

**SERIES: The Christ of Christmas
“The Word”
John 1:1-3, 14**

Big Idea – Jesus Christ is the Living Word.

In Old Testament times, God's glory had dwelt in the tabernacle

Exodus 40:34 “...the glory of the LORD filled the Holy Tent.”

and in the temple

1 Kings 8:11 “The priests could not continue their work, because the Temple was filled with the glory of the LORD.”

but that glory had departed from disobedient Israel

Ezekiel 10:18 says “...the glory of the Lord departed from the temple”

Then a marvelous thing happened: the glory of God came to His people again, in the person of His Son, Jesus Christ.

Where Romans 3:23 says that all of the human race has sinned and fallen short of “the glory of God.” - that refers to Jesus.

The 4 Gospels give us a short summary of Jesus' life and ministry:
John wrote this explanation about this:

John 21:25 “There are many other things Jesus did. If every one of them were written down, I suppose the whole world would not be big enough for all the books that would be written.”

Matthew wrote with his fellow Jews in mind and emphasized that Jesus of Nazareth had fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies.

Mark wrote for the busy Romans. Whereas Matthew emphasized the King, Mark presented the Servant, ministering to needy people. Luke wrote his Gospel for the Greeks and introduced them to the sympathetic Son of man.

But John, the beloved disciple, wrote a book for both Jews and Gentiles, presenting Jesus as the Son of God.

We know that John had Gentiles in mind as well as Jews, because he often "interpreted" Jewish words or customs for his readers (John 1:38, where it says "Rabbi means teacher",

His emphasis to the Jews was that Jesus not only fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies, but He also fulfilled the types. 2 kinds of prophecies in the Bible – literal and typical. Types are pictures or symbols or metaphors:

For example, Jesus is the Ladder from heaven to earth (John 1:51; and see Gen. 28). He is the New Temple (John 2:19-21), and He gives a new birth (John 3:4ff). He is the serpent lifted up (John 3:14) and the Bread of God that came down from heaven (John 6:35ff).

one major theme that runs throughout John's Gospel: Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and if you commit yourself to Him, He will give you eternal life (John 20:31).

John 1 gives seven names and titles of Jesus that identify Him as eternal God.

The Word (John 1:1-3, 14)

Like our words reveal to others our hearts and minds, so Jesus Christ is God's "Word" to reveal His heart and mind to us.

Jesus said in John 14:9, "He that hath seen Me hath seen the Father"

A word is composed of letters, and in Rev. 1:11 Jesus Christ is "Alpha and Omega" the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet

According to Hebrews 1:1-3, Jesus Christ is God's last Word to mankind, for He is the climax of divine revelation.

Hebrews 1:1 "Long ago God spoke many times and in many ways to our ancestors through the prophets.

2 Now in these final days, he has spoken to us through his Son. God promised everything to the Son as an inheritance, and through the Son he created the universe.

3 The Son radiates God's own glory and expresses the very character of God, and he sustains everything by the mighty power of his command."

1. Jesus Christ is the eternal Word (vv. 1-2).

John 1:1 "In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God.

2 He existed in the beginning with God."

He existed in the beginning, not because He had a beginning as a creature, but because He is eternal. He is God and He was with God.

"Before Abraham was, I am" (John 8:58). Turn to John 8 please.

2. Jesus Christ is the creative Word (v. 3).

John 1:3 "God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him.

4 The Word gave life to everything that was created..."

There is a parallel between John 1:1 and Genesis 1:1, the "new creation" and the "old creation." God created the worlds through His word: "And God said, 'Let there be....'" "For He spake, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast" (Ps. 33:9). God created all things through Jesus Christ (Col. 1:16), which means that Jesus is not a created being. He is eternal God.

KJV "all things were made by him"

The verb was made is perfect tense in the Greek, which means a "completed act."

Creation is finished. It is not a process still going on, even though God is certainly at work in His creation (John 5:17).

Creation is not a process; it is a finished product.

3. Jesus Christ is the incarnate Word (v. 14).

John 1:14 "The Word became a human and lived among us. We saw his glory—the glory that belongs to the only Son of the Father—and he was full of grace and truth."

He was not a phantom or a spirit when He ministered on earth, nor was His body a mere illusion.

Docetism: The name comes from the Greek word dokesis, meaning "to seem." Along the same lines as Sabellianism, Docetism says that Christ was not a real human being and did not have a real human body. He only seemed to be human to us.

John and the other disciples each had a personal experience that convinced them of the reality of the body of Jesus

1 John 1:1 "We proclaim to you the one who existed from the beginning, whom we have heard and seen. We saw him with our own eyes and touched him with our own hands. He is the Word of life.

2 This one who is life itself was revealed to us, and we have seen him. And now we testify and proclaim to you that he is the one who is eternal life. He was with the Father, and then he was revealed to us."

"The Word" was not an abstract concept of philosophy, but a real Person who could be seen, touched, and heard. Christianity is Christ, and Christ is God.

Even though John's emphasis is the deity of Christ, he makes it clear that the Son of God came in the flesh and was subject to the sinless infirmities of human nature.

Jesus was weary (John 4:6) and thirsty (John 4:7).

He groaned within (John 11:33) and openly wept (John 11:35).

On the cross, He thirsted (John 19:28), died (John 19:30), and bled (John 19:34).

After His resurrection, He proved to Thomas and the other disciples that He still had a real body (John 20:24-29), howbeit, a glorified body.

How was the "Word made flesh"? By the miracle of the Virgin Birth

Isaiah 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."

The angel who came to Joseph quoted this prophecy from Isaiah:

Matthew 1:20 "As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. "Joseph, son of David," the angel said, "do not be afraid to take Mary as

your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit.

21 And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

22 All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord’s message through his prophet:

23 “Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means ‘God is with us.’”

Luke 1:29 “But Mary was very startled by what the angel said...

30 The angel said to her, “Don’t be afraid, Mary; God has shown you his grace.

31 You will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus.

32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of King David, his ancestor.

33 He will rule over the people of Jacob forever, and his kingdom will never end.”

34 Mary said to the angel, “How will this happen since I am a virgin?”

35 The angel said to Mary, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will cover you. For this reason the baby will be holy and will be called the Son of God.”

He took on Himself sinless human nature and identified with us in every aspect of life from birth to death.

The revelation of God's glory is an important theme in John’s Gospel.

“We beheld His glory, the glory as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth?

Jesus revealed God's glory in His person, His works, and His words.

Philippians 2:5 “You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.

6 Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to.

7 Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form,

8 he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal’s death on a cross.”

Why did Jesus, the Living Word, die on the cross? For my sins, for your sins.

2 Corinthians 5:20 “God made the One who knew no sin to become sin for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.”

The Law could reveal sin, but it could never remove sin.

Jesus Christ came with fullness of grace and truth, and this fullness is available to all who will trust Him (John 1:16).