

The Eternal Word of Glory

John 1: 1; 14

The first four books of the NT are known as the Gospels. The first three, Matthew, Mark, and Luke are known as the Synoptic Gospels, which simply means “to see together.” Much of what is recorded in one is also found in the other two, maybe from a different angle, but the same account.

John’s gospel stands apart from the other three. All were divinely inspired, but John’s gospel is different. I would have to say that the Gospel of John is my favorite. Maybe that is because John was so close to Jesus and shares a more intimate look at my Savior. Matthew reveals Jesus as the King; Mark reveals Him as the Servant; Luke reveals Him as the Son of Man; and John reveals Him as the Christ, the very Son of the living God.

We have read two verses that are very familiar for the Bible student. These verses contain fundamental truths of our faith. These wonderful truths are beyond what our feeble minds can comprehend, but they stand at the very core of Christianity. They declare the Deity and Omnipotence of our Lord. We may not fully comprehend all that these verses reveal, but we must embrace them by faith if we are to receive Christ and believe on Him.

For a few moments I want to consider the great and **powerful attributes** of Christ that are revealed as we think on: **The Eternal Word of God.** The **Word** in these verses speak of none other than Christ our Lord and Savior.

I. The Existence of the Word – **In the beginning was the Word.** This is a very interesting phrase. In the beginning the Word existed. Before time ever began, Jesus was there. Before God spoke the heavens and the earth into being, He was there. Before the ground upon which Bethlehem would be built existed, the Son of God did!

- I know that we have a hard time grasping that because we dwell in the realm of time. All that we see and know has a beginning and an end, but not the Lord. There never was a time when He wasn’t.
- The little word **was** in our text literally means “always has been.” In **v.6, There was a man sent from God, whose name was John,** the word **was** literally means “to become, or come into existence.” Clearly there is a distinct difference in our Lord’s beginning and that of mankind; Jesus didn’t have a beginning. He was not a created being as some suggest. He wasn’t created in the virgin womb as a child. He didn’t become the Christ as He lived upon this earth and died upon the cross. He simply transferred from one state of being to another! He has always been!
- **Jn.8:58 – Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.** **Heb.13:8 – Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.**

I. The Existence of the Word

II. The Essence of the Word – In the beginning was the Word. This is just one of the many titles that is given unto our Lord in the Scriptures. This is one that likely isn't thought of too often, but it reveals much to us concerning our Lord and who He is.

- It is interesting to note that the phrase, the Word of God, occurs more than 1,200 times in the Old Testament referring to the message of God. Jesus is that message. He is the focal point of our faith. He is the One that God desires mankind to see. He is the One that we shall bow before and confess as King. He is the One who will judge all who ever lived. He is the Sacrifice for sin that the Old Testament prophets pointed toward. He is the One that we look back to on this side of Calvary. Jesus Christ, the Word, is the Centerpiece of God's eternal plan!
- In Him the written Word was embodied in the Living Word. The inspired Word revealed Himself as the incarnate Word. One cannot separate the written Word from the living Word. In the beginning was the Word.
- It is also interesting to note that Satan is recorded twice in Scripture tempting someone. During the first temptation in the Garden of Eden, he attacked the integrity of the written Word of God; Yea, hath God said. On the other occasion he attacked the integrity of the incarnate Word in the wilderness. To these attacks Jesus responded with the Word, It is written.
- One cannot embrace Christ without also embracing the Word of God. The two are inseparable. It is impossible to declare that one loves the Lord and yet question the integrity and inerrancy of His Word. Most who question the Word of God also question the Son of God.
- For the believer who wants a closer relationship with Christ, the best way to achieve that is to learn more of Him through Him. Study the Word to learn more about the Word. Who better to reveal someone than themselves?

III. The Eminence of the Word – In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God. Clearly we find that Jesus existed with the Father long before He appeared as a humble child born in Bethlehem. He stood in the presence of God the Father in heaven in eternity past.

- This single verse bears strong evidence concerning the Holy Trinity, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost. Jesus has always existed as a distinct Person, the second Person of the Godhead. It is hard to grasp our eternal God existing in three Persons, but that is how He is. The Trinity was also clearly displayed as Jesus was baptized of John the Baptist. 1 Jn.5:7 – For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.
- We can also find evidence of Jesus being with God in the OT. Gen.1:1 – In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. This is the Hebrew word Elohim and is God's creative name. It is a plural noun and in the Hebrew language, plurals consist of three or more. Gen.1:26 – And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness:

- That sure is convincing to me that Jesus was with God prior to the dawn of time. He was not an after thought or a last ditch effort in the plan of redemption. **He was a Lamb slain before the foundation of the world.** Jesus was with God prior to Bethlehem and even then He had us in mind! **Jn.17:5 –And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.** (In the Garden just prior to Calvary.)

