

The Gospel of John

Chapter 21, Verses 15-25

Review

- **General Introduction**

- *one of the **four gospels**, each of which is a biography of Jesus and an historical narrative of his life*
- one of the **five Johannine books**, all of which are among the last books in the Bible to have been written
- written in Greek, primarily to those who already believed in Christ, including **both Jews and Gentiles**

Review

- **Basic Structure**

- *Prolog* – First 18 verses of Chapter 1
- *Jesus' Public Ministry* – Until the end of Chapter 12
- *Private Time With His Disciples* – Chapters 13-17
- *Trial, Death, and Resurrection* – Chapters 18, 19, 20
- *Epilog (resurrection appearances in Galilee)* – Chapter 21

Review (Last Week's Lesson)

- Up in Galilee, on the Sea of Tiberius, Peter decides to go fishing and six of the other disciples join him, but they catch nothing that night. **(21:1-3)**
- At daybreak, a man on shore whom they cannot recognize instructs them to cast the net on the right side of the boat and they catch a large quantity of fish. **(21:4-6)**
- The disciple whom Jesus loved recognized then that the man on shore was the Lord. **(21:7a)**

Review (Last Week's Lesson)

- Peter put on his coat and jumped into the sea. **(21:7b)**
- The other disciples followed him to shore in the boat bringing the fish with them. **(21:8)**
- When they got there they saw that Jesus had prepared breakfast for them. **(21:9)**
- Jesus asked them to bring some of the fish they had caught, and Peter pulled in the net with 153 large fish in it. **(21:10-11)**
- Then they all knew it was the Lord. **(21:12)**

Review (Last Week's Lesson)

- Jesus served them breakfast. **(21:13)**
- This was the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead **(21:14)**

Comment

- We have noted before now that the gospel seems to come to an end at the end of Chapter 20:

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. (John 20:30-31)

- Chapter 21 is generally seen as an afterword or epilog, but one which has always been there.

Comment

- Last week's lesson (21:1-14) seems to emphasize Peter and, to a lesser extent, the disciple whom Jesus loved.
 - Peter is an active, impulsive, strong leader.
 - The beloved disciple is more sensitive and insightful.
 - Yet all of the other disciples eventually come to believe and to follow.
- This characterization of Peter might be a little surprising in view of Peter's denial of Jesus as recorded in John 18.

Comment

- What follows, in tonight's reading, helps to solidify Peter's position and, also, sheds some light on the "beloved disciple" and the authorship of John's gospel.

John 21:15-19

21:15彼らが食事をすませると、イエスはシモン・ペテロに言われた、「ヨハネの子シモンよ、あなたはこの人たちが愛する以上に、わたしを愛するか」。ペテロは言った、「主よ、そうです。わたしがあなたを愛することは、あなたがご存じです」。イエスは彼に「わたしの小羊を養いなさい」と言われた。

John 21:15-19

21:16 またもう一度彼に言われた、「ヨハネの子シモンよ、わたしを愛するか」。彼はイエスに言った、「主よ、そうです。わたしがあなたを愛することは、あなたがご存じです」。イエスは彼に言われた、「わたしの羊を飼いなさい」。

John 21:15-19

21:17 イエスは三度目に言われた、「ヨハネの子シモンよ、わたしを愛するか」。ペテロは「わたしを愛するか」とイエスが三度も言われたので、心をいためてイエスに言った、「主よ、あなたはすべてをご存じです。わたしがあなたを愛していることは、おわかりになっています」。イエスは彼に言われた、「わたしの羊を養いなさい。

John 21:15-19

21:18よくよくあなたに言っておく。あなたが若かった時には、自分で帯をしめて、思いのままに歩きまわっていた。しかし年をとってからは、自分の手をのぼすことになろう。そして、ほかの人があなたに帯を結びつけ、行きたくない所へ連れて行くであろう」。

21:19これは、ペテロがどんな死に方で、神の栄光をあらわすかを示すために、お話しになったのである。こう話してから、「わたしに従ってきなさい」と言われた。

John 21:15-19

¹⁵ When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Feed my lambs."

¹⁶ He said to him a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Tend my sheep."

John 21:15-19

¹⁷ He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep.

¹⁸ Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go."

John 21:15-19

¹⁹ (This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.) And after saying this he said to him, "Follow me."

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- This continues the story we read last week, about the time Jesus appeared to seven of his disciples while they were fishing in the Sea of Tiberius.

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- But now the focus is on Jesus and Simon Peter.
- Jesus is asking Peter, "Do you love me?"

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- The extent of Peter's love for Jesus is being compared to something.....

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- The extent of Peter's love for Jesus is being compared to something.....
- What?

Comment

- There are three possibilities:

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- There are three possibilities:
 - Do you love me more than you love these things ... fishing?

