

Who is Christ?

John 1:1-4

INTRODUCTION:

All Stand and Read Scripture

John 1:1-4 (NASB)

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 came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. ⁴ In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.

Prayer

We have all asked the questions...

- What is the purpose of life?
- Why am I here?
- Why is mankind here?

Last week we learned the answer to the age-old question, "What is the Purpose of Life"?

There are many age-old questions that I suppose will never be fully resolved. Such as...

- Why **DID** the chicken cross the road? There is only one reference to a mother hen in the scripture and it says nothing about it crossing the road.
- Coke or Pepsi? No, not there.
- Why do businesses that are open 24/7, 365 days a year, have locks on their doors? You will have to figure these out on your own.

But we **DO** know the true **purpose of life** based upon the scriptures...**To accept Christ into your life, let Him make you RIGHTEOUS (or sinless) before God, serve Him and give Him glory, so that when you die, you can spend eternity with Him.**

Of all of the **things** that we do on earth, this is the **ONLY** important one. This is the **ONE THING** that we **MUST** accomplish during our lifetime on earth. Your eternity depends on it and the opportunity to get right with God will **NEVER** present itself again after you die.

This is **SO IMPORTANT** I want to repeat it one more time. **To accept Christ into your life, let Him make you RIGHTEOUS (or sinless) before God, serve Him and give Him glory, so that when you die, you can spend eternity with Him.**

Nothing that we do on earth during our life time apart from Christ has **ANY ETERNAL VALUE!**

- Living a good, clean, moral life.
- Working hard.
- Taking care of the family.
- Being the best husband or wife that you can possibly be.

are all good qualities to have, but unless you know Christ, they are **ALL** of no value.

You can only find the motivation to let Christ into your life, when you can understand Who He is and what He has done for us.

So, this morning I would like to look at Christ and learn **Who He is?**

As we learn from the scriptures this morning about Christ, we will be able to answer two more age-old questions.

- How did mankind get here?
- What came first, the chicken or the egg?

BODY:

I. Christ has an Eternal Existence.

The beginning of John's gospel is an important work within the New Testament, because it provides perhaps the clearest statement of **Who Jesus was in spiritual terms**. Basically, John states that Jesus was God, but it also seeks to explain, to a certain extent, the nature of Jesus' existence and His role within the Godhead.

Let's start by examining the opening verses in John's Gospel:

John 1:1-2 (NASB)

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.

'In the beginning.' This undoubtedly has in mind the words from Genesis (which is the first book in the Bible that explains creation) which reads.

Genesis 1:1-5 (NASB)

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ² The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters. ³ Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴ God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light day, and the darkness He called night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day.

"In the beginning God created", and yet John goes back beyond the moment of creation. This is where men's minds have often wandered as they have thought back to the beginning of all things, and they have striven to understand. We could paraphrase loosely, 'in the beginning before time began' or even as 'in eternity past'.

'In the beginning', he says, 'before the world was ever created, the Word was already there in His eternal existence'.

The verb '**was**' sums up the eternity of the Word. When all else began, the Word 'was already in perpetual existence'. He Who came to bring light to men pre-existed creation.

Going back to the first two verses of John, the Greek word *logos* is used to describe Jesus "in the beginning," or before creation and time began. Logos means "word", but specifically it means the spoken word or a statement. Jesus is God's spoken word, according to John.

John then explains that the Word (Jesus) was "with" God and "was" God. This statement yields two important conclusions regarding Jesus and the Trinity: Jesus is God and existed from the beginning as God, yet Jesus' existence is somehow distinct from God the Father. Jesus was "with" God and "was" God at the same time. This is the mystery of the Trinity: all three Persons in the Godhead are One God and yet all are distinct from one another.

II. Christ is the Source of Creation.

John 1:3 (NASB)

3 All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

It didn't start out:

- "In the beginning, the earth was without form and void."
- OR "In the beginning, Adam and Eve walked in the garden"
- OR "In the beginning when the sun and solar system existed"
- OR "In the beginning in a land far far away"
- It simply says "In the beginning... God"

God speaks and light appears, the earth moves, life springs into being, planets spin in their orbits, and the world is filled with expectation.

Everything in scripture is God centered.

John says that it was the Word (Christ) that created all things. From this statement, we begin to see why Jesus is called the "Word" by John. Consider these facts we learn from John's Gospel and elsewhere in Scripture:

First, we know from scripture that God the Father is Spirit.

John 4:24 (NASB)

²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

This means that God does not exist in physical form. So, there is no physical substance to God the Father. The Creation cannot experience the Father as He truly is, since we are bound to a physical dimension. He is not physical.

Secondly, we know that God's Spirit is likewise invisible.

Romans 1:19-20 (NASB)

¹⁹ because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. ²⁰ For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.

