THE WORD OF GOD

 **DATE: 7/1/2018 am**

**TEXT: John 1:1-3**

**INTRODUCTION**

The Gospel of John was penned by the aged Apostle in about 85 A.D.

It was the last of the four Gospels to be written

By the time this book was circulated in the Christian community, the other Gospels were household names

Most people already had the accounts of the life of Christ as recorded by Matthew, Mark and Luke

These first three Gospels are called the Synoptic Gospels

The word *“synoptic”* means *to see together*

That means that the first three Gospels contain many of the same stories and teachings but told from different points of view

Yet, each fully inspired by God

John's Gospel is different!

In the pages of this wonderful book, we see a side of Christ that the other Gospel writers do not write about

John was part of that blessed inner circle of three

Peter, James and John

These were the Disciples that were with Christ during some of His most intimate moments

In this Gospel, John gives us 21 blessed chapters

Chapters that, as each unfolds, presents a new facet of His Divine character

In time, I intend to preach on each of the Portraits of Christ that John gives us

We will call this series *Portraits of Christ in John's Gallery*

In this opening chapter, John paints a picture of Jesus as...

**“The Word of God”**

And it’s that image that we want to focus on today

Let's look together at Jesus …

**“The Word of God”** and …

Three Truths that are revealed in these verses about Jesus being the Word of God

**~~~Prayer~~~**

First, let’s look at Jesus as …

**I. THE “PREEXISTENT” WORD – vs. 1-3**

***“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God” “The same was in the beginning with God” “All things were made by Him; and without Him was not any thing made that was made”***

To understand what it means to *preexist* …

We first need to understand what it means to *exist*

To **exist** means*to live; to have life or to function*

To **preexist** is to have existed previously; to exist before something else (And I'm not talking about reincarnation)

In **vs. 1-3** we see 4 things about Jesus’ Preexistence

First, that …

**A. Jesus is ‘Consistent’ – v. 1 a**

***“In the beginning was the Word”***

According to this part of **v. 1**, Jesus has simply always existed!

He didn't come into being in Bethlehem,

But has always been throughout all the endless ages of eternity past

Let’s look at what the Bible says about Jesus’ existence prior to Him becoming a man

1. The Bible talks about the ***“Beginning”***

This is not talking about Jesus having a Beginning

When the Bible talks about the ***“beginning”*** it’s talking about the beginning of time

God doesn’t exist in time, time was created by God for man

God transcends time (is greater than)

The phrase ***“In the beginning”*** is first used in **Genesis 1:1**

And John is evidently associating God as the Word

In both places it clearly means *before creation*, *before the world was made*, *before time began*

The Word was **Preexistent**

**2.** Look at the word ***“was”*** in **v.1**

That word means *always has been*

Now when we contrast that with the word ***“was”*** in **v. 6** identifying John the Baptist …

We find that this word ***“was”*** means something totally different

This ***“was”*** means *to become*

(every jot & tittle, every nuance is important in the Bible)

John *became*, but Jesus *has always been*!

Thank God He is the unchanging Word of God

**Hebrews 13:8 – *“Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever”***

That is why the Christian can depend on Him

He will never Fail us nor Leave us

**Hebrews 13:5 b – *“He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee”***

**Jesus is ‘Consistent’**

**B. Jesus is ‘Communing’ – v. 1 b**

***“and the Word was with God”***

This phrase says that Jesus ***“was with God”***

That is, He has always been in the presence of God

He stands as a distinct Person

When this phrase is taken alongside the other 2 in this verse,

The reality of the Trinity is on display

This verse teaches us that Jesus is God, yet He is still a unique being

Jesus Christ wasn't an afterthought with God

He wasn't something conjured up when things got out of control

Jesus was there when God moved to make man in His image

**Genesis 1:26 a – *“And GOD said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness:”***

**Col. 1:15a –**says He ***“is the image of the invisible God”***

**Revelation 13:8a - *“And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship Him,”***

**Ephesians 1:4 – *“According as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love:”***

**Titus 1:2 – *“In hope of eternal life, which GOD, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;”***

**I Peter 1:19-20 – *“But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:” “Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,”***

