

OUR PURPOSE IS CLEAR
John 20:30-31 Rev. Thomas Parrish

Essential Question: What does the Bible say about the Christian's Purpose and how do we align with that Purpose? Knowing our Purpose and aligning with that purpose makes you the most powerful human beings in the universe.

30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Perhaps the most important thing I have ever done is to clearly preach, teach and equip believers to know their identity and purpose in this world. You see: *It Doesn't Matter Who You Are, But Whose You Are!*
Unfortunately too many pastors and too many believers miss this truth entirely.

***When you don't know your identity and purpose you are merely a pawn of the culture and the devil.
When you do know your identity and purpose then you can live for Jesus,
be his ambassador and fulfill his will.***

John 20: 30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

1. "Signs" First, we need to dig into this word "signs".
This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him. Interestingly, we find a similarly numbered description two chapters later in **John 4:54** ***This was now the second sign that Jesus did when he had come from Judea to Galilee.***



Chapters 2 and 3: 2:23... Now when he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he was doing. 3:2... This man [Nicodemus] came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him."

What does John mean, "***these are written***"? ***And he healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons. (Mark 1:34)*** In John's Gospel, not only are there no exorcisms, but there are no summary descriptions like this. There are only seven miracles or "signs" identified and described by John.

Again, John tells us throughout this book that Jesus did many other signs. But he limits our gaze to just these seven. So when John tells his readers in ***20:31 that "these are written so that you may believe"***, he's talking about these seven signs.

- Jesus turned water into wine at the wedding in Cana (2:1-11).
- The healing of the royal official's son in Capernaum in **John 4:46-54**
- The healing of a paralytic at Bethesda in **John 5:1-15**
- The feeding the 5000 in **John 6:5-14**
- Jesus walking on water in **John 6:16-24**
- The healing of the man blind from birth in **John 9:1-7**
- The raising of Lazarus in **John 11:1-45**

This list is the increasing **MAGNITUDE** of each sign.

So the Jews said to him, "What sign do you show us for doing these things?" 19 Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." 20 The Jews then said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?" 21 But he was speaking about the temple of his body. 22 When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken. (2:18-22)

When the Jews ask for a "sign", that's only the second appearance of that key word. But Jesus, instead of producing a sign, miracle, he replies about a sign to come. In chapter 20, the conclusion of John's account, **Jesus rises from dead. Magnitude 8.0 on the Richter scale.**

2. "Believe" - the ultimate goal of these signs.

He told his readers plainly: *...these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.* The seven signs (or eight signs) were recorded by John in this Gospel in order to point his readers, in order to point us, **TO THE TRUTH ABOUT JESUS.**

But how are we to understand that word, "believe"?

"I want to tell you about these signs so that you might turn to Jesus in saving faith." (i.e., believe for the first time) But some manuscripts, and the oldest copy of this passage, contain a present tense form of this verb, "believe". Well, that would have John saying something like, *"I want to tell you about these signs so that you might continue in your faith."*

3. "Jesus is..." *These "signs" were communicated so that we might "believe"... that we might believe "Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God".* Not only are there seven signs at the heart of this book, there are also seven declarations of Jesus, declarations revealing aspects of his divine identity.

1. "I AM the Bread of Life" (6:35).

2. "I AM the Light of the World" (8:12)

3. "I AM the Door" (10:7)

4. "I AM the Good Shepherd" (10:11)

5. "I AM the Resurrection and the Life" (11:25)

6. "I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life" (14:6),

7. "I AM the True Vine" (15:1

WHY DID JOHN WRITE THIS GOSPEL?

Because... *John wants to feed our faith with a sound and profound vision of Jesus.*

One that clearly identifies our purpose.

One that lays out **our marching orders.**

One that clearly tells us **who we are and what we are about.**

Your health as a believer is directly related to the truth of what you believe about Jesus.

OUR PURPOSE IS:

•Recognize the signs in the Bible that identify Jesus as God among us!

•To pay attention to what is written so that we know the real Jesus of the Bible.

•So that we might believe (put total confidence in) Jesus who is the only savior the only messiah, the only way to eternal life and eternal purpose.

Why?

In order that we may really have life right now in a world that desperately needs to know Jesus' truth and life eternal by faith in Jesus alone.