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 - Do you love me more than you love these things ... fishing?
 - Do you love me more than you love these men ... disciples?

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 - Do you love me more than these other disciples love me.

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 - ***Do you love me more than these other disciples love me.***
 - *I think most would agree that the last meaning is most likely.*

Comment

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 - Do you love me more than you love these things ... fishing?
 - Do you love me more than you love these men ... disciples?
 - ***Do you love me more than these other disciples love me.***
 - *I think most would agree that the last meaning is most likely.*
 - *But Peter does not take up the comparison.*

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- Peter's answer is "yes" ... he does love the Lord.
- And he is confident that Jesus already knows this

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 - Confirmation --- to solidify what Peter already believes.
 - Proclamation --- to let the world know these things.

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 - Commission --- to establish Peter's mission.

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- What does this mean?

John 21:16

またもう一度彼に言われた、「ヨハネの子シモンよ、わたしを愛するか」。彼はイエスに言った、「主よ、そうです。わたしがあなたを愛することは、あなたがご存じです」。イエスは彼に言われた、「わたしの羊を飼いなさい」。

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- Peter repeats his answer.

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- Jesus response to Peter's profession of love is similar but not identical to his first response.

Comment

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 - In both cases these pastoral responsibilities are motivated by Peter's love for Jesus.

Comment

- Both of Jesus' instructions to Peter pick up the imagery of sheep and shepherds, something like what we read in Chapter 10:
 - First, he tells Peter: “feed my lambs”
 - Second, he tells Peter: “tend my sheep”
 - In both cases these pastoral responsibilities are motivated by Peter's love for Jesus.
 - Jesus is *the* Good Shepherd, who gives up his life for the sheep

John 21:17

イエスは三度目に言われた、「ヨハネの子シモンよ、わたしを愛するか」。ペテロは「わたしを愛するか」とイエスが三度も言われたので、心をいためてイエスに言った、「主よ、あなたはすべてをご存じです。わたしがあなたを愛していることは、おわかりになっています」。イエスは彼に言われた、「わたしの羊を養いなさい。

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- The pattern repeats for a third and final time.

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- The pattern repeats for a third and final time.
- This time Peter was sad, because Jesus seemed to be questioning his love.

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- Yet, Peter himself seems confident in himself, that he really does love Jesus, and that Jesus really knows this.

Discussion

- Why do you think that Jesus repeats his question three times?

Discussion

- Why do you think that Jesus repeats his question three times?
 - For emphasis

Discussion

- Why do you think that Jesus repeats his question three times?
 - For emphasis
 - Because Peter had denied Jesus three times

John 21:18

よくよくあなたに言うておく。あなたが若かった時には、自分で帯をしめて、思いのままに歩きまわっていた。しかし年をとってからは、自分の手をのばすことになろう。そして、ほかの人があなたに帯を結びつけ、行きたくない所へ連れて行くであろう」。

Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go."

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- This emphasizes the inevitability and significance of what is to follow.
- Peter will somehow, when he is older, lose his freedom.

John 21:18

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- Is this a literal reference to the limitations that come with old age?

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- Is this a literal reference to the limitations that come with old age?
- Probably not.

John 21:19

これは、ペテロがどんな死に方で、神の栄光をあらわすかを示すために、お話しになったのである。こう話してから、「わたしに従ってきなさい」と言われた。

(This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.) And after saying this he said to him, "Follow me."

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- This is a probably a reference to Peter's martyrdom, probably by Crucifixion.

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(This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.) And after saying this he said to him, "**Follow me.**"

- This is a reference to Peter's martyrdom, probably by Crucifixion.
- What follows, then, is a command by the Good Shepherd for Peter to follow Jesus in giving up his life for the sheep.

Comment

- It has been common for Protestant commentators to observe that Peter is here restored to a place in the Church, but not set over it, and certainly not in any position (i.e. papacy) that continues beyond his death.

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- It has been common for Protestant commentators to observe that Peter is here restored to a place in the Church, but not set over it, and certainly not in any position (i.e. papacy) that continues beyond his death.
- Roman Catholics have come to understand that Peter was the first of many successors who would represent Christ at the head of the Church.

