

Dear all,

Sunday's Study Service topic, THE GOSPEL OF JOHN: AS OUTLINED IN CHAPTER ONE, is the first of a two Sundays a month bible study on John, a gospel so profound, yet so simple, that it can never be studied enough, or read too often.

In the five-verse prologue followed by the next 13 verses, John goes right to the heart of the gospel: the very Word through whom the whole universe was brought into being, who alone is its true life and light, the eternal Word become flesh, the Son of God become man, the one who because he alone is at the heart of God and knows God, he alone is the one who can make God known and has become man alongside us to do so.

The person of Jesus Christ, very God become man without ceasing to be God, he alone is the life and light of humanity. All others can only point to him. He it is who "takes away the sin of the world" (v. 29), who was baptised for us, who gives us the Holy Spirit (v. 33), the Messiah of Israel (v. 41), the one whom to Moses and all the prophets looked forward (v. 45), the Son of God and King of Israel (v. 49), the Son of man in whom heaven and earth have been joined & in whom we see heaven open and know God (v. 51). To know Jesus **is** to know God and to know Jesus **is** to have life and life eternal.

These are the themes John continues to develop, deepen and weave together throughout his gospel so that all might "believe that Jesus is the Christ (the anointed Messiah), the Son of God, and believing have life in his name" (Jn 20.31).

Preparatory reading: Lesslie Newbigin, *The Light has Come*
Reading: John 1

7-8.30pm by Zoom meet (details on request)

Best wshes - Bob