


# THE SOURCE OF LIFE

WILLIAM G. BRADSHAW




*Developed as a study course by Emmaus Correspondence School, founded in 1942.*



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Published by:

Emmaus Correspondence School  
(A division of ECS Ministries)  
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website: [www.ecsministries.org](http://www.ecsministries.org)

First Edition 2015 (AK '15), 1 UNIT

ISBN 978-1-59387-230-4

Code: SOL

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Adapted and abridged by Sue Tyler.

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*Printed in the United States of America*

# STUDENT INSTRUCTIONS

“In Him was life . . .” With grand simplicity, the apostle John begins his account of the earthly life of Jesus Christ by boldly stating one of its most significant themes—that Christ is the Creator and Source of all life, both physical and spiritual. Among the nearly 40 uses of the word in the book is one where Christ Himself declares, “The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.” May your study of John’s gospel help you grow in appreciation of the Lord Jesus Christ, whom to know is life eternal (John 17:3).

## LESSONS YOU WILL STUDY

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## **Course Components**

This course has two parts: this study course and the exam booklet.

## **How To Study**

This study has twelve chapters, and each chapter has its own exam. Begin by asking God to help you understand the material. Read the chapter through at least twice, once to get a general idea of its contents and then again, slowly, looking up any Bible references given.

Begin studying immediately, or if you are in a group, as soon as the group begins. We suggest that you keep a regular schedule by trying to complete at least one chapter per week.

## **Exams**

In the exam booklet there is one exam for each chapter (exam 1 covers chapter 1 of the course). Do not answer the questions by what you think or have always believed. The questions are designed to find out if you understand the material given in the course.

After you have completed each chapter, review the related exam and see how well you know the answers. If you find that you are having difficulty answering the questions, review the material until you think you can answer the questions. It is important that you read the Bible passages referenced as some questions may be based on the Bible text.

## **How Your Exams Are Graded**

Your instructor will mark any incorrectly answered questions. You will be referred back to the place in the course where the correct answer is to be found. After finishing this course with a passing average, you will be awarded a certificate.

If you enrolled in a class, submit your exam papers to the leader or secretary of the class who will send them for the entire group to the Correspondence School.

See the back of the exam booklet for more information on returning the exams for grading.

# 1

## THE GREATEST MISSION IN HISTORY

### **Begin by reading John chapter 1**

**T**he gospel of John tells us about Jesus Christ, the central figure of all history. As “the Word,” He was the living expression to man of what God is like. The tremendous importance of this book demands that we study it with great care.

John’s account of the life of Jesus Christ is centered on seven of the many miracles (“signs”) that He did. In John 20:31 John gives his reason for recording them: “. . . that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing, you may have life in His name.”

The first eighteen verses of the book form an important introductory statement, commonly called a *prologue*. In fact, John’s whole message is contained essentially in these verses: The Word revealed Himself to human beings; His people, the Jews, should have understood why He came, because His forerunner, John the Baptizer, prepared the way; some believed in Him, but most rejected Him. The remainder of the book simply elaborates these themes.

Note that the name *Jesus Christ* is not revealed until verse 17. Jesus was His human name (meaning “Savior”), and Christ was the Greek equivalent of the Hebrew term *Messiah*, which means “Anointed One” or “Chosen One.” As you read the Bible text, take note of the other ways He is described in the prologue.

## **“The Word was with God, and the Word was God” (1:1-5)**

Many false religious groups have tried to demonstrate that Jesus Christ was not God. The hallmark of a false religion is that it has an improper view of the person and work of Jesus Christ. No one who reads the first few verses of John chapter 1 with an open mind can deny that the One in view here is supernatural. Notice what is stated about Him: The Word was with God in the beginning, He was God, He created everything, and He is the source of life and light for all human beings. What man—what created being—would dare allow these things to be recorded about him? The only answer is that Jesus Christ really was (and is) who John testified Him to be—God in human flesh.

## **“His own did not receive Him” (1:6-13)**

The “way” (Isa. 40:3) for the Messiah’s coming was prepared by John the Baptizer, whom God had chosen for the task before he was born (Luke 1:13-17). Gentiles who adopted Judaism (the Jews’ religion) would immerse *themselves* in water to identify with the Jews; John’s practice of baptizing *others* to symbolize they were ready to receive their Messiah stirred up a lot of interest.

