

Grieving is real and healthy. Please don't rush it...for yourself and for others around you. 4 Stages of Grief are: 1) Denial or Unbelief 2) Guilt or Regret 3) Blame or Anger 4) Recovery and Inspired Remodeling

The process usually bogs down in the Guilt or Blame stage...so be careful for those.

We never fully recover from the loss of our loved ones but we can take the pain of loss and convert it into energy to live out the lessons learned from their time with us.

Be careful to brace up for 6 month and each year anniversary of Jay's passing. Those will be difficult and experts say sometimes they can be almost as painful as the very day of the loss.

I Just like to start off my message today by expressing:

My appreciation for Jay:

- He was a fun person
- He liked fishing and hunting
- He was a Veteran of Vietnam
- He liked Shrimps
- He like to play cardswith Jerry Jenkins
- He like Blue Bell Ice Cream...but who doesn't
- His love for Kathy...His last wordsKathy said Your 3 girls are hereHe says..."I love my 3 girls"
- He was competitive

My Experience with Jay at his home one day:

- Kathy invited us over because she was concerned for Jay's salvation.
- He just spilled out questions...one after another
 - Before could answer the questions, he would ask more....seemed like 25 questions he asked in machine gun fashion.
 - While he was asking the questions, I found myself thinking, the Bible has the answer to that question...and that one and I even know where the answer to that one is....etc.
 - At the end of His questions, I assured him that the Bible had the answers to all the questions he had asked.
- We met once a week for an hour or so to get those answers and more.
- I told him to not only do his lesson I had prepared but to read through the Gospel according to John
- Each week Jay would do his lesson in our study booklet But He also would have up to 20 questions about his reading in the book of John.

>> So It think if Jay could speak to us here today, he would say you need to read the gospel of John, there is some really good stuff in it.

So Let's take a look a the gospel of John and see what Jay thought was so good about it.

John is the only gospel that

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- Repeatedly refers to Jesus as God's "son." The term is used over 20 times in John's Gospel, but only three times in the others.
- John was the disciple Jesus loved....The disciple that really understood Jesus and to know Him is to Love Him.

The purpose of the gospel of John is found in John 20:31:
"But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name"

[C.S. Lewis once wrote](#) there were only three ways a person could view Jesus: either he was a liar, a lunatic, or the Lord.

Key Verses: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. . . . And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth" ([John 1:1, 14](#)).

"The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, 'Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!'" ([John 1:29](#)).

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

¹⁸ He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

" ([John 3:16](#) -18).

"Jesus answered and said to them, 'This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent'" ([John 6:29](#)).

John 8:32-36

"The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly" ([John 10:10](#)).

"And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand" ([John 10:28](#)).

"Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?'" ([John 11:25-26](#)).

“Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me’” ([John 14:6](#)).

“Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth” ([John 17:17](#)).

“So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, ‘It is finished!’ And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit” ([John 19:30](#)).

As the weeks passed by, Jay became more and more amazed at who Jesus was and became more and more convinced that Jesus may be who He says He is...the Savior of the world.

- I knew Jay was seriously considering what He was learning because He started asking some great questions...like:
 - I’m not saying I am, but if I decide to accept Jesus as my savior, will I have to give up playing cards?
 - If I want to get saved, do I have to go forward in church
 - My answer was no, but I would later ask him to.
- Before we finished our workbook together, Jay decided he would start coming to church. He was very attentive and even started coming to Sunday school. The class he came to was using the same

workbook I was using with him. He found himself participating in the discussions because he had already been working on the answers in our meeting times.

- After several weeks, Jay asked for an appointment with me and Kathy.
 - When the appointed time arrived. He told Kathy and Me to sit down and handed us a sheet of paper. The paper was an email he had sent to himself and made copies of it for us to read.
 - The back of today’s bulletin is a word for word excerpt of that email. (READ IT)
- The next Sunday was a sermon that was really right along the same lines as Jay’s email. I asked Jay if he would be willing to share his decision to trust Christ with the whole church after the sermon. He said yes but he didn’t know what he would say. I said he could just read that email he gave Kathy and me. He said he didn’t have a copy on him...I assured him I did have a copy and so he read the email to the congregation and there was much rejoicing. Jay continued coming to Church and Sunday School and Men’s Bible Study where he not only attended but added a lot to the discussions. So much so that one of the men in the church wrote Jay a letter recently: READ WADE’S LETTER TO JAY.....

- Wow, Jay was blessed not only to believe but to share his belief in a way that inspired others.....John 20:27-30

John 20:27-30 tells of Doubting Thomas coming to believe:

²⁷ Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing.

²⁸ And Thomas answered and said unto him, My LORD and my God.

²⁹ Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.

SO Jay would be one of those people Jesus was talking about when he says blessed are they that have not seen and yet have believed.

I know Jay would want you to join him in believing that Jesus is the Son of God and the only path to salvation. Won't you believe, It's never too late as long as you have breath. If you aren't ready to receive Jesus won't you take a fresh look at the gospel of John and take the journey Jay did.

Prayer

I'll Fly Away !!