

THAT YOU MAY HAVE LIFE

A Study of the Gospel of John

Light Into Darkness

TEXT: John 1

John 1 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. 4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it...

10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. 11 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: 13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.... 17 For the law was given through Moses, *but* grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ...

19 Now this is the testimony of John (meaning John the Baptist), when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ...23 He said: "I *am* 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Make straight the way of the LORD," ' ...29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! ... 34 And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God."

INTRODUCTION: Some books of the Bible you have to read thoroughly, even carefully, to discover the purpose of the author in his writing. Not so with the Gospel of John. John the Apostle tells us outright and plainly.

John 20:31 ... these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

This morning we begin a new series of study in the Gospel of John entitled, THAT YOU MAY HAVE LIFE. As we study this gospel of life of the Lord Jesus, we will see not only

- **the presentation of eternal life available to all**, but also
- **the invitation to abundant life that Jesus wants believers to have**

This morning, we launch into chapter one, a portion of which we read in the opening of the worship service and John introduces us to the One Who offers this eternal and abundant life by way of the testimony of His titles. He overwhelms us with nine of them, the first in the first six words of his gospel.

John 1:1–3 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

I. JESUS IS THE WORD

A. One only has to read the first six words of this gospel to be reminded of another book of the Bible whose beginning is almost identical: Genesis; the parallel is not accidental.

- **Genesis says, “In the beginning God...”**
- **John wrote, “In the beginning was the Word.”**

That should be plain enough, but John is careful that we not miss his point. He says the Word was with God and the Word was God. If he had expressed himself mathematically, he could have written “**the Word = God.**”

Every stage of God’s creative and shaping activity during creation week is introduced by the phrase

- **“And God said.”**

Should it be any surprise that John tells us

3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

that “all things were made through” the Word, and without the Word “was not anything made that was made.”

- **God the Father was the architect of the universe.**
- **The Word was the artisan.**

Just a few weeks ago, we read in **Col. 1:16-17** ¹⁶ **For by Him** (Jesus) **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. ¹⁷ **And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.**

B. “The Word” is the translation of the Greek word

“Logos” = Word or Reason

It was a term rich with meaning to both the Jew and the Greek.

<p>To the Jew the Logos was the</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eternal • Active • Creative • Illuminating <p>power of God</p>	<p>To the philosophical Greek it was the</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • power which made the world • gave it order • brought it reason • and wisdom
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John combines these thoughts to say to Jew and Gentile alike,

- **if you are looking for the creative force that shaped the universe,**
- **the power that sustains it,**
- **the wisdom that enlightens it,**
- **the very reason and mind of God,**
look no further.

The Word is with us.

The Word is Jesus.

And then he adds,

¹⁴ **And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.**

C. To us the title Word implies revelation.

Psalm 19 points to two ways that God has revealed Himself to man:

- **by nature**
- **by His Word**

The Word is the outward expression of inward reality.

John says that Jesus is the Living Word – God revealed in fleshly form.

Do you want to know what God is like? Look at Jesus. He said, **John 14:9b He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?**

John 1:4, 9 ⁴ In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. ... ⁹ That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.

II. THE TRUE LIGHT

The chaotic universe was filled with darkness. God said, "Let there be light." Then He made life. Into the dark, chaotic existence of lost men, God has sent the True Light. Everywhere that He enters, He gives life. **2 Cor. 4:6 For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.**

Note two things

- **It is the presence of Jesus that brings light.**
 - **In a life**
 - **In a family**
 - **In any situation**
 - **In a dark world**

Folks we live in a dark world growing darker daily!

- People murdering groups of people they don't even know, for reasons no one can really discern or understand.
- Police abusing and brutalizing civilians.
- Civilians brutalizing and abusing police.

And the debate that rages in our country as a result of this ever encroaching darkness is about gun control!

Now hear me. I am not going to share my opinion about gun control. God did not call me to proclaim my opinions. He called me to declare His Word. And I am telling you that **God's Word says the darkening darkness engulfing our land will not be solved either by gun control or the lack of it.**

The only thing that dispels darkness is light.

The only thing that will bring light to the darkness of America is the True Light, the Lord Jesus Christ.

But now look at this. ⁵ And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it

Those in darkness don't understand. They don't get it.

Paul asks this question in Romans 10:14

How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed?

