

## God Makes Space for Grace!

### The Gospel of John

John 3:16-36

March 1, 2015

#### Our Gospel Writer's Purpose

*"These are written so that you may continue ["come"] to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing in him you will have life by the power of his name." ~John 20:31, NLT*

To help anyone and everyone to

1. \_\_\_\_\_ to faith
2. \_\_\_\_\_ in faith

#### **A Study in Contrasts**

1. Being \_\_\_\_\_ vs. being \_\_\_\_\_

*"For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him. There is no judgment against anyone who believes in him. But anyone who does not believe in him has already been judged for not believing in God's one and only Son." –John 3:16-20, NLT*

*"There is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus." –Romans 8:1, NLT*

2. Living in the \_\_\_\_\_ vs. living in the \_\_\_\_\_

*"And the judgment is based on this fact: God's light came into the world, but people loved the darkness more than the light, for their actions were evil. All who do evil hate the light and refuse to go near it for fear their sins will be exposed. But those who do what is right come to the light so others can see that they are doing what God wants." –John 3:19-21, NLT*

*"Perfect love expels all fear." –1 John 4:18, NLT*

3. He must \_\_\_\_\_ vs. I must \_\_\_\_\_

*"Then Jesus and his disciples left Jerusalem and went into the Judean countryside. Jesus spent some time with them there, baptizing people. At this time John the Baptist was baptizing at Aenon, near Salim, because there was plenty of water there;*

*and people kept coming to him for baptism. (This was before John was thrown into prison.) A debate broke out between John's disciples and a certain Jew over ceremonial cleansing. So John's disciples came to him and said, 'Rabbi, the man you met on the other side of the Jordan River, the one you identified as the Messiah, is also baptizing people. And everybody is going to him instead of coming to us.' John replied, 'No one can receive anything unless God gives it from heaven. You yourselves know how plainly I told you, 'I am not the Messiah. I am only here to prepare the way for him.' It is the bridegroom who marries the bride, and the best man is simply glad to stand with him and hear his vows. Therefore, I am filled with joy at his success. He must become greater and greater, and I must become less and less.'" –John 3:21-30, NLT*

*"May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven." –Matthew 6:10, NLT*

4. Wisdom from \_\_\_\_\_ vs. wisdom from \_\_\_\_\_

*"He has come from above and is greater than anyone else. We are of the earth, and we speak of earthly things, but he has come from heaven and is greater than anyone else. He testifies about what he has seen and heard, but how few believe what he tells them! Anyone who accepts his testimony can affirm that God is true. For he is sent by God. He speaks God's words, for God gives him the Spirit without limit. The Father loves his Son and has put everything into his hands." –John 3:31-35, NLT*

*"The message of the cross is foolish to those who are headed for destruction! But we who are being saved know it is the very power of God." –1 Corinthians 1:18, NLT*

5. Choosing \_\_\_\_\_ vs. choosing \_\_\_\_\_

*"And anyone who believes in God's Son has eternal life. Anyone who doesn't obey the Son will never experience eternal life but remains under God's angry judgment." –John 3:36, NLT*

*"Now listen! Today I am giving you a choice between life and death, between prosperity and disaster... Oh, that you would choose life, so that you and your descendants might live! You can make this choice by loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and committing yourself firmly to him. This is the key to your life." –Deuteronomy 30:15-20, NLT*