Since before time began, Jesus was with the Father in Heaven

**John 10:30 – *“I and My Father are one”***

**Jesus is ‘Communing’**

**C. Jesus is ‘Controversial’ – v. 1 c**

***“and the Word was God”***

-- When Jesus came preaching Repentance …

… Men thought He was Strange

**Mark 1:15 – *“And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of GOD is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel”***

**Luke 5:26 – *“And they were all amazed, and they glorified God, and were filled with fear, saying, We have seen strange things to day”***

-- When He began to heal and perform Miracles …

… Men thought He was a Prophet sent by God

**John 3:2 – *“The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from GOD: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except GOD be with him”***

-- When He spoke the Word of God with power …

… Men thought He was Amazing

**Luke 4:36 – *“And they were all amazed, and spake among themselves, saying, What a word is this! for with authority and power He commandeth the unclean spirits, and they come out”***

-- However, when Jesus claimed Equality with God …

… Men thought He was Crazy

**John 5:18 – *“Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill Him, because He not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that GOD was His Father, making Himself equal with GOD”***

**John 19:7 – *“The Jews answered Him, We have a law, and by our law He ought to die, because He made Himself the Son of GOD”***

He stopped being a blessing and became a Controversy when He claimed to be God

Men still grapple with this truth!

**John 14:9 - *“Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known Me, Philip? he that hath seen Me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?”***

They are willing to accept the Humble Christ, the Teaching Christ, the Meek Christ, the Serving Christ, even the Dead Christ …

However, they will not give acknowledgment to the God/Man … Jesus Christ

He is still 100% God and 100% man all wrapped up in one

It is best summed up by Paul in **Phil. 2:5-8 …**

In these amazing verses, the Apostle sets forth in Clear, Concise language, the fact that Jesus existed before Bethlehem

That He willingly humbled Himself and came to this earth in the form of a servant

Jesus is God robed in human flesh!

**Jesus is ‘Controversial’**

**D. Jesus is ‘Creator’ – v. 3**

***“All things were made by Him; and without Him was not any thing made that was made”***

**Colossians 1:16 – *“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:”***

This verse tells us that Jesus was behind the creation of the universe

He spoke and it was!

He stood on the edge of nothing and spoke all this into existence

I’m grateful that this God is my God, that this Saviour is my Saviour!

I’m glad that I can know Him, and the free pardon of sin, and that salvation is in His control

The worries and pressures of life begin to grow amazingly dim when confronted with the power and might of our all-powerful Saviour

**Matthew 28:18 – *“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth”***

**Jesus is ‘Creator’**

These four truths, taken as one, give us the clear teaching that Jesus is the **Pre-existent** Word of God

He has always been, and He always will be!

Thank God, there will never be a day throughout eternity that doesn't include Jesus!

No matter what we face (as we travel through this life) we can rest assured that the Pre-existent One is, and always will be, there for us

He is **THE “PREEXISTENT” WORD** of the Living God!

Next, let’s look at Jesus as …

**II. THE “PERSONALIZED” WORD – v. 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”***

This verse is one of the clearest in all the Bible regarding the Incarnation of Jesus Christ

**Incarnation is** a 50-cent word that simply means *the bodily manifestation of a supernatural being*

1. **The ‘Manner’ of His Incarnation**

This verse tells us that ***“The Word became flesh and dwelled among us”***

The manner of His incarnation is a mystery

How could God become a man?

The answer to this question lies in the mind of God alone

All we know is that God chose a virgin named Mary

And caused her to miraculously conceive and bring forth a baby

I do know, that on that night, when Jesus was born, God had come to earth (Emmanuel)

Somehow, the Word, became flesh!

