

Week beginning Monday 28th December 2020 & January 4th 2021

Prepared by Ken Sykes

John 16

'Prosperity theology is not unbelief, but misbelief' (Cook) Here Jesus doesn't want us to go astray. The Spirit convicts the world that it is wrong about 3 things – has 'the world' got it right yet? Note how honest Jesus is – no spin! 'You will suffer'. Do we? We might spell 'faith', 'RISK', but Jesus spells 'the world', TROUBLE'. So don't be discouraged! What are our expectations of discipleship? But Jesus will always overcome the world of darkness and always have the final victory.

John 17

Conversation is the usual basis of relationship – here Jesus converses with His Father & our prayer life? Glorify – magnify, elevate, show the true splendour and worth of. There's no rivalry here. We can only know God through Jesus. This is eternal life. Do we 'know' God, or just know about? Re-read 6-19 personalised (E.g. **Ken is Yours, and Ken is mine, and I am glorified in Ken.**) Now take a deep breath and be amazed. 'Sanctify' means to make holy, or to separate. As John Calvin said, 'No man... is a believer who is not also a saint;... and no man is a saint... who is not a believer'.

John 18

Here is an eyewitness account. God is bringing about His greatest good.

Genesis 50:20 *"You tried to harm me, but God made it turn out for the best, so that he could save all these people, as he is now doing."* Chap 16 'You will suffer'; childbirth and suffering; Tertullian -persecution is the seed of the church; Do we suffer? Are we sowing much new life? Beware the attitude of self-sufficiency. If you've failed, bring it in prayer and know God's grace.

John 19

The prerequisite of real resurrection, is real death.

"It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.' NB Jesus was in control even in his death -his life wasn't taken from Him. Jesus fulfils his Father's plan, and offers to God voluntarily a perfect, loving and rational sacrifice.

This is history not fable. C S Lewis knew about style and challenged critics to read some fables!

John 20

Facts: An empty tomb, an appearance to Mary, Peter, the disciples, the disciples again with Thomas, and later catching 153 fish, 1 Cor 15,16 500 others + James. 'Stop doubting and believe'. True belief has two characteristics, conviction and commitment. Do ours match?

John 21

Effective pastoral work. Failure is never final with Jesus! Effective service is conditional on effective dealing with sin. Peter's shepherd love was based on his love for Jesus because of Jesus' love for him. And Jesus deals with each disciple individually, even you and me. Isn't that wonderful?

Well done if you're still with us even after Christmas and the New Year. Thanks for sticking to it. May the Lord bless you through 2021 as you pursue your walk with Jesus through the NT. Ken