

John Series: That You May Believe
#2: The WORD (Prologue Part 1)

Text: John 1:1-5

Jesus Christ is God and Reveals God (vs. 1-5) Paragraph 1. "It is difficult to imagine a more profound statement as to the Person of Christ" (Erdman)

I. The Eternity, Person & Deity of Jesus Christ (Verses 1-2) "In a single sentence the eternity, personality & deity of Christ are all affirmed" (Erdman).

1. Eternity of Christ. "*In the beginning.*" Reminds us of the opening words of Genesis. God created the old creation w/His word ("Let there be light" Ps 33:6, 9). John is going to show us that Jesus creates the new creation, too.

(Verse 2) – This truth is stated again. Jesus was not created, but "*was in the beginning with God.*" "*was the Word.*"

A. Was- imperfect tense in Greek expresses continuous state – **Pre-existent** before creation, Ongoing- He is from "a time before time." He already existed at the time of creation (it doesn't say "in the beginning BEGAN the Word", etc). Prv8:27-30, Jn 8:58

B. Word – Logos. Words **REVEAL** to others our hearts, minds & will. Words are composed of letters; Christ is the Alpha & Omega (Rev 1:11). Christ is God's LAST word to man, the climax of divine revelation (Heb 1:1-3). **You cannot know God or know what He's like apart from Christ.**

2. The Person of Christ. "*And the Word was with God.*"

A. Trinity. Separate from God. We see from this that there is more than one Person in the Godhead, and that Jesus is one of those Persons. This concept is introduced in the first verse of the Bible, "*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth,*" (Gen 1:1). God (Elohim – plural noun) created (singular verb). This pattern is continued throughout the Old Testament, often giving a plural noun for God with a singular verb.

B. Expresses the closest possible **fellowship**, intimacy, between Father God and Jesus. "face to face" with God. It has the idea of Christ taking supreme delight in this communion. This fellowship was never forgotten after the incarnation (Jn 17:5).

3. The Deity of Christ. "*And the Word was God.*" John first establishes that Jesus is separate from God in His Person, and now shows that, while this is true, **Jesus** at the same time **IS God**. John, being a Jew and hating blasphemy, would not be quick to call someone God. Isaiah 7:14, Heb 1, Col 1:15-23

Your view of Jesus is too low!

II. Jesus is Creator God (Verse 3). "*All things,*" Greek word **panta**, meaning all things individually, separately – **DETAIL**. Jesus was revealing God through creation. If you can see it, it was made by Him. If you can't see it, it was made by Him. Col 1:16

III. Jesus is the Source of Life & Light (Verse 4).

1. In Jesus was "**LIFE**." (Tree of Life vs. Tree of Knowledge of Good & Evil; not evil or good will do but Life in Christ). Cain & Abel. Good is bad apart from Christ. Pr 21:4, 28:9; Is 64:6, Jn 14:6

2. Life's Needs met in Christ: Need 4 things for life: light (sun), breath, water, food. Christ is our light (8:12) breath (3:8, 20:22) water (4:10, 13-14, 7:37-39) and food (6:35).

3. Light of men. Source of Truth. Light is Life manifested.

IV. Jesus Misunderstood By Darkness (Verse 5) – verse 5 switches to present tense.

1. "*darkness.*" Here the tragedy of John's gospel is introduced. The darkness is **fallen mankind**.

2. "*comprehend* (apprehend, appropriate) *it.*" Those who are blinded in darkness **did not lay hold** of the Light. Blind men can't understand Christ and are not willing to submit to Him. This unfolds in John. We keep seeing people fail to understand Christ & oppose Him. They misinterpret His teachings for physical (New temple, new birth, living water, eat His flesh, etc).

Application: **THIS Jesus demands our service, is to be revealed in His church, and offers LIFE that we cannot earn.**

Reference: many Quotes, Outlines & Ideas for this sermon taken from the commentaries on the gospel of John written by Charles Erdman, Warren Wiersbe, John Phillips and William Hendrickson.

Scripture References

Ps 33:9 – “For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast”

Ps 33:6 – “By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, And all the host of them by the breath of His mouth.”

Prv8:27-30 – “When He prepared the heavens, I was there, When He drew a circle on the face of the deep, **28** When He established the clouds above, When He strengthened the fountains of the deep, **29** When He assigned to the sea its limit, So that the waters would not transgress His command, When He marked out the foundations of the earth, **30** Then I was beside Him as a master craftsman; And I was daily His delight, Rejoicing always before Him”

Jn 8:58 – “Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.”

Heb1:1-3 – “God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, **2** has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; **3** who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, **4** having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.”

1 Jn 1:2 – “the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us—”

Jn 17:5 – “And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.”

Is 7:14 – “Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.”

Heb1:6-13 - “But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says: “Let all the angels of God worship Him.” <http://bible.crosswalk.com/OnlineStudyBible/bible.cgi?word=hebrews+1§ion=0&version=nkj&new=1&oq=&NavBook=isa&NavGo=7&NavCurrentChapter=7 - F5> **7** And of the angels He says: “Who makes His angels spirits And His ministers a flame of fire.” **8** But to the Son He says: “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom. **9** You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of gladness more than Your companions.” **10** And: “You, Lord, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands. **11** They will perish, but You remain; And they will all grow old like a garment; **12** Like a cloak You will fold them up, And they will be changed. But You are the same, And Your years will not fail.”

Col 1:15-23

Col 1:16 “For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.”

Prv 21:4 “A haughty look, a proud heart, And the plowing of the wicked are sin”

Prv 28:9 “One who turns away his ear from hearing the law, Even his prayer is an abomination.”

Is 64:6 “But we are all like an unclean thing, And all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, Have taken us away.”

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Jn 14:6 “Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

Jn8:12 – “Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”

Jn3:8 – “The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

Jn20:22 – “And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.”

Jn 4:10,13-14 – “Jesus answered and said to her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, ‘Give Me a drink,’ you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.” Jesus answered and said to her, “Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, **14** but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.”

Jn7:37-39 – “On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. **38** He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.” **39** But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.”

Jn6:35 – “And Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.”