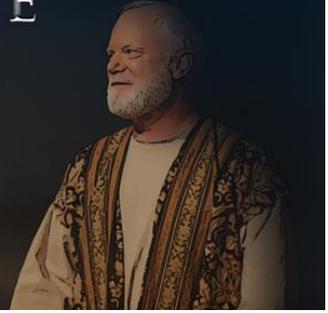


# CHRISTMAS LIVE THE LAST APOSTLE

SUNDAY DECEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup>  
COMBINED SERVICES-9:35 AND 11:05



## **Introduction to The Last Apostle**

Sunday, December 18, 2016  
Pastor Don Denyes

Pastor Don told us the story of Jesus from the perspective of the apostle John, one of the sons of Zebedee. John lived into old age in exile on the island of Patmos. He is recorded as having discipled some prominent figures in the early church. The church father, Irenaeus, for instance, traces his spiritual lineage back to the apostle John who shared the gospel with someone who shared the gospel with someone who shared it with him! One interesting speculation about John, is that because he lived so late into the end of the first century (and possibly into the second), some scholars think that he was no older than a teenager when Jesus was on earth! Either way, he has produced some of the most precious writings to Christians in the Gospel, three of his letters, and in the book of Revelation. After Luke and Paul, he is the most prolific New Testament author.

In this discussion, we will look at several of the passages that Pastor Don quoted from in his monologue. After each one, pause and reflect on the passage, and then share with one another what you learn about Jesus, what you learn about yourself, and how we can learn to love God and others more.

In this way, we can also trace our spiritual lineage back to the apostle John, who served the Lord so faithfully! And as we are, we will come to understand why John chose to quote John the Baptist by saying, “He must increase, but I must decrease” (John 3:30).

**Read and Reflect** *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Have each person read one of these passages that talk about who Jesus is and why He came. Pause after each passage is read to discuss the questions below.

John 1:1-5

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Matthew 1:18-23

Luke 1:26-38

John 1:12-14

Revelation 1:1-19

Revelation 22:6-17, 20-21

John 20:30-31

## **Discuss**

1. What do we learn about Jesus from this passage?
2. What can we learn about ourselves from this passage?
3. How does this passage encourage us to love God and others more?