B. We receive of the fulness. John 1:16,17.
   1. The law came by Moses; Christ brought something better. Rom. 6:14,15.
   2. Grace and Truth --(The O.T. was shadow but Jesus brought the real thing).

VII. No Man Has Seen God - v.18 (1 John 4:12).

A. Former messengers and prophets were limited in their knowledge.
   1. They had seen the manifestations of Him.
   2. What they knew they had told accurately, but they were limited.

B. Jesus knew God fully. John 5:37, 6:46

VIII. The Son Hath Declared The Father v.18

A. Only one who can. Col. 1:15
B. "Which is in the bosom of the Father." He knew Him intimately. Implies that He declared, not His wisdom nor His power nor His majesty, but His heart.
C. "Declared" John 14:9,10; Heb 1:3. He manifested Him by becoming flesh.

Conclusion:

1. The main topic headings contain John's thesis! The remainder of the book is written to give evidence in support of this thesis.
2. Jesus declares God to us.
3. We are to declare Jesus to the world.

The Thesis Of The Gospel Of John

John 1:1-18

Introduction:

1. The writer of the book is John the Apostle; the purpose for which he wrote: "That you may believe that He is the Christ..."
2. The thesis of his book --his position or proposition which he advances --and offers to maintain by argument, is stated in John 1:1-18.
   a. This may well be called a "summary"of his book.
   b. He states what he is going to prove--then proceeds to prove it!
3. The key verses are 1, 14, and 18--the intervening verses are explanatory.
4. Topic headings in this study are the major statements in the three key verses.

I. In The Beginning Was The Word - v.1

A. The pre-fleshly state of Christ.
   1. He existed in the beginning. Gen. 1:1, John 17:5
   2. Jesus is eternal. John 6:22; Micah 5:2
      a. "I am" John 8:58

B. He is called the "WORD"
   1. He is the medium of communication between God and man.
   2. John starts his epistle the same way, "the Word of Life".
   3. Such expressions were often used in first century--John uses it to state correct doctrine concerning Jesus.
II. The Word Was With God v.1

A. "With" implies friendship --a partaker of heaven's blessings-- intimate association.
   1. Proves that there is more than one person in the Godhead. They are plural, yet singular. John 17:20,21.
   2. John 17:5
   3. Philippians 2:6,7 (ASV)

B. His relationship to the Father. John 1:2,3
   2. "With" -- "pros" in Greek -- suggests united activity.

III. The Word Was God - v.1

A. He had all the attributes of Deity.
   1. Not an inferior being --not like, but was. (Greek, imperfect = past action continuing to the present)
   2. Activity in creation shows His equality with the LORD. (YHWH)

B. Often called "God" Heb. 1:8-12: John 20:28 ("God" denotes nature, not name or number.)

IV. The Word Became Flesh - v.14

A. Flesh suggests human nature, as in Matt. 16:17.
   1. A higher order took the form of man. Phil. 2:6,7.
   2. Many sacrifices involved in his so doing. 2 Cor. 8:9.

B. Became, or was made
   1. In v. 1 the verb was is in the imperfect tense of continued action.
   2. In this verse, a different tense, a new form of being.
      a. The same noun, different verb.

C. His relationship to man. John 1:4,5.
   1. Life --He is the source of all physical and spiritual life.
      Gen. 1:1, Eph 2:1.
      a. John 5:26

b. John 11:25,26
   c. "The words that I speak ..." John 6:63
   d. Col. 3:4: 1 John 5:20

2. Light of men.
   b. He is our instruction --by the law; by the Spirit (John 14:16,26); by men (Eph. 4:11; 1 Cor 12:28).
   c. Shines in darkness --knowledge comes to replace ignorance.
   d. The darkness cannot overcome the light! The darkness of sin can no more overcome this light than literal darkness can put our the sun.

V. The Word Dwelt Among Us - v.14

A. Original denotes "pitched tent" or "tabernacle".
   1. He ate, drank, slept, etc. with the twelve. 1 John 1:1.
   2. "Dwell in tents" -- be one of family. He was tempted (Heb. 4:15): He experienced every human appetite and emotion (John 4:6-8)

B. Announced by John the Baptist. John 1:6-8:15.
   1. John the Baptist was not the Messiah, but a witness of Him.
   2. He came to prepare the minds of the people to receive Him; hence he announced his coming.

C. Jesus is the true light. John 1:9

D. He was rejected. John 1:10-13
   1. Came to His own country and His own people received Him not. (Luke 4:16,28,29).
   2. Some did receive Him.
   3. Those who believed had power to become sons of God.
      a. Not sons as soon as believed.
      b. Must be born again. John 3:3-5.

E. "We beheld his glory." Matt. 17:1-5.

VI. The Word Was Full Of Grace And Truth v.14

A. Christ was the fulness of the Godhead. Eph. 1:23; 3:19; Col. 1:19; 2:9