Although God is invisible, His creation reveals His power and divine nature. He can only be known by observing His work in the Creation.

On the other hand, Jesus is the member of the Godhead responsible for all physical matter. As John said, all things were made by and through Jesus. Paul says the same thing in

Colossians 1:15-17 (NASB)

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

Moreover, Paul teaches in Colossians that Jesus is the "image of the invisible God." Therefore, He is the only Person in the Godhead Who has entered into and become a part of the physical creation. Jesus can be seen in a physical sense, because He is the One Who entered into the Creation and become a part of it (became man).

Next, consider how the Creation itself was established in Genesis 1. Genesis 1 teaches that the world was created by the spoken word of God (note the repeating phrase in Genesis 1, "Then God said..."). So when God the Father determined to create the universe and everything in it, He "spoke" it into existence. But as John said in verse 3, Jesus was the One who made all things. Therefore, we can say that, Jesus was God's spoken Word.

ILLUSTRATION.

We can begin to understand this relationship (at least to some degree) by considering how our own thoughts and words reach into the physical world. When we desire to command something to happen in the world around us, we must first conceive the idea in our minds. No one can see our thoughts. They are invisible, yet they certainly exist. Without our thoughts, we could purpose to do nothing at all.

If our thoughts are to become visible in some way, they must move from the invisible realm of our mind and into the physical world. The progression from invisible to visible requires

we transfer our invisible thoughts into a spoken command. The brain communicates our thoughts to our mouth where it becomes spoken words.

Once the spoken word leaves our mouth, it enters the physical world and yields its intended effect. This simple analogy helps explain how God the Father worked with God the Son (the Word) to establish Creation.

Jesus is the Word because He was the means through which the Father brought all physical reality into existence and because He is the One Who represents the Father's invisible nature and character to that creation. Just as your spoken word is the physical manifestation of your thoughts and personality, Jesus is the "Word" of the invisible God to His creation.

III. Christ is Our Source to Life

John 1:4 (NASB)

⁴ In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.

What is the "life" that John is referring to?

We were all born in sin and are spiritually dead. Before the fall of mankind in sin, we were righteous before God. But now we are sinners and because of our sin, we are spiritually dead to God. But, God sent Christ to die on the cross for our sins and make us righteous before God again. Thus, we are made spiritually alive when we accept Christ in our lives. It is only through Christ, that we can receive this LIFE that John is referring to.

That is why Jesus said,

Matthew 6:19-23 (NASB)

¹⁹ "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; ²¹ for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

²² "The eye is the lamp of the body; so then if your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light. ²³ But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

What Jesus is saying is this: Don't keep your eyes on the treasures of this earth - all you will end up with is an empty, formless, and darkened life. Your eyes will become darkened because that's what they're focused on (a dark world).

BUT if you keep your eyes on God and His treasures, you will receive an eternal spiritual life in Christ and become a light to men.

If you focus on the things of this earth, and suddenly lose your earthly treasures, then you can feel as if you have lost all reason for living. You can become blinded to everything else of value in your life.

ILLUSTRATION

Scottish minister, John Watson, called on a man who had just suffered a heavy financial setback. Totally crushed by his economic losses, the man exclaimed, "Everything is gone!"

Without hesitation, Watson answered, "Oh, I'm sorry to hear that your **wife has died.**"

The man looked up with alarm and questioned the preacher, "My wife?"

Watson continued, "I'm also grieved to hear that you have also lost your **character.**" He continued to name off one valuable asset after another, until the man protested, saying that he still possessed the things the preacher had mentioned.

"But I thought you said you lost everything!" replied Watson.

This world can be an empty, formless and darkened place. Life can be difficult, cruel and harsh. BUT when we focus on God, He has the power to fill our world with life and light.

CONCLUSION:

So what came first, the chicken or the egg? According to scripture, the chicken of course!

Who is Jesus and why should I believe in Him?

He is the Son of God, God Himself.

He is the Creator of the world.

He is the Originator of Life and Light.

To deny Him is to turn from God Himself, the Creator of the world. To deny Him is to continue in spiritual darkness and death. Only Jesus offers true life and light.

So, being apart from Christ means that your life really is meaningless. Because the only one who can bring it meaning has not been accepted in their life. It also means that nothing you do will ever have eternal value.

But, there is Good News! Christ did, in fact, die on the cross to reconcile you to God. In other words, he died as a sacrifice on the cross for you so that your sins could be forgiven and you could be found faultless before God.

If you do not know Christ as your Lord and Savior, I invite you to come forward this morning and place your faith in Christ. Don't wait until you have cleaned up your life.

You don't clean yourself up to come to the Christ; you surrender yourself to Christ, to let Him clean you up!

He Is Lord!

He is Lord, He is Lord. He has risen from the dead and He is Lord.

Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess, That Jesus Christ is Lord.