

*Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes*

**Sermon Notes for June 21-22, 2003**

**Dale Whitehead**

**"The Beloved Disciple"**

**The Gospel of John**

Polycarp, the disciple of the Apostle John, told Irenaeus that John wrote the fourth gospel while living in Ephesus.

Polycarp's historical written statement that John wrote the fourth Gospel is confirmed by internal evidence (John 21:15-24).

The disciple that Jesus loved is the author of the fourth Gospel (John 21:24).

The author who chooses to refer to himself as the disciple whom Jesus loved was a member of Christ's inner circle (John 13:22-25).

Only Peter, James and John could be considered members of Christ's inner circle (Mark 5:37, Mark 14:33, Matthew 17:1).

We can immediately eliminate Peter since he is consistently distinguished from the disciple whom Jesus loved.

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Since James was martyred between 40-44 AD, and the Gospel was written in approximately 90 AD, the author had to be John.

Why did John choose to describe himself as the disciple that Jesus loved?

John did not describe himself as the disciple that Jesus loved in order to imply that Jesus loved him more than He loved the other disciples (John 14:21; 15:9-10).

Though John was not attempting to exalt himself over others, he certainly wanted everyone to know that he personally felt that Christ's love for him was special.

Keeping the commandments of Christ must not be seen as the end but as the means to the end.

Christians who purpose to maintain and deepen their relationship with Christ through obedience are the Christians who will feel most loved by Christ.

John was not seeking to exalt himself in the way he identified himself but rather he was seeking to exalt the love of Christ.

The Apostle John, the disciple whom Jesus loved, a member of Christ's inner circle, wrote the fourth gospel.