

# St. Athanasius Academy of Orthodox Theology

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The Most Rev. Metropolitan JOSEPH, Primate

The V. Rev. Fr. Jon Braun, President

Please remember our Prisoner-Students

July 2019

Dear Friend of St. Athanasius Academy,

## An Invitation

### GOSPEL WRITER JOHN – THE SON OF THUNDER BELOVED DISCIPLE OF JESUS – OUR CHRIST & OUR FATHER

He is a pillar of churches, possessing the keys to the House of Wisdom; to Paradise re-opened this day. His Gospel drums the chalice of Jesus being the promised One revealed to Mose – I AM, the I AM. He it is, who in loving trust, reclined his head on the bosom of Jesus – the Incarnate Word – with the trusting of love of a son.

He had no claim to fame, nor social status – a lowly fisherman able only to mend nets. He was untaught, could not read, and was uneducated in the words and ways of the Temple, and its conflicting teachings.

Having put his faith in Jesus and His being the Christ – as did Photini – he does not come dressed in golden raiment of man's fame. Instead he is clothed with the gospel of His Peace – the Beauty of His Creation – woven and composed of His Grace and Truth – not fashioned in purple or gold.

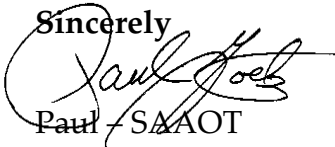
In St. John, there is no pretense or legend. Instead, with great humility, he preaches the naked truth – for all to participate. He is not trying to persuade or change someone from who and what he is. His words brought clarity – and declaim – to what holds man in the bondage of ignorance. Within this, and his Gospel, his words effects everything and everyone, offering a sweet gift, a relational reality called salvation unto Him – our Father and High Priest. Why? They are inspired by his relational love for Jesus – His Father and High Priest.

His Gospel makes clear the absurdity of the teachings of Plato, Aristotle, and the wisdom of the fallen Temple. This includes their philosophical understanding and teachings, plus any theology it may underpin. John's writings make clear such teachings to be of man's wisdom – a foolish Babel rooted back to Babylon.

Thankfully, his inspired work of love, speaks to our: 1) growing in the knowing of Jesus, 2) maturing in our faith, hope, trust, and love in the fulness of Who Jesus is, and 3) pruning away the unknowable hopelessness of the Tree of knowing the knowledge of good and evil – its craftiness, deceptions, and delusions.

The first words of His Gospel: 'In the beginning, the Word was.' It is here – next month – we invite you to begin an on-going study with us. The focus will be on both the relational realities and theological understandings of the Word – the One Who Is Named Jesus. Call us and let's schedule some time together.

Sincerely



Paul SAAOT