John 21:20-25

21:20ペテロはふり返ると、イエスの愛しておられた弟子がついて来るのを見た。この弟子は、あの夕食のときイエスの胸近くに寄りかかって、「主よ、あなたを裏切る者は、だれなのですか」と尋ねた人である。

21:21ペテロはこの弟子を見て、イエスに言った、「主よ、この人はどうなのですか」。

John 21:20-25

21:22 イエスは彼に言われた、「たとい、わたしの来る時まで彼が生き残っていることを、わたしが望んだとしても、あなたにはなんの係わりがあるか。あなたは、わたしに従ってきなさい」。

21:23 こういうわけで、この弟子は死ぬことがないというわさが、兄弟たちの間にひろまった。しかし、イエスは彼が死ぬことはないと言われたのではなく、ただ「たとい、わたしの来る時まで彼が生き残っていることを、わたしが望んだとしても、あなたにはなんの係わりがあるか」と言われただけである。

John 21:20-25

21:24これらの事についてあかしをし、またこれらの事を書いたのは、この弟子である。そして彼のあかしが真実であることを、わたしたちは知っている。

21:25イエスのなさったことは、このほかにまだ数多くある。もしいちいち書きつけるならば、世界もその書かれた文書を収めきれないであろうと思う。

John 21:20-25

²⁰ Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them, the one who had been reclining at table close to him and had said, "Lord, who is it that is going to betray you?"

²¹ When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, "Lord, what about this man?"

²² Jesus said to him, "If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow me!"

John 21:20-25

²³ So the saying spread abroad among the brothers that this disciple was not to die; yet Jesus did not say to him that he was not to die, but, "If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you?"

²⁴ This is the disciple who is bearing witness about these things, and who has written these things, and we know that his testimony is true.

John 21:20-25

²⁵ Now there are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.

John 21:20

ペテロはふり返ると、イエスの愛しておられた弟子がついて来るのを見た。この弟子は、あの夕食のときイエスの胸近くに寄りかかって、「主よ、あなたを裏切る者は、だれなのですか」と尋ねた人である。

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Peter turned and saw *the disciple whom Jesus loved* following them, the one who had been reclining at table close to him and had said, "Lord, who is it that is going to betray you?"

- As we have often remarked, the identity of this disciple cannot be determined with certainty.

John 21:20

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Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved ***following them***, the one who had been reclining at table close to him and had said, "Lord, who is it that is going to betray you?"

- I seems clear, here and elsewhere, that he was a definite individual.

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Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved **following them, the one who had been reclining at table close to him and had said, "Lord, who is it that is going to betray you?"**

- I seems clear, here and elsewhere, that he was a definite individual, and that he was one of “the Twelve.”

John 21:20

ペテロはふり返ると、イエスの愛しておられた弟子がついて来るのを見た。この弟子は、あの夕食のときイエスの胸近くに寄りかかって、「主よ、あなたを裏切る者は、だれなのですか」と尋ねた人である。

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- Peter now notices that this “beloved disciple” has been following he and Jesus....

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the one who had been reclining at table close to him and had said,
"Lord, who is it that is going to betray you?"

- Peter now notices that this “beloved disciple” has been following he and Jesus....listening to what they said?

John 21:21

ペテロはこの弟子を見て、イエスに言った、「主よ、この人はどうなのですか」。

When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, "Lord, what about this man?"

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- Peter has, it seems to me, understood that he is being called to follow Jesus into giving up his life for Jesus sheep.

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ペテロはこの弟子を見て、イエスに言った、「主よ、この人はどうなのですか」。

When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, "**Lord, what about this man?**"

- Peter has, it seems to me, understood that he is being called to follow Jesus into giving up his life for Jesus sheep.
- He is naturally curious about the fate of the beloved disciple.

John 21:22

イエスは彼に言われた、「たとい、わたしの来る時まで彼が生き残っていることを、わたしが望んだとしても、あなたにはなんの係わりがあるか。あなたは、わたしに従ってきなさい」。

Jesus said to him, "If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow me!"

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Jesus said to him, "If it is my will that he remain until I come, *what is that to you?* You follow me!"

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Jesus said to him, "If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? **You follow me!**"

- Jesus replay to Peter's question was basically, never mind about him, his duties are none of your business.
- Peter's business, Jesus repeats, is just to follow Jesus.

John 21:22

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Jesus said to him, "*If it is my will that he remain until I come*, what is that to you? You follow me!"

- To emphasize his point, Jesus suggests the possibility that the beloved disciple might **not** be required to give up his life for the sheep but, instead, might be required by Jesus to remain alive until Jesus' return.

John 21:22

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Jesus said to him, "If it is my will that he remain until I come, **what is that to you? You follow me!**"

- Even in that case, Peter should stick with the plan, and follow Jesus into death.

John 21:23

こういうわけで、この弟子は死ぬことがないといううわさが、兄弟たちの間にひろまった。しかし、イエスは彼が死ぬことはないと言われたのではなく、ただ「たとい、わたしの来る時まで彼が生き残っていることを、わたしが望んだとしても、あなたにはなんの係わりがあるか」と言われただけである。

So the saying spread abroad among the brothers that this disciple was not to die; yet Jesus did not say to him that he was not to die, but, "If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you?"

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- Reports of what Jesus had said to Peter spread among the disciples.

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- Reports of what Jesus had said to Peter spread among the disciples.
- I wonder how and from whom the rumor began....Peter?!

