

#10 JOHN C 9 See the Light!

I Introductions and announcements, joys and concerns.

II Prayer.

III Review: John 1-12 is the book of signs; episodes in the ministry of Jesus selected to confirm Jesus as Messiah. These are to strengthen and teach Jesus' followers. The signs are listed in Willhauck p15.

The Gospel is also structured about the feasts of Israel to demonstrate to Christians that in Jesus the Messiah and in his body, the church, God has provided something new to replace the old.

This Gospel is famous for the 'I am' statements, Willhauck 31. These are metaphoric assertions about the person and role of Jesus which have provided insight and assurance to Christians for over 19 centuries.

IV Overview: John C 9 is about the healing of a man born blind. It is concise and dramatic, so dramatic that we used the drama form in 1990 as a way so studying it.

V Read John C 9 and the commentary in your study Bible. Memorise, with verbal freedom your role in the drama.

VI We will now do the drama.

VII Discussion questions.

1. In 9:1, the disciples represent a traditional view: That sickness and disease and accidents are God's punishment for sin. This view is very ancient and very durable. What was Jesus' view? 9:2 Luke 13:15.

What is your view?

What is the Rev. Jerry Falwell's view?

2. V 9:16 outlines the dilemma of the authorities:

a. Is Jesus a Sabbath violater who must be punished?.. or is he

b. A prophet, a man of God, who is able to produce wondrous signs to confirm that God is working through him?

What steps should the authorities take to resolve the problem?

3. We noted in 7:47 and 7:52 how quickly frightened people who are unsure of their position use the ad hominem argument, i.e. attack the individual rather than examine the argument. Observe this in v 28 and 34. How did they fail to meet the obligation that we outlined in Q 2?

4. Scholars regard 9:22 as an anachronisim. What do they mean?

5. In v 30-33, the former blind man, the defendent, uses sharp rabbinic logic. Diagram his argument in terms of formal logic.

VIII Summary: John's favorite metaphor for the Messiah is light. Review the prologue, especially 1:4-9 and 8:12. We discusses three groups of people who would not or could not rejoice in the light. What two groups are alluded to in 9:39-41?

IX Next time: John C 10, Willhauck C 6. The Good Shepherd.