

IN HIM WAS LIFE

JOHN 1:1-5

Text: John 1:4

John 1:4

⁴ In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

Introduction:

In the opening chapter John reveals to us the person, power, and purpose of the Lord, the Lamb of God.

Notice:

1. HIS PERSON

Verse 1 reveals to us the Word.

John 1:1

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Verse 14 reveals to us Who the Word is.

John 1:14

¹⁴ And the Word was made 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.

Note:

A. He Is Eternally God

“In the beginning was the Word.” – This phrase does not imply that the Word had a beginning. It means that the Word has always existed.

The Word is eternal. He always has been and He always will be. Before there was anything else, there was the Word. Jesus had His birth in Bethlehem, but not His beginning.

Illustration:

A couple of months before Christmas, the wife of a mail carrier was killed in a car accident. The husband was overcome with grief and was trying to work through his sorrow, and he had stayed late at his post office sorting through the mountain of mail that always comes through at Christmastime. His job that day was to go through the mail that had been lost and to find out where it should be re-routed.

He came across a letter that was addressed to "Santa Claus" and he noticed that the address at the top of the letter was his own address. So, he opened the letter. Looking down at the bottom of the page he saw that it was his only daughter's signature and he read:

Dear Santa:

My Mommy died two months ago and since then my Daddy has been crying himself to sleep every night. He says only eternity will heal him. Would you please send a little bit of eternity to my Dad this Christmas?

God not only sent us a little bit of eternity, He sent us the very heart of heaven. As John put it later in his epistle:

1 John 4:14

¹⁴ And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son *to be* the Saviour of the world.

B. He Is Equally God

The word translated “word” in this verse is the Greek word “logos”. It refers to “speech, reasoning, explanation, a word about something.” That is Who Jesus is! He is called the Word because a word is a visible expression of an invisible thought. Jesus is the perfect expression of Who God is!

Jesus is everything God has ever said or will say. He is everything God is about in human form.

1 John 1:3

³ That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship *is* with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

The word “declare” means to explain or to narrate.
Jesus is the explanation or narration of God!

The word “with” means “face to face, or toward”. This tells us that Jesus was “face to face” with God. In other words, that He is God’s equal.

C. He Is Essentially God

The statement “and the Word was God”, is the clearest statement of the deity of Jesus in the Bible. Not only is the Word co-eternal and co-equal with God; the Word is God! That is why Jesus could say the things He said, John 10:30; John 8:58.

John 10:30

³⁰ I and *my* Father are one.

John 8:58

⁵⁸ Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.

I cannot say “I am my father are one”.

Only Jesus can say that and be 100% accurate. When God sent His Son into this world, John 3:16; He sent One Who was eternally, equally and essentially God. In other words, when the angels said, “unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord”, Luke 2:11, they were announcing the birth of God in human flesh!

2. HIS POWER

If I were to ask you to tell me what you think the greatest manifestation of God's power is; you might all have a different answer. Some would say it is creation, His miracles, others would talk about the cross and still others would center on the resurrection. But, I submit to you that the greatest expression of God's power was when He added humanity to His deity and came to live and die among men.

Philippians 2:5-8

⁵ Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: ⁶ Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: ⁷ But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: ⁸ And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

Think for a moment who He is:

A. He Is the Maker of Creation

When you consider that this verse tells us that Jesus was the Creator of the universe, His birth as a baby becomes even more amazing. The Creator of creation humbled Himself and became a creature in creation!

B. He Is the Master of Creation

Not only did He make this universe, but He is the power that holds it all together.

Colossians 1:16-17

¹⁶ For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether *they be* thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: ¹⁷ And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

That is what the word “consist” means. As one man put it, he is “the glue of the galaxies”. He made it and He holds it altogether too!

The One Who made it all and controls it all was born into this world 2,000 years ago as a helpless infant. He lived here in poverty and rejection only to die a horrible death on a cross. He did all of this because He loved us.

Romans 5:8

⁸ But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

We have seen the person and power but notice also:

3. HIS PURPOSE

The question that needs to be asked is “Why”. Why did the Creator desire to become a part of His creation? Why did God put on human flesh and walk among men? Why did He come into this world to live and to die? What is the purpose?

A. He Came To Bring Life

When Jesus came into this world, He entered a world filled with dead men. But, these dead men don't know that they are dead.

Illustration:

A farmer years ago was trying to teach his son the ways of life on a farm. So, he took his son out to the hen house, grabbed a chicken and said, "Son, your Mama wants a chicken for dinner, so you know what we have to do." With that he cut the chicken's head off, and the chicken began to flop around on the ground. Well, the little boy's eyes got wide with amazement, and he said, "Daddy, look at that. That there chicken is dead and don't even know it." That is exactly the way lost people are.

Ephesians 2:1-3

¹ And you *hath he quickened*, who were dead in trespasses and sins; ² Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the

spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: ³ Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

Jesus came so that dead men could live! When a dead lost man meets Jesus, he passes from death unto life.

John 5:24

²⁴ Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

When an individual passes from death unto life everything in his life changes.

2 Corinthians 5:17

¹⁷ Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Illustration:

One night Alexander the Great couldn't sleep and he decided to walk the perimeter of the battle zone.

He came upon a guard who had fallen asleep.

The penalty for falling asleep while at post was death.

Alexander woke the soldier and asked him his name.

The soldier answered; "Alexander sir."

Alexander the Great asked again, “What is your name soldier?”

Again the soldier answered “Alexander sir.”

Solider I’ll only ask once more, “What is your name?”

My name is Alexander sir the soldier replied.

Alexander then said Soldier either change the way you live or change your name.

Many who claim to be Christians today either need to change the way they live or change their name.

All men need to realize that:

1. Jesus is the Strength of Earthly Life – We are alive today only by His good grace.
2. Jesus is the Secret of Effective Life – It has been said that “three things make life worth living: a self fit to live with; a faith fit to live by; and a purpose fit to live for.” Only Jesus Christ can give you all three.

John 10:10

¹⁰The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.

He gives life and He gives it abundantly!

3. Jesus is the Source of Eternal Life – Those who know Jesus by faith will live eternally.

John 11:25-26

²⁵ Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: ²⁶ And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?

John 3:16

¹⁶ For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

B. He Came To Bring Light Into Darkness

Now a person who does not know Jesus is more than just spiritually dead. He is also spiritually darkened! Jesus came to change all that! He said:

John 8:12

¹² Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

Ephesians 5:8

⁸ For ye were sometimes darkness, but now *are ye* light in the Lord: walk as children of light:

Acts 26:18

¹⁸ To open their eyes, *and* to turn *them* from darkness to light, and *from* the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

Colossians 1:13

¹³ Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated *us* into the kingdom of his dear Son:

Close:

Is Jesus at the center of everything you do?