

7.1a The Gospel of John Discussion

1. What is the theme of John (built on Warfield, *Shorter Writings*, II, 644f)?

The man, Christ Jesus, is the Word of God who from all eternity has been with God and one with God, and who came forth from heaven to reveal God to men and through them to gather back to fellowship those given to Him by the Father.

2. What is the outline or structure of the book?

Prologue, 1.1-18

Body, 1.19-20.31

Epilogue, 21

3. For outlining, why does public (1-12) private (13-21) not work?

This pattern does not work because there are private discussions (chapter 4) in the first section, and there are public discussions (trial, arrest, crucifixion) in the last section.

4. For outlining, why does word (1-17) and deed (18-21) not work?

This does not work because He reveals the Father accomplishing the work given to Him in deeds with words in the first section. Moreover, in doing the deeds of redemption (crucifixion, resurrection, etc), He reveals the gospel by His words (such as "I Thirst" from the cross).

5. How might we outline the book of John in light of the fact that word and deed are in both major sections?

The divisions of the book present Christ *bringing light and life to sinners* in darkness in two summary ways.

1) In His preaching mission

Announcing the gospel in both word and deed (chapters 1-12)

2) In His passion

Securing the gospel in both word and deed (chapters 13-21, Passion Week)

6. How might we restate the theme of John by adding the notions of communication and sermon because Jesus is the Word?

Jesus who was with God from all eternity and who was God is the Word, the communication, the expression of God, the sermon. He came forth from heaven, became flesh, and dwelt among sinners in order to reveal God to us, and to gather back to fellowship those given to Him by the Father.