

## ***The Gospel of John: Introduction***

*Dr. Cliff McManis*

*April 20, 2008*

### **1. This Gospel was written by the Apostle John,**

**‘the beloved disciple.’**

*“Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them...This is the disciple who bears witness of these things, and wrote these things; and we know that his witness is true” (21:20, 24; cf. 13:23; 19:26; 20:2; 21:7)*

### **2. The Gospel of John was universally**

**accepted as canonical by the early Church.**

- Polycarp (AD 69-155), Irenaeus (130-200)
- Theophilus (170-180), Muratorian Canon (180-200)
- Tertullian (160-225), Clement of Alexandria (150-215)
- Origen (185-254), Eusebius (263-339); -AD 367 the 39<sup>th</sup>
- Paschal Letter of Athanasius confirmed the 27 books of the NT as did the Council of Carthage in AD 397.

### **3. The Gospel of John was written from**

**Ephesus between AD 85-95.**

Matthew—AD 50ish

Mark—AD 55ish

Luke—AD 60ish

John –AD 90ish

### **4. John wrote with an apologetic and**

**evangelistic purpose.**

*“these things have been written in order that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name” (20:31)*

5. John wrote to complement the Synoptics.

*“Many other signs therefore Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book, but these have been written that...” (20:30-31)*

6. The Gospel of John was intended to be read

sequentially and completely.

*“these have been written that you may believe”  
(20:31)*

*“make disciples of all the nations...teaching them to observe all that I commanded you”  
(Matthew 28:19-20)*

At right: a picture of a fragment of John's Gospel (18:31-33) that was discovered in Egypt in 1920 and today is preserved at the John Rylands Library in Manchester, England.

Its date is estimated to be from **AD 130... fewer than 50 years after John wrote!**



7. **An outline of John's Gospel:**

I. The Public Ministry of Jesus (1-12)

II. His Private Ministry to His Disciples (13-17)

III. His Passion and Resurrection (18-20)

IV. The Epilogue (21)