John 21:23

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So the saying spread abroad among the brothers that this disciple was not to die; **yet Jesus did not say to him that he was not to die**, but, "If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you?"

- In any case what Jesus had said was misunderstood.

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So the saying spread abroad among the brothers **that this disciple was not to die**; yet Jesus did not say to him that he was not to die, but, "If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you?"

- In any case what Jesus had said was misunderstood.
- People thought that the beloved disciple was literally not to die.

Comment

- This is a good example of how an overly literal interpretation can sometimes lead us astray.

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- Evidently this rumor persisted for several centuries.
- At the beginning of the 5th Century, St. Augustine spoke with disapproval of rumors in his day that the beloved disciple was still alive in his tomb awaiting the return of the Lord.

John 21:24

これらの事についてあかしをし、またこれらの事を書いたのは、この弟子である。そして彼のあかしが真実であることを、わたしたちは知っている。

This is the disciple who is bearing witness about these things, and who has written these things, and we know that his testimony is true.

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This is the disciple who is bearing witness about these things, and who has written these things, and we know that his testimony is true.

- The reference here is to the beloved disciple whose death is being discussed in the preceding verse, the one of the 12 who had been present throughout Jesus earthly ministry.

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- What this beloved disciple witnessed he gave testimony to.

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This is the disciple who is bearing witness about these things, **and who has written these things**, and we know that his testimony is true.

- What this beloved disciple witnessed he gave testimony to, including the things which written in the document we call the Gospel According to John.

John 21:24

これらの事についてあかしをし、またこれらの事を書いたのは、この弟子である。そして彼のあかしが真実であることを、わたしたちは知っている。

This is the disciple who is bearing witness about these things, **and who has written these things**, and we know that his testimony is true.

- This does not necessarily, or even probably, mean that the beloved disciple himself physically wrote down all of the words in this gospel --- any more than Pilate himself physically wrote the inscription affixed to Jesus' cross.

John 21:24

これらの事についてあかしをし、またこれらの事を書いたのは、この弟子である。そして彼のあかしが真実であることを、わたしたちは知っている。

This is the disciple who is bearing witness about these things, **and who has written these things**, and we know that his testimony is true.

- The point is that the beloved disciple is the source of what is written in the gospel.

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This is the disciple who is bearing witness about these things, and who has written these things, and **we know that his testimony is true.**

- The point is that the beloved disciple is the source of what is written in the gospel.
- The people who first received it, and pass it to us, bear witness that the testimony of the beloved disciple is true.

John 21:24

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This is the disciple who is bearing witness about these things, and who has written these things, and we know that his testimony is true.

- We do not know precisely who these people were or how the document was written, edited, and distributed.

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This is the disciple who is bearing witness about these things, and who has written these things, and we know that his testimony is true.

- We do not know precisely who these people were or how the document was written, edited, and distributed.
- Certainly they were Christians.

John 21:25

イエスのなさったことは、このほかにまだ数多くある。もしいちいち書きつけるならば、世界もその書かれた文書を収めきれないであろうと思う。

Now there are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.

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- This is the final verse of John's Gospel.

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- This is the final verse of John's Gospel.
- It echo's the thought expressed in the last two verses of Chapter 20, that what has been written is a small subset of all that might be written about Jesus.

John 21:25

イエスのなさったことは、このほかにまだ数多くある。もしいちいち書きつけるならば、世界もその書かれた文書を収めきれないであろうと思う。

Now there are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.

- The last sentence is written in the first person singular.

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Now there are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, *I suppose* that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.

- The last sentence is written in the first person singular.
- Again we cannot know the precise identity of this person.

Comment

- What we have here is the testimony of the “beloved disciple” who was one of The Twelve --- the one who seems to have the best understanding of Jesus and the closest relationship with him, closer even than Peter.

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Comment

- What we have here is the testimony of the “beloved disciple” who was one of The Twelve --- the one who seems to have the best understanding of Jesus and the closest relationship with him, closer even than Peter.
- The beloved disciple may have been John, the Son of Zebadee. This has been the traditional view, hence the name attached to his gospel.
- In any case the testimony of the beloved disciple was received and believed by the Apostolic Church. (v. 24)

Comment

- As to who specifically wrote the last verse (21:25) we will probably never know. Suffice it to say that it was a man who believed the testimony of the beloved disciple as supported by the Apostolic Church and finally written and sent out into the church and beyond into the world.

Comment

- As to who specifically wrote the last verse (21:25) we will probably never know. Suffice it to say that it was a man who believed the testimony of the beloved disciple as supported by the Apostolic Church and finally written and sent out into the church and beyond into the world.
- As with all books in the Bible, our belief is a mysterious and wonderful thing made possible by the Holy Spirit and not depending on a definite provenance, even in those cases where there is one --- e.g. some of Paul's letters.