



**HISTORY
INTEGRITY
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SCRIPTURE**

www.wittenbergcomo.com



October 2022

“Just” A Bible Study with Something for Everyone

After several years of walking through the lectionary readings in our Lunch and Learn Bible study, I decided it was time for a change of pace. Yes, I know that the Scripture is what we all need, and that it's really hard to open the Bible and not find something that will be helpful to everyone. But we crave structure in life, and no less so in that part of our life which studies the Bible. So I decided we'd have a walk through John's Gospel this year. A walk? Maybe more like a forced march. But I know we can make it!



Why did I pick John's Gospel? After all, my professional academic interest is more closely related to Matthew, and I have spent a lot more time in the Synoptic Gospels than in John over the past thirty years. But I wanted to bring John out into the open for everyone.

In John's Gospel we are confronted with the transcendent Jesus. He's described this way everywhere, but John especially focuses on Jesus' transcendence – his pre-existence, his knowledge of humanity, his presence with his people in the resurrection – he's the kind of Lord we can't ignore. Our world needs more encounters with the transcendent Lord of all.

Another simple reason to study John's Gospel is that it is underrepresented in lectionary readings. While the three year cycle has a year for Matthew, Mark, and Luke, John is inserted in each of the years almost on an “as needed” basis. I thought it would be good to dwell on his writing in a concentrated way.

Finally, in John 6, the apostle Peter gives us the best reason to focus on John. When Jesus asks the disciples if they are going to leave also, Peter says, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God” (vv. 68b-69, NKJV). Everything we do at Wittenberg Door Campus Ministry is intended to lead toward knowing the eternal life we have in Christ.

What are the elements of the study? Check it out at <https://www.wittenbergcomo.com/bible-study---johns-gospel.html>. One post provides notes from a commentary on John. Another post features a piece of classic artwork showing an event from the chapter we're studying. It also provides questions for study and reflection, which are normally the basis for our Thursday Lunch and Learn discussion.

What about people who can't come on Thursday? The comments area on the website is always open.

We have one final element to make this a Bible study for everyone. I post a lightly annotated text of the chapter in Greek for those who have studied Greek but want to have more practice reading. Again, the comments section remains open for everyone (and yes, it can manage Greek characters).

Jesus gives us the words of life. We need to learn and grow using the tools he has given us!

Wittenberg Door Financial Update



Why the bear? We'll hope to replace it with a bull soon!

The Wittenberg Door 300 continues to grow, though it hasn't reached 300 people yet! The 300 is our group of regular contributors. Any contribution is welcome. Our average contributor gives about \$50 per month, but we are glad to have participants on every level. If we have three hundred regular contributors we will be fully funded to have a full-time pastor, whatever office assistance we need, and to conduct many activities on campus to bring the Gospel to all who will hear. With your help we know we can accomplish great things for Christ!

I'm now taking every opportunity to introduce the work to church congregations and remind them that we are here on the campuses as part of their work of outreach to the world. Though many of the routine operating expenses of WDCM have been covered by generous giving, we have not been able to reach the point of providing housing, health care, or a salary for Pastor Spotts. As you can imagine, this is a significant part of our budget. Please consider stepping forward with support.

Wittenberg Door Campus Ministry is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Your contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Checks mailed to us are deposited with no commission paid to any intermediary. Most of our contributions are actually received this way, but we can receive funds sent through Paypal or Google Pay as well. Giving is easy! Simply visit our website at www.wittenbergcomo.com and click on "about" and "support us."

Special Prayer Updates

Several people who are not in a position to provide financial support have made contact with us lately. Your prayers are precious!

Please pray that more native English speakers will step forward and receive the training to expand our coaching program.

Pray that we will be faithful to care for each person we are brought in contact with.

Pray that our relationships within the fraternity and sorority system will grow in a Christ-honoring manner and that the young people will grow in their desire to live out a Christian life in all things.

Our study of John's Gospel is under way! You can join in by visiting www.wittenbergcomo.com and clicking on the picture of John the Evangelist!

Pray that the Lord's Word will show itself powerful to draw people to him.

In all things I give thanks for you and your care which you have shown for me, both now and over the past several years!



Upcoming Activities:

Mondays at 5:00 pm – Fraternity Dinner and Chapter Meeting

Tuesdays at 5:30 pm – Heidelberg Discussions (at the Heidelberg!)

Wednesdays at 7:00 pm – The Bible in Context at www.alts.edu

Thursdays at 12:30 pm – Lunch and Learn Bible discussion at the MU Student Center

Thursdays at 7:00 pm – Greek 1 at www.alts.edu

Sunday, October 9 – Pastor Spotts at Christ the King Lutheran Church, Waseca MN

Friday, October 14 – Dinner and Conversation Evening 6-8 pm

Sunday, October 23 – Pastor Spotts at St. John's Lutheran Church, Pocahontas, MO

Monday, October 24-Thursday, October 27 – Pastor Spotts at the AALC Pastors' Conference, St. Paul, MN

Thursday, October 27-Friday, October 28 – Pastor Spotts at the AALC Clergy Commission, St. Paul, MN

NO DINNER AND CONVERSATION EVENING OCTOBER 30!

Sunday, October 30 – Pastor Spotts at Bible Lutheran Church, Dodge Center, MN

Sunday, November 13 – Pastor Spotts at St. John's Lutheran Church, Lohman, MO

Friday, November 11 – Dinner and Conversation Evening 6-8 pm

Sunday, November 20 – Pastor Spotts at Christ Lutheran Church, Ellis, KS

Friday, November 25 (Tentative) – Wittenberg Door Thanksgiving Dinner 4-8 pm

Remember to get your church on my calendar!

Watch the calendar at www.wittenbergcomo.com, follow our Facebook page, and friend WDCM Chaplain on Facebook to see times and places where Pastor Spotts can be found around campuses in coffee shops or restaurants!

We always have something new at the website, the blog, and the activities calendar. Please be a friend on Facebook and follow us on Twitter. If you're in Columbia, let's get together on or near campus. Go to <https://www.wittenbergcomo.com/support-us.html> to provide financial support. The Wittenberg Door 300 needs you!