

What is John's Prologue Teaching the Reader?

John 1:1-18 (part 2)

Andreas Kostenberger, *John*, p. 19-20: "The prologue is a kind of foyer to the Gospel. . . . In it John introduces the most important themes that he will develop in the rest of his work. . . . [T]he prologue doubtless represents one of the most beautiful and carefully crafted portions [of Scripture] in the entire NT. . . ."

1. *1:1-5 Jesus is God . . . doing things that only God can do*
 - (1) V 1-2 – Eternal with the Father [divine – not of this earth]
 - (2) V 3 – Creator of all things [either "Creator" or "created"]
 - (3) V 4a – Source of Life [Jn. 5:26]
 - (4) V 4b – Light of men–2 things light does: shine and divide
 - (5) V 5 – Not overpowered by darkness (cf. Jn. 12:35)

2. *1:6-13 Jesus entered the world of humanity and was personally and universally ignored/rejected*
 - (1) Vv 6-8 – The world was prepared for Him by John the Baptist
 - (2) Vv 9-11 – The world did not received Him when He came
 - Jn. 5:31-40 – 4 witnesses to the Person of Jesus
 - Note how John ends his first section: 12:37-41
 - (3) Vv 12-13 – Some did "receive" and "believe"

3. *1:14-18 Apostle John's personal testimony about Jesus ["we"]*
 - (1) V 14a – Spirit Jesus became flesh Jesus and "lived" w/ us
 - Term "lived" – "to tabernacle" – OT idea of the place God met with man; God's powerful presence is seen!
 - (2) V 14b – We beheld his glory (2 concepts in v 14b)
 - (3) V 15 – make no mistake – Jesus out ranks all of humanity
 - (4) Vv 16-17 – We all received of His fullness: "Grace for grace" ["for" is either a prep. of supply or exchange]
 - (5) V 18 – Jesus has accurately/fully "exegeted" the Father
 - 14:8-9 – "Show us the Father and we will be satisfied"

So, what do we learn?

1. Since Jesus is God . . . You must treat him as God [Ex. 20:2-7]
2. Have you "believed" in His name? ["to believe" – 98xs in Jn.]
 - What does "believe" mean? Jn.1:12 "b. in His name]
3. Be careful that you do not think that God has another gracious plan – Jesus is it! [Jn. 11:25-26]