And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard?

And how shall they hear without a preacher (one who proclaims)?

Folks, listen.

- **The problem in America and the world is the darkness of sin.**
 - **The terrorism of Al Qaeda and now of Isis**
 - **The hatred of Iran for Israel and the U.S.**
 - **The hostility of Palestinians toward Jews**
 - **The oppression of Jews toward Palestinians**
 - **The explosion of mass murder in the U.S.**
 - **The polarization of people into groups despising, hating, fighting against each other**
- **People in darkness cannot see the solution!**
 - **They are blinded by the darkness itself.**
 - **Someone who had come out of the darkness and into the light has to tell the ones still in darkness.**

- **Only the light can dispel the darkness.**
 - **Only the One True Light can end the darkness.**
 - **In a life**
 - **In a group**
 - **In a nation**
 - **In the world**
 - **It always starts one person at a time.**
 - **A whole nation can come to Jesus, the True Light.**
 - **But they have to come one at a time.**

Let me ask you something? Is your life still in darkness, the darkness of sin? Are you looking for all the other solutions to fix your life that this world has to offer? Friend, it's not going to happen. No one and nothing can dispel the darkness of sin in your life except the Light of the World, the True Light, the Lord Jesus Christ!

And you who have had the darkness dispelled, You who know the light of the Lord Jesus Christ experientially in your life because you have trusted Him. **As the darkness of the world grows daily, what do you talk to people about?**

- **Gun control?**
- **Political control?**
- **War or peace?**
- **This policy or that policy?**

How long has it been since you talked to someone about Jesus?

About how He dispelled the darkness of sin from your own life.

About the gospel.

- **Jesus died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sin.**
- **He rose from the dead proving He is the Son of God.**
- **He offers to forgive sin, dispel the darkness, and give eternal life to all who will trust Him as Savior and Lord.**

How long has it been since you talked about that?

Dear brother, dear sister, do you understand what God has given you?

You know the solution. You know the answer.

You know what our president does not know.

You know what the heads of states of most of the nations of the world do not know.

You know what many of the politicians on both sides of the aisle do not know.

You know what dispels the darkness. And you have the power to tell people about it. You have the power to tell people about Jesus and how He dispelled the

darkness of sin in your life, forgave you, and came in to live in you and filled you with light!

And God has called you to do it. To be a witness of Jesus, the True Light, in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the end of the earth. In fact, that is why God has given each of us life. You can do this. You can do this here, but you also can do this around the world.

John 1:14,18, 34, 49 ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. ... ¹⁸ No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared *Him*. ... ³⁴ And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God." ...⁴⁹ Nathanael answered and said to Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!"

III. THE ONLY SON OF GOD

Greek word here is **monogenes = unique, one of a kind, one and only**

Listen,

Jesus is not one of many prophets as Muslims believe.

Jesus is not one of many sons who became a god as Mormons believe.

Jesus is not the earthly manifestation of an angel as Jehovah Witnesses believe.

Jesus is not just a good man as a multitude of Americans believe.

Jesus is not just a power or a force or the personification of a noble philosophy.

Jesus is the unique,

One of a kind

One and Only

Son of God

The Second Person of the Trinity

Eternal God

One with the Father

That is why

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

Dear friend,

Jesus is the only answer for your life.

He is the only answer for the life of anyone in the world, at any time because

- **Jesus is the only Son of God**
- **Who alone died on the cross for our sins**
- **Who alone rose from the dead**

- **Who alone ascended to the right hand of the Father**
- **Who alone makes atonement for our sin**
- **Who alone can give eternal life to those who trust Him as Savior and Lord**

CONCLUSION:

John goes on in this first chapter of His gospel to tell us this

Jesus

Who is The Word

the True Light

the Only Son of God is also

the Christ – the Messiah

the Lamb of God – the one and only sacrifice for sin

the Rabbi – the One Who teaches us the way to God and the ways of God

the King of Israel and

the Son of Man – the One Who brings God's Kingdom to the earth.

INVITATION

I wonder if this morning you will trust this Jesus as your Lord and Savior?

I wonder if this morning you will join in His church so you can better worship Him, serve Him, grow in Him, and tell others about Him?

I wonder if this morning you will commit to the Lord to be more faithful in your conversation about Jesus and your witness of Him from Jerusalem to the end of the earth?