LESLIE S THIS QUARTER
1) 01 Sept 2013..................John 1:1-18.......................God Revealed
2) 08 Sept..................John 1:19-51......................Jesus Identified
3) 15 Sept..................John 2:1-25.........................Authority Acknowledged
4) 22 Sept..................John 3:1-36.......................Salvation Offered
5) 29 Sept..................John 4:1-38.......................The Power to Give Life
6) 06 Oct..................John 4:39-54.....................The Power to Save
7) 13 Oct..................John 5:1-47.......................The Power to Heal
10) 03 Nov..................John 7:53-8:59................Wondering About Judgment
11) 10 Nov..................John 9:1-41.....................Double Jesus’ Power
13) 24 Nov..................John 11:1-57...................Dealing with Death

INTRODUCTION
• Author: Internal evidence and Church tradition holds that John the Apostle – the son of Zebedee and the brother of James wrote it
• Purpose of the Book: That we might believe Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and receive eternal life .......... John 20:31
• Major Doctrines: Jesus’ Deity, Salvation through Grace, Grace is available to ALL, the Holy Spirit’s role
• The Gospel of John is easy to read, difficult to understand, but essential for spiritual growth............Dr. Eli Landrum

What makes John’s Gospel difficult to understand is its many metaphorical and spiritualized statements such as “eat my flesh,” “drink my blood,” “destroy this temple and I will raise it up in 3 days”, “you must be born again”, “drink my water and never thirst again”, “I am the bread of life”, “I am the door”, “I am the true vine”, “I am the Light of the World”, “one will be in Hell who doesn’t deserve to be there”, “No one will be in Heaven who doesn’t want to be there, and no one will be in Hell who hates his life in this world will keep it”, “you must be born again”, “drink my water and never thirst”, “Lazarus has fallen asleep”, “you must hate your life to keep it”, “I am the door”, “I am the true vine”, “I am the bread of life”, “I am the light of the world”...

Another difficulty is that God has spoken to you are spiritualized statements such as “eat my flesh,” “drink my blood,” “destroy this temple and I will raise it up in 3 days”, “you must be born again”, “drink my water and never thirst again”, “I am the bread of life”, “I am the door”, “I am the true vine”, “I am the Light of the World”...

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• We can only speculate that God does not want to force anyone to believe and spend Eternity with Him. So He only gives enough information to make a sound decision to believe, and for others to have wiggle room not to believe

• No one will be in Heaven who doesn’t want to be there, and no one will be in Hell who doesn’t deserve to be there

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Another difficulty is that God remains a mystery since He has chosen only to partially reveal Himself and His purpose, – “Truly, You are a God who hides Himself”............... Isaiah 45:15 – WHY? ‘Secret things belong onto God”....... Deuteronomy 29:29

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CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

• God picked a special time in man’s history to more accurately reveal Himself through Jesus Christ, and to reveal His purpose to save man from Hell – IF we would willingly believe and receive

NEXT WEEK: John 1:19-51. John the Baptist denies he is the Christ, and points others to the real Messiah