In verse 9 most Bible translations show correctly that the phrase “coming into the world” relates to “the true light” (Christ), not to human beings. The English Standard Version (ESV), for example, reads: “The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.” The focus of the section is on Christ’s incarnation.

The rejection of Christ by His own people is well known, but the method by which people may *receive* Christ is not very well known. Evidence for this is found in the different ways people try to please God and be acceptable to Him and enter His family. They do it by means of religious rituals, works, abstaining from certain forbidden things, and any other method the human mind can invent. Verse 12 teaches that there is only one way to become a child of God: to receive Christ—by committing oneself to Him (like couples do to each other in a marriage ceremony, for example). For me to “believe in His name” is to believe Jesus is the Son of God who died for me personally to redeem me and to give me eternal life.

## **“And the Word became flesh” (1:14-18)**

We will never comprehend the full significance of Christ’s descent from the presence of the Father to this earth. When He came, He became a real human being without giving up any of the attributes (qualities) of deity. John’s statement in verse 18 clearly states the truth that Jesus Christ was God. (“Begotten” points to His humanity, and “God” to His deity.)

## **“Behold! The Lamb of God” (1:19-34)**

Did anyone recognize the true character of Jesus Christ or believe His claims to be the Messiah? John answers that question decisively by giving the testimony of several eyewitnesses. The first witness was John the Baptizer, and he was immediately challenged by the leading scholars of Judaism.

John said that he himself was neither the promised Messiah, nor the prophet Elijah, nor the predicted prophet of Deuteronomy 18:15. He claimed to be only a voice, and a voice has just one task: to speak. John’s voice was clear and true, and it pointed only in the direction of Jesus, the Lamb of God whose life would be given one day in sacrifice to pay for the sin of the world.

In many respects, our task as Christ-followers is the same as the Baptizer’s. We have the responsibility to point others to the One who can answer all the needs of mankind. When we draw attention to ourselves, we cease to function in the way God intended us to.

## **“Come and see” (1:35-42)**

As a result of the Baptizer’s faithful testimony, several men chose to follow Christ and to do as John did: pointing others to Christ. Within the next three to four years, these same men were serving as leaders in the first-century church. When John testified of Christ, he had no idea what the future held for those who responded. When we share Christ with others, there is no telling how far *our* influence will extend, either.

The first ones to follow Christ were the two disciples mentioned in verse 35. One of them is named in verse 40, but the second is left unnamed. Most likely the unnamed disciple was John (later called an “apostle”), one of the twelve chosen disciples. Thus there are two men named John in this

opening chapter. John the Baptizer (or, Baptist) is not John the apostle. John the apostle is traditionally considered to be the writer of this gospel as well as of the letters in our Bible called 1, 2, and 3 John and the book of Revelation.

John and Andrew, formerly followers of the Baptizer, now began to follow Christ. They spent a day with Him, and whatever they talked about and witnessed changed their lives radically. Immediately after leaving Him, these men went looking for members of their families in order to tell them about the Messiah.

The “field” (that is, their families) in which Andrew and John did their first missionary work presents a good example for everyone who desires to serve the Lord. The home is often the most difficult place in which a Christian is called to witness, because our own family knows us more intimately than others might know us. Fortunately, this did not keep either Andrew or John from sharing the news concerning Jesus.

Although Peter became more prominent than his brother Andrew in the history of the early church, keep in mind that God used Andrew to introduce Peter to Jesus.

### **“Follow Me” (1:43-51)**

Philip had a similar experience. When he realized who Jesus was, he immediately found his friend Nathanael and told him the good news. When we hear anything that really stirs us, we usually want to tell someone. If salvation is worth having, it is worth sharing. Christ told His followers to spread the message to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8).

The reaction of these men (even the doubting Nathanael) confirms the testimony which the author of the book gives in the prologue. They were no doubt looking for the Messiah, the One the Old Testament prophets had promised would come and deliver them from their enemies and rule over the world in righteousness. They had studied the prophetic signs which would confirm His identity when He did come. And now, when Jesus came and presented Himself, the reaction of these men was, “You are the Son of God! You are the Christ!”

