

UPPER ROOM ADULT BIBLE STUDY  
“The Gospel of John”  
Pastor Jim Otte  
Spring – Fall, 2019

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Lesson 4: John 1:19-34. Don't Shoot the Messenger!

The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup> He came to his own,<sup>[b]</sup> and his own people<sup>[c]</sup> did not receive him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

a. “The true light, which gives light to everyone”

a. “true” (alethes) – real or genuine as opposed to light, which was deceptive.

i. Luke 21:8. *And he said, “See that you are not led astray. For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am he!’ and, ‘The time is at hand!’ Do not go after them.*

1. Deceptive light holds just enough truth to seem dependable.
2. Spiritually undiscerning people are more vulnerable to being deceived.

a. The deception of making moral decisions without an objectively moral compass (Judges 17:6. “everyone did what was right in his own eyes”)

b. The deception of interpreting Bible passages absent their context (cherry picking scripture).

c. The deception of justifying the means, in order to control the ends (using guilt to motivate generosity).

d. The deception of imposing my own expectations on God, and disavowing Him, when He fails to act as I expect He should.

b. “to everyone” – favoritism was encouraged in the ancient world: Each tribe saw itself as superior (the chosen ones) to the other. Christianity offered belovedness to all people, received in faith, through Jesus..

i. Last week the question was asked regarding your “witness” to people of other religions: Muslims, Jehovah’s Witnesses, etc.

ii. What does “witnessing” look like to people of non-Christian faiths?

1. Practice the Principle of: Kindness in the Relationship Earns Trust, which Opens the Heart to Receive a Message.

a. Do you see a person, whom God loves?

- b.** Do you see a person, whom God loves, and with whom you can treat with kindness and respect?
- c.** In what everyday situations can you be kind?
- d.** Be prepared to answer the questions: “Why are you being so kind to me (us)?”