

# IN HIM WAS LIFE

## JOHN 1:1-5

Text: John 1:4

### **John 1:4**

<sup>4</sup>In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

Introduction:

There is much emphasis on getting Christmas right. We want it white and bright. We want the tree, the decorations, the lights, the eggnog, and the presents.

We want everyone to be happy. We want to be able to give and get plenty. We want peace and joy to abound.

In reality Christmas often turns into a real hassle. You are rushed and pushed for time. You spend money you don't have for people you don't even like to acquire things they don't even want or need.

In our struggle to get it right, we often get it dead wrong and end up making ourselves and others miserable.

I believe that the Lord is not so interested in our having a white Christmas as He is interested in our having a right Christmas.

I believe that He's not so interested in the traditions, but rather the truth.

So how can we have a right Christmas? What do we need to understand and change in our lives that will allow Christmas to be a time of blessing and wonder instead of being a time of stress and tension?

Our text reveals some truths that are absolutely essential.

Certainly I realize that this is not the traditional Christmas text.

John does not write about angels, shepherds, stars or sheep. But, He does something the other Gospel writers do not do. John puts the greatest Christmas delivery of all time into context. He tells us all we need to know to have a right Christmas.

# **1. CONSIDER THE PERSON OF CHRISTMAS (vs. 1-2)**

## **John 1:1-2**

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>The same was in the beginning with God.

There are many distractions with Christmas – Personalities, Presents, and Practices, and with these it's easy to forget the real reason for this day.

Note “Who the Word is”:

A. He Is Eternally God – “In the beginning 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.

Note what John said in 1 John 4:14:

**1 John 4:14**

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

B. He Is Essentially God – “The word was 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**

<sup>30</sup> I and *my* Father are one.

### **John 8:58**

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

All through his life He proved Who He was over and over. From "***Peace be still***" to "***Rise up and walk***" to "***Lazarus come forth***" to "***Thy sins be forgiven thee***" to "***It is finished***" the truth and power of His deity was on constant display. Every word, every deed, every miracle declared Him to be God. He alone is the Person of Christmas!

## **2. CONSIDER THE POWER OF CHRISTMAS (VS. 3)**

### **John 1:3**

<sup>3</sup> All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

#### **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! God became dependent upon a human mother. Jesus, Who was the Agent of Creation, stepped out of eternity, laid aside His glory and entered this world as a human baby! That is the power behind Christmas!

## 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**

<sup>16</sup> 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: <sup>17</sup> And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

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 you.

### **John 3:16**

<sup>16</sup> 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.

### **Romans 5:8**

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

### 3. CONSIDER THE PURPOSE OF CHRISTMAS (vs. 4-5)

The question that begs 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 of Christmas?

#### A. He Came To Bring Life Into Deadness

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.

**Ephesians 2:1-3**

<sup>1</sup> And you *hath he quickened*, who were dead in trespasses and

sins; <sup>2</sup> 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: <sup>3</sup> 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.

## 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**

<sup>12</sup> 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**

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

### **Acts 26:18**

<sup>18</sup> 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**

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



Close:

Are you going to have a right Christmas? You can, but only if Jesus is at the center of everything you do! Here is how you can guarantee yourself a right Christmas this year:

1. Be certain that you are born again
2. Be certain that this day is about Him not about something else
3. Be sure to give Him the glory He is due today and every day