

New Testament Church
The Book of John #16 – John 8:30-59 – Responsibility, Truth and Freedom
May 17, 2026 - Pastor Paul Jehle

I The Gospel of John - Why expository preaching and why the Book of John at this time?

- A. Expository preaching brings depth, continuity and helps a congregation study together
 - 1. John reveals Christ as God – (eagle) - “behold your God” (Is. 40:9)
 - 2. The gospels reveal the “four faces” of Christ – king, servant, man, eagle
- B. John, author of John, 1st, 2nd, 3rd John and Revelation was a disciple of John the Baptist
 - 1. One of the sons of Zebedee (Salome his mother), a fisherman with Simon & Andrew
 - 2. ***John began as a critic but learned the balance of truth, grace and love...***
- C. One of the themes in John are the various **signs** that indicate critical aspects of Christ
 - 1. The **first SIGN** was water into wine (John 2) – there is **New Life in Christ**
 - 2. The **second SIGN** was healing the Nobleman’s son (John 4) – faith in Christ’s **Word**
 - 3. The **third SIGN** was healing the cripple (John 5) – Christ’s **undeserving Grace**
 - 4. The **fourth SIGN** feeding the 5,000 (John 6) – Christ is the **bread of life**
 - 5. The **fifth SIGN** of walking on water (John 6) – **Transcendence of Bread (empowerment)**
- D. The **I AM** statements by Jesus – declaring who He is...
 - 1. In John 6 - **I am the Bread of Life**
 - 2. In John 8 - **I am the Light of the World**

II John 8:30-59 – Responsibility, Truth and Freedom – Walking in Christ: *freedom from sin*

- A. v. 30 – As he spoke the previous words, many believed on Him
 - 1. Two audiences here – those that believe in Jesus, and the Jewish leaders who want control
 - 2. Jesus speaks to those who believe on Him – how do we walk with Jesus and overcome sin?
 - 3. The leaders interject opposition to Him, exposing their fallacies to all of the people
 - 4. **We have a responsibility to turn to and focus on Jesus to know the truth and be free!**
- B. v. 31-59 – Our responsibility is three-fold in these verses – abide, listen and keep His Word
 - 1. v. 31-42 - If you **abide in My Word**, you are my disciples, the truth will make you free!
 - a. To abide is to *remain in an attitude of surrender* by the work of the Holy Spirit
 - b. We are positionally in Christ when we are converted, but we need to appropriate it
 - c. Position must be translated into experience (works) – work from a place of rest
 - d. We are Abraham’s descendants, never been in bondage!?
 - e. If you sin, you become a slave of sin – the master can bind you – you have no rights
 - f. A son has rights of inheritance, if the **Son makes you free from sin** (free to restrain)
 - g. “If you were Abraham’s children, you would do the works of Abraham”
 - h. All who are born again will bear fruit and good works in time – bear works of Father
 - 2. v. 43-50 – You are not able to **listen to My Word**, therefore you do not understand it
 - a. To listen is to be *attentive* to the Word – to submit to it – asking it to change you
 - b. To fear God is to tremble at His Word (Is. 66:2) – the standard of character and conduct
 - c. You are of your father, the Devil, and his desires you wish to perform, father of lies
 - d. v. 47 – He who is of God hears God’s words; if you can’t hear, you are not of God
 - e. v. 48 - “You are a Samaritan” (racist) – Jesus said “I honor My Father, you dishonor Me”
 - 3. v. 51-59 – if anyone **keeps my Word**, he shall never see death (have eternal life)]
 - a. To keep the Word is to *meditate* upon it – how does it apply to me right now?
 - b. We read a passage, look at it from several angles, and then roll it over and over all day
 - c. Are you greater than our father Abraham? Who do you make yourself out to be?
 - d. “Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day” – you have seen Abraham?
 - e. v. 58 - ***“Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.”***
 - f. The leaders took up stones to throw, but He ‘his Himself’ and went through their midst...

Rededication 250 – May 17, 2026

Prayer During the Sunday Morning Service

The Second Continental Congress calls for a Day of Prayer, Fasting and Humiliation – May 17, 1776

In times of impending calamity and distress; when the liberties of America are imminently endangered by the secret machinations and open assaults of an insidious and vindictive administration, it becomes the indispensable duty of these hitherto free and happy colonies, with true penitence of heart, and the most reverent devotion, publicly to acknowledge the overruling providence of God; to confess and deplore our offences against him; and to supplicate his interposition for averting the threatened danger, and prospering our strenuous efforts in the cause of freedom, virtue and posterity.

...That he would be graciously pleased to bless all his people in these colonies with health and plenty, and grant that a spirit of incorruptible patriotism, and of pure undefiled religion, may universally prevail; and this continent speedily restored to the blessings of peace and liberty, and enabled to transmit them inviolate to the latest posterity. And it is recommended to Christians of all denominations, to assemble for public worship, and abstain from servile labor on the said day.

A basic Biblical worldview of jurisdictions existed in the Colonies at the time:

- If an individual is falling away – you need to repent, fast and pray
- If a family and children are falling away – the parents call a time of fasting
- If a church is in trouble – the leaders should call a time of fasting and prayer
- If the neighborhood, town, city, county, state or nation sins – civil leaders call it
 - o **Moses – Exodus 3:1-4; 17; Samuel – 1st Samuel 7:5-6; Jehoshaphat – 2nd Chronicles 20:3-4; Hezekiah – 2nd Chronicles 30:18-20; Ezra – Ezra 9:5-6**
- On February 5, 2026 at the National Prayer Breakfast, President Trump said - ***“This morning, I’m pleased to announce that on May 17, 2026, that we’re inviting Americans from all across the country to come together on our National Mall, to pray, to give thanks, to rededicate America as one nation under God.”***
- It behooves us, when we pray, to do so as Daniel did (Daniel 9:1-19), where ***we repent on behalf of the iniquity in our nation, taking responsibility generationally for what we have allowed to happen by our sins of commission and omission.***
- Read Psalm 46, where the contrast between the chaos, the shaking, rage of the nations and desolations, all allowed by God, brings into clarity the fact that God is our refuge, the river in the midst of the Church is still flowing, God’s voice will suddenly change things, and finally, that we might rest in this hope:

Be still and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth! The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.