While Jesus himself has existed from eternity past,

He took upon Himself a robe of flesh there in Bethlehem

The Creator was born into His Creation

God placed His life in the hands of mortals

Think of the humility of that

This verse says that God ***"dwelled"*** among us

That word is rich in meaning

It literally means that *Jesus pitched His tent among men*

He lived, worked, prayed, suffered, and died among us

God walked upon the earth and yet was unrecognized by the very people He came to disclose Himself to

**John 1:10 – *"He was in the world, and the world was made by Him, and the world knew Him not"***

What a tragedy that men encountered the Saviour and still failed to recognize Him

**B. The 'Mystery' of His Incarnation**

The word was ***"made”*** flesh

This word does not speak of someone who had a beginning

But rather carries the meaning *of appearing in history, to step onto the stage*

There in Bethlehem, God stepped out of eternity and onto the stage of human history (His-Story)

He came as the tangible proof of the existence of God and of God's willingness to save mankind

We see that Jesus came to this world to reveal God to man

And He did it through the medium of His flesh

**C. The 'Majesty' of His Incarnation**

***“We beheld His glory”***

John saw the glory of Jesus in a very real sense

in **Matthew 17** (The Mount of Transfiguration)

John, along with James and Peter accompanied Jesus up the mountain

There Jesus allowed the veil of His flesh to be pulled aside

And He revealed the glory that was concealed beneath

Jesus concealed His Heavenly Fame within an Earthly Frame

However, His greatest Glory was revealed the day He allowed Himself to be nailed to a cross and died for sinners

On Calvary, the Glory of God was in sharp focus!

After all, that was the reason Jesus left the halls of Heaven and came to live among men

He took upon Himself a robe of flesh so that He might be able to die for mankind

That is what He did for every one of us

To me the greatest evidence of the Glory of God is the broken body of Jesus Christ having demonstrated His love for me in the clearest of terms

**Romans 5:8 – *"But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us"***

**THE “PREEXISTENT” WORD**

**THE “PERSONALIZED” WORD**

Lastly, let’s look at Jesus as …

**III. THE “PROCLAIMED” WORD – v. 18**

***“No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, He hath declared Him”***

According to this verse, Jesus came to reveal God to man

The word ***"declare”*** means *to unfold*

Everything the Lord did was simply to unfold more of the revelation of God to man

Men needed to see God not just as a Lawgiver, but also as a Lover

Not only as a Judge, but also as a Justifier

Not as some Stern, Hateful Being, but as a Saving, Caring God

Jesus did just this by His life

**Hebrews 1:3 – *"Who being the brightness of His glory, and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;"***

Jesus came to put God on display before men and He did this in 2 primary ways

**A. He Came to Proclaim His 'Light' - vs. 4-9 …**

He came to a world in spiritual darkness and opened the curtains of grace,

… revealing the truth of God to men wandering in darkness

Jesus came to illuminate the pathway of men to God

This Light will accomplish one of 2 things …

**1.** It will either cause men to repent and turn to God

**2.** Or it will cause them to reject the light and continue on in their course of darkness

One leads to salvation, the other will lead to damnation!

**John 3:36 – *"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him"***

Thank God for the Light that He gave fallen man!

Now, we do not have to be bound by the stringent rules of Law but are free to respond to the lovely pleadings of Grace

And, praise the Lord, this Light reaches out to all men

**v. 9 – *"That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world"***

**He Came to Proclaim His 'Light'**

**B. He Came to Proclaim His 'Life' - vs. 10-13 …**

Jesus came to His People, who had His Word …

… and were living in His Promised Land

He came to tell then that there was a way to come to the Father and to experience eternal life

In what may be the saddest verse in the Bible,

they refused His call

However, **vs. 12, 13** make it clear that anyone who will respond positively to the Light of God and will come to Jesus and receive Him will experience the new birth and will have eternal life

John makes it clear in **v. 13** that this life comes not by our natural birth (not by blood), not by our own good works (not the will of the flesh), not the work of another, (the will of man), but only through the will of God

And, just what is the will of the Father?

**John 6:36-40! …**

There is only one entrance into life and that is through the Son of God

He is the Door - **John 10:9 – *"I am the door: by Me if any man enter in, he shall be saved"***

And He is the Way - **John 14:6 – *"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me"***

If anyone wants to enter into Eternal life, they can only enter through Jesus! The Word of God

**CONCLUSION**

**THE “PREEXISTENT” WORD**

**THE “PERSONALIZED” WORD**

**THE "PROCLAIMED" WORD**