even if I bear witness of Myself, My witness is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going; but you do not know where I come from and where I am going"' (Jn.8:14)*

***John the Baptist (1:7-8)**

***The Father** *'And the Father Himself, who sent Me, has testified of Me' (Jn.5:37). 'I am One who bears witness of Myself, and the Father who sent Me bears witness of Me' (Jn.8:18)*

***His works** *'But I have a greater witness than John's; for the works which the Father has given Me to finish—the very works that I do—bear witness of Me, that the Father has sent Me' (Jn.5:36) and 10:25; 15:24*

***The Scriptures** *'You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me... For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me' (John 5:39, 46)*

***Those He ministered to** *'And many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, "He told me all that I ever did"' (John 4:39). 'Therefore the people, who were with Him when He called Lazarus out of his tomb and raised him from the dead, bore witness' (John 12:17)*

***The disciples.** *'And you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning' (John 15:27). 'And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you may believe' (John 19:35). 'This is the disciple who testifies of these things, and wrote these things; and we know that his testimony is true' (John 21:24)*

***The Holy Spirit.** *'But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me' (John 15:26)*

'He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world'

(John 1:8-9)

This defines the character of preaching. This should be the aim of every preacher and every witness: to get their hearers to look away from themselves to Jesus

He is to 'preach Christ' (1 Cor.1:23)

This is the message the Spirit of God will own, for Christ said of Him:

***'He shall glorify me'* (John 16:14)**

'But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth'
(Acts 1:8)