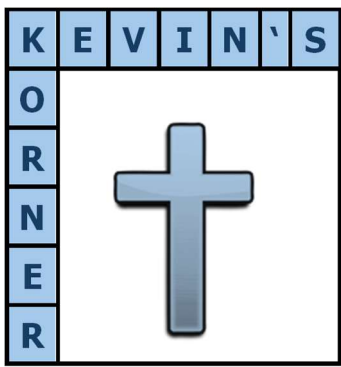




“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” (John 1:1) “Fully human and fully divine,” is the description that my seminary professor, Dr. Eugene Boring, gave to us in Intro to the New Testament. It was the title of the book he wrote on the nature of Jesus the Christ. The Gospel of John has been my starting point for reading the entire Bible and for understanding Jesus, the man and the Son of God. It has been said that “The student of the Gospel of John has at his or her disposal an embarrassment of riches.”

Thus, I am excited to be planning a sermon series on The Gospel of John and the accompanying Fall Bible Study based on the same. I hope you will make the most of this!

This gospel (Good News) is traditionally credited to John the disciple of Jesus. There’s some debate about whether it’s John the son of Zebedee who was one of the twelve disciples, or a different John who lived in Jerusalem and was later known as John the Elder (author of The Book of Revelation). Whichever John it was, the book embodies his eyewitness testimony. It has been brilliantly designed with a clear purpose that he states near the end. He says he wrote the book, “so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, and that by believing, you may have life in his name” (John 20:31). John believes that the Jesus you read about in this book is alive and real and can change your life forever.

Important themes highlighted in John’s gospel include: Jesus’ identity (the Word); Jesus performs many “signs;” Jesus’ “I am... statements;” Jesus’ last night with the disciples; his arrest, trial, crucifixion and resurrection; Peter’s commission; and much more. My goal this Fall is to re-introduce you to Jesus as God, as God’s Son, as the Messiah of Israel, as the presence of God today, and as the fulfillment of God’s purposes on Earth.

I plan to continue using the amazing tool we have discovered, the videos and study guides of The Bible Project. Accordingly, anyone who cannot join us for worship or Bible study, can follow along online, using The Bible Project resources. Of course, you cannot replace the worship experiences based on sermons from John’s gospel and especially the lively discussions we have enjoyed in Bible study as we apply the truths of the Bible to our own lives and the present society and world around us.

I’d be glad to receive any suggestions on study or sermon themes and certainly any feedback on what you hear from me and others. A highlight of the Fall will be a 4-week worship theme of “Love One Another,” based on worship resources from Marcia McFee, somewhat similar to Advent worship resources we have used in recent years. I hope these will enhance our encounter with Jesus, the risen Christ, who showed us how to love one another.

Blessings!

*Pastor Kevin*