Intro: John declares the divine and eternal nature of _______ by declaring that the Word has always been, has always been with God and has __________ always been ________.

A. He is the light (or the _______) of men, for through Him all mankind has gained physical life and can gain ______________ life! But now, here is the problem: the Light (Jesus) has shown in the dark sin-laden world, but the dark sin-blinded world did not comprehend (believe) in Him and therefore, has __________ the eternal life that is found in Him and Him alone.

B. This is the ______________ for which John wrote this book: as a testimony that we might see the light, comprehending that Jesus is the Christ and in ______________, that we would gain true and everlasting life in Him.

I. A man was _________ from God.

A. This _______ was a man, _______ ________.

B. He was “_________ from God.” The word “sent” is very closely related to the word “apostle” and as the context proves, it means that this man was “sent from God” on a definite mission to “bear ____________ of the light (Jesus).”

C. From the evidence we know without question that this particular man named was none other than John _______ ____________.

1. By the divine and direct intervention of God, John the Baptist was born, named, empowered with the Holy Spirit, and sent as a ______________ to testify that the Messiah was coming soon.

D. God sent John the Baptist to bear ______________ of the coming ______________.

1. God’s purpose in sending John the Baptist to “bear ______________ of [Christ Jesus] the light” was “that all might ______________ through him.”

2. As John preached repentance and told the people that there was One coming who was mightier than he, he was ______________ their ______________ and minds to receive and believe that Jesus is the Christ! John was sent to plow up the fallow ground of their hearts to ready them to receive the seed of truth that there would be a harvest of ______________!

E. John the Baptist was not the __________ Light, but he came that he might bear witness of _______ Light!

II. The true ______________ (Jesus Christ) ______________ into the world.

A. The ______________ came into the world for, John 1:14 says, “the Word ______________.” (Cf. Isa. 7:14; Luke 1:30-35, 2:7, 11; Romans 1:1-4, Phil 2:6-7; 1 John 4:2)

B. The true ______________ “______________ every man.”

1. 1 Jn. 4:9 says, “By this the love of _______ was __________________ in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him.” Through the coming of the Christ, God (His being, nature, moral purity, truth, and love) is illumined (revealed) before all so as to ______________ all mankind. (CF. John 1:18)
2. In John 15:22 Christ expressed that because He came and spoke, the world is __________ excuse for their sin. Because Christ has enlightened every man to God, mankind is without __________.

C. “Those who were His own __________ ____________ Him” for they did not comprehend the Light. (Cf. Romans 10:16-21)

1. Even though Christ has enlightened all to God, not all have believed for even though “the Light has come into the world, men __________ the ____________ rather than the Light for their deeds were evil.” “This is the judgement” for which men will be ____________!

III. Then, can we be ____________?

A. As many as ____________ Him He gave the right to become ________________ of God!

1. The word “received” means to “acknowledge, ________________, and instruction.”

2. The word “gave” means “to ________________ ________________ of one’s own accord and with good will.” As in the giving of a good gift or the ________________ of a special privilege.

3. The word “right” means “________________, authority, ________________, capability.”

B. “Even to those who ________________ in His name.”

1. To “believe” is to have “faith, full trust and confidence” to the point that the one who believes ____________ in accordance to his ________________.

2. To believe “in His ________________” is to believe everything about Christ Jesus (His ________________, His deity, all His claims, and to acknowledge Him as Savior and Lord), and to obediently ________________ after Him in all things!

C. Receiving and ________________ the Light (Christ Jesus) is not a matter of being born into a particular bloodline, nor a matter of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but it is a matter of being ____________ of ____________! (Cf. John 3:1-21)

1. Beloved, our ability to receive and believe comes by the ________________ regenerate __________ of the Spirit of God. Titus 3:4-7 NIV says, “But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, 5 ________________, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of and renewal by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal ____________.”

Conclusion: To receive and believe, men must ________________ ____ human dependence, casting off all confidence in their lineage, flesh, ability, works, and desire, and in humility bow before the throne of grace, and ____________ ____ the _________ who saves by grace, that by His grace we might see and comprehend Light. And as He so graciously grants it to us, we will receive and ________________ that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and believing you will ________________ ________ in His name.”