It is only as you believe the truth of the Bible concerning Jesus Christ that you can fully appreciate the tremendous message of the gospel of John.



# THE SOURCE OF LIFE

## EXAM BOOKLET AK '15 (1 UNIT) SOL

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STUDENT NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

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ADDRESS

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CITY, STATE, ZIP

COURSE GRADE: \_\_\_\_\_

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INSTRUCTOR



*Exam developed by Emmaus Correspondence School, founded in 1942.*

## A NOTE ON THE EXAMS

The exams are designed to check your knowledge of the course material and the Scriptures. After you have studied a chapter, review the exam questions for that lesson. If you have difficulty in answering the questions, re-read the material. If questions contain a Scripture reference, you may use your Bible to help you answer them. If your instructor has provided a Single Page Answer Sheet, record your answer on that sheet. This exam contains the following types of questions:

### **MULTIPLE CHOICE**

You will be asked to write in the letter of the correct answer at the space on the right. Here is an example:

The color of grass is

- A. blue
- B. green
- C. yellow

     **B**     

### **WHAT DO YOU SAY?**

Under this heading we invite you to put into words something you have learned from that chapter, and to share that with us.

### **RETURNING THE EXAM**

See the back of this exam booklet for instructions on returning your exam for grading.

**DO NOT PHOTOCOPY THESE EXAM PAGES**

First Edition 2015 (AK '15), 1 UNIT

ISBN 978-1-59387-230-4

Code: SOL

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*Printed in the United States of America*

## CHAPTER 1 EXAM

### THE GREATEST MISSION IN HISTORY

#### EXAM GRADE

*Before starting this exam, write your name and address on the front of this Exam Booklet. Read each question carefully and write the letter of the correct answer in the blank space on the right. Use the separate answer sheet if provided.*

1. Who is “the Word” John refers to in John chapter 1?
  - A. the holy Scriptures personified
  - B. John, the man who wrote the “words” in this biography of Jesus
  - C. Jesus Christ, who is God

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2. The gospel of John features seven “signs” Jesus did while here on earth. What is another word your lesson uses to explain what John meant by signs?
  - A. miracles
  - B. predictions
  - C. teachings that pointed to His being God

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3. In John 20:31, why did John say he had written his account of Jesus’ life?
  - A. so his readers would get the facts straight about Jesus’ life
  - B. so his readers would learn how to be good enough to please God
  - C. so his readers would believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God

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4. At the beginning of his prologue, who does John proclaim that the Word is?
  - A. the Creator of the universe
  - B. the King of the Jews
  - C. the Christ

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5. The name of the man God appointed to prepare Israel to receive their promised Messiah was
  - A. the apostle John.
  - B. John the Baptist (or, Baptizer).
  - C. the prophet Isaiah.

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6. How does an individual person receive Jesus Christ?
- A. by being baptized or confirmed in a church ceremony
  - B. by receiving Jesus' reward for trying to keep the Ten Commandments
  - C. by committing oneself to Him \_\_\_\_\_
7. Which of the following statements is true about Jesus Christ?
- A. He had a vision that God had called Him to sacrifice Himself for mankind.
  - B. He was a son of God, like the rest of us.
  - C. He came to earth as a real human being (though sinless) without giving up any qualities of His deity. \_\_\_\_\_
8. What did John the Baptizer call Jesus?
- A. the Good Shepherd who would die for His sheep
  - B. the Lamb of God who would take away the sin of the world
  - C. the Creator of the whole universe \_\_\_\_\_
9. When some of John the Baptizer's disciples started following Jesus, what did they do?
- A. They bowed down and worshiped Him
  - B. They cried out for mercy
  - C. They told people close to them about Jesus \_\_\_\_\_
10. Which of Jesus' early followers said to Him, "You are the Son of God"?
- A. Philip
  - B. Nathanael, Philip's friend
  - C. Simon, also known as Peter \_\_\_\_\_

### WHAT DO YOU SAY?

If someone asked you who Jesus Christ is, how would you answer from verses 1-4 and verse 14 of John chapter 1?

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