

“THESE THINGS ARE WRITTEN”

INTRODUCTION

(Read John 20:30-31). NOTE that this passage refers first of all to the fact that Jesus did many signs that are **not** written in this writing of John, and second that there are reasons **why** some of them are being recorded. Verse 31 begins with the word “But”, signifying a contrast between the signs Jesus DID while on earth, and the one’s that are being recorded in this gospel narrative, for Jesus did so many miracles that all of them could not be included in the book. Cf John 21:24-25.

In our study at this time, we are not going to study any of the miracles themselves, but the 3 reasons **why** these miracles have been recorded. All 3 reasons set forth in John 20:31 are introduced with the word “that”. (Point out by re-reading v. 31).

DISCUSSION

I. In the 1st place, let’s consider the VALUE OF THINGS WRITTEN.

A. In matters of this life on earth, “writing” is very IMPORTANT.

1. In legal matters, contracts, business matters, in science and medical fields, “writing” of certain facts, ingredients, dates, etc., is essential.
2. So it is in the spiritual world.
 - a. The law of Moses was written with the finger of God. Exo. 32:18
 - b. The word “written” is found hundreds of time in scripture, with about 99% of these referring to the writings of the Bible.

B. What is the **purpose** of the writings of scripture?

1. 1st, they are written to inform those responsible to obey it’s instructions.
2. 2nd, they are written to give understanding. Psa.119:104
3. 3rd, they are written to foretell past and future events.
4. 4th, they are written to keep a proper record of God’s will.
 - a. Jesus said the scripture must be fulfilled. Luke 24:25-27, 44
 - b. Jesus referred to the Old Testament scripture as being true.
 - c. Jesus used the scripture to answer temptation and to reinforce His teaching, as with each temptation Satan presented, Jesus responded with the words, “It is written,” followed with a quotation from the writings of Moses.
5. 5th, the writing of scripture is to produce faith. John 20:31; Rom. 10:17; 15:4

II. Now, let’s consider the specific PURPOSES of what was written about the miracles of Jesus.

A. John gives 3 purposes of the written miracles of Jesus, as stated in John 20:31, and ALL 3 of them are introduced with the word “that”. (Red and identify them)

B. Now, let’s consider these 3 points, one by one.

1. 1st, **THAT** “ye might believe.”
 - a. Some claim to believe certain things in religion that are **not** written in the New Testament, that are things they **want** to believe, and it results in a **false subjective** “faith” that is worthless.
 - b. GOD’S “writings” are **objective**, and always produce the same true faith in people, whether they live in the first or twenty-first centuries. Rom. 10:17
- 2nd, **THAT** “Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.”

- a. The word “Christ” refers to Jesus being the “anointed” One—the Messiah and King.
 - b. The term “Son of God” describes His unique or special relationship with the God of heaven.
 - 1) Jesus and only Jesus was born of a virgin, and was not conceived by an earthly father. Isa. 7:14; Luke 1:29-32
 - 2) Jesus was the only One who was ever conceived and the only One who ever shall be—conceived by means of the Holy Spirit.
3. 3rd, **THAT** “ye might have life.”
- a. Without faith that comes FROM that which is written, man is doomed. John 8:24; Heb. 11:6
 - 1) We must believe that Christ is the Son of the living God. Matt. 16:15-16
 - a) The church was built upon this truth. Matt. 16:16, 18
 - b) The Ethiopian treasurer acknowledged this truth in order to be baptized. Acts 8:35-38
 - 2) This saving faith comes from a belief in the recorded miracles of Jesus, as well as ALL the teachings of the Bible.
 - b. Notice also that our believing in Christ is related to His “name” or authority, as we are to DO whatever His authority tells us to do. Acts 2:36-38; 4:12; 10:48

CONCLUSION

- I. Do you want the “LIFE” that genuine belief produces?
 - A. 1st, there is **spiritual** life now, that obedient believers have that Christ gives. John 10:10
 - B. 2nd, there is the promise of **eternal** life in the world to come. Tit. 1:2
- II. If you want this life, won’t come confessing your faith in the Lord, repent of sins and then be immersed into Christ?