**Two Ways John Reveals His Purpose for His Gospel**

1. The Paradigm for John’s Readers (v.29)
   1. The Faith of Thomas (and the other disciples)
      1. The content of faith – “My Lord and My God”
      2. The basis of faith – “Because you have seen me you have believed”
   2. The Faith of all Future Disciples
      1. It will not be based on sight.
      2. It will result in genuine “blessedness” (happiness and acceptance by God)

*Blessed are those who do not share the eye witness experience of the disciples but who share in the same confession of Jesus.*

1. The Purposeful Composition of John’s Gospel (vv.30-31)
   1. A Description of the Content of John’s Gospel
      1. He did not write about everything that Jesus did (cf. 21:25)
      2. He purposefully selected specific signs that Jesus did (“But these [signs] have been written”)
         1. Signs were not simply miraculous works
         2. Signs were symbolic works which manifested the glory, person, and work of the Messiah (cf. chs. 2-11).
   2. A Description of the Purpose of John’s Gospel
      1. Faith in a Specified Content – “That the Messiah, the Son of God, *is* Jesus.”
      2. Eternal Life in a Trusted Savior

*There is a sufficient basis for faith in what has been written in this Gospel just as much as there was for the first eye witnesses.*

*Why is that the case? What is the essence of faith according to John? (cf. 2 Cor. 4:3-6)*

**Application**

1. Beholding Christ by faith now is the prerequisite to beholding it in heaven (cf. Jn. 17:24; 1:14)

“No man shall ever behold the glory of Christ by sight hereafter [in heaven] who does not in some measure behold it here by faith.” (John Owen, *Glories of Christ)*

“Most men will say with confidence, living and dying, that they desire to be with Christ and to behold His glory; but they can give no reason why they should desire any such thing – only they think this somewhat better than to be in that evil condition which otherwise they must be cast into forever, when they can be here no more.... The pretended desires of many to behold the glory of Christ in heaven, who have no view of it by faith while they are here in this world, are nothing but self-deceiving imaginations.” (Owen)

“That soul which can be satisfied without it, that cannot be eternally satisfied with it, is not partaker of the efficacy of His intercession.” (Owen)

1. Labor to grow in your knowledge and sight of the glory of Christ with all of your might.

“But it is from our own sloth and darkness that we do not enjoy more visits of this grace, and that the dawnings of glory do not shine more on our souls.” (Owen)

1. The primary way whereby we are transformed to the image of Christ (holy living) is *by* beholding His glory (cf. 2 Cor. 3:18).