In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it...
1. A warning against misplaced “belief” (vv. 43-45)
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2. God often uses desperation to prepare people for true belief. (vv. 46-47)
“Affliction is one of God’s medicines. By it he often teaches lessons which would be learned in no other way. By it he often draws souls away from sin and the world, which would otherwise have perished everlastingly…Prosperity and worldly comfort are what all naturally desire; but losses and crosses are far better for us, if they lead us to Christ.” – J.C. Ryle
The “Sign” of True Belief
John 4:43-54

1. A warning against misplaced “belief” (vv. 43-45)

2. God often uses desperation to prepare people for true belief. (vv. 46-47)

3. Jesus’ Word creates true belief in people’s hearts. (vv. 48-50)
“But immediately a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit heard of him and came and fell down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, a Syrophoenician by birth. And she begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. And he said to her, “Let the children be fed first, for it is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs.”
“But she answered him, “Yes, Lord; yet even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs.” And he said to her, “For this statement you may go your way; the demon has left your daughter.” And she went home and found the child lying in bed and the demon gone.” – Mark 7:25-30
“In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”

– 1 Peter 1:6-7
“The man—unlike other Galileans—takes Jesus at his word and departs, evidencing a remarkable progression from one who seeks out Jesus on the basis of his reputation as a [miracle-worker], to one who trusts in Jesus’ word without (as of yet) seeing a miracle or validating sign that his son would be restored.” – Andreas Köstenberger
1. A warning against misplaced “belief” (vv. 43-45)

2. God often uses desperation to prepare people for true belief. (vv. 46-47)

3. Jesus’ Word creates true belief in people’s hearts. (vv. 48-50)

4. True belief in Christ will always result in eternal life. (vv. 51-54)
In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it...