I. The Existence of the Word

II. The Essence of the Word

III. The Eminence of the Word

IV. The Excellence of the Word – This just continues to get better and stronger. **In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.** Now hold on just a minute. Did we read that right? Many have no problem accepting the fact that Jesus existed, but that says that Jesus, the Word, was not only with God, but that **He was God!** We read it correctly. That is what it said and means just that. Not only is Jesus the second Person of the God-head, but He is in fact God. There again we have trouble grasping that, but the very essence and excellence of God is not limited to our mortal understanding. My precious Savior is the eternal God!

- This has been the source of controversy and debate since Jesus walked here upon the earth. Philip, one of the twelve, desired Jesus to shew him the Father, **Jn.14:8.** To which Jesus responded, **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? The multitudes had no problem receiving His blessings, but they could not embrace the fact that He claimed to be God in the flesh.** It was His claim to be the very Son of God that enraged the Sanhedrin and brought about their calling for His crucifixion.
- Men still wrestle with who Jesus is today. They have no problem viewing Him as a good man, a prophet, teacher, or even a miracle worker, but they cannot embrace the fact that Jesus is God and Lord!
- Let's consider a few more verses of Scripture that declare Jesus as God. **Philip. 2:6 – Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:** This is a verse rich in meaning and doctrine. The word **being** stresses “the true essence of a person's nature.” Jesus' nature and very essence was that of God. The word **form** speaks of “an essential, unchanging character.” Jesus was and is God. This did not change nor begin as He came forth from the womb. The word **equal** has the idea of “something exactly the same in size, quantity, quality, character, and number.” In every form and sense, Jesus is equal to God and the very essence of God!

- [Col.2:9](#) – For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. Jesus is the eternal God-man. He possesses all that God is. If one has met Jesus, then one has met God. **He that hath seen me hath seen the Father.**

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V. The Entrance of the Word (14a) – [And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.](#)

Now we have already established that Jesus has always existed as the Word, with God, and as God. Here we find that the Word became flesh and dwelt among sinful men.

- This does not imply, as we have already established, that Jesus came into being at Bethlehem; He simply transferred His state of being. It was at that moment in time that God robed Himself in a body of flesh and dwelt among His creation. The word [dwelt](#) means “to pitch a tabernacle or to live in a tent.” Isn't it amazing that the God of heaven would become man, condescending to our lowly estate and dwell upon the earth, robed in flesh? Jesus lived the life that we never could. He lived it facing the same adversities and emotions that we feel, yet He lived it free of sin.

- Consider for a moment the enormity of the incarnation. This was the God of heaven who became man. The Creator became dependent upon the creature. The Lord of glory, whose mighty hands created the vast universe, now possessed a tiny hand that likely gripped the fingers of His loving mother. The sinless One came to bear the sins of the world. The Innocent came to be declared guilty by wicked men. The eternal God allowed Himself to be directed by time. The supernatural Lord came to dwell among the natural. The Holy One of heaven dwelt among the vile. The Invisible revealed Himself in flesh for all to see. How could one not be touched by the tremendous sacrifice that Jesus made just to robe Himself in flesh?

- [Philip.2:7-8](#) – But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. The phrase [made himself of no reputation](#) literally means that Jesus emptied Himself of His glory. This is not to say that He ceased to be God. He did not lose His deity to retain it again at the ascension, but rather laid it aside. He never ceased to be God, but rather chose to veil His glory in a body of flesh. (Deal with the remainder of verse.)

VI. The Expression of the Word (14b) – [\(And we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,\) full of grace and truth.](#) Many who lived in that day experienced the Person of Christ in the flesh. He lived as a man, walking among men. John, no doubt, is

reminded of the glory that he beheld as He saw Jesus transfigured before him on the mountain. He saw a glimpse of Christ in His glory.

- As we ponder the experiences of those who lived in Jesus' day, it is easy to become a bit jealous. I never got to look upon the Man who died for my sin. I never had the privilege to hear Him preach with authority. I was not there as He met the needs of countless souls. I was not in the boat as He stood and declared, **Peace, Be still.** But I have seen the Expression of the Word. I have beheld the hill called Calvary through eyes of faith. I have heard the living Word speak through the written Word. I have experienced His power in my life when facing a storm. I have seen His mighty power bring healing and change to countless lives. I may have never seen my Lord in the flesh, but I have seen Him countless times. Each time I stand amazed at the grace and truth of my Lord.

- He came to this earth so that men might know God and be restored unto Him. He came to reveal the glory of God to sinful men and provide the way of forgiveness and eternal life. He did that for me and He did that for you.

I trust that you have been challenged and encouraged by the Eternal Word of Glory. He is so much more than we can imagine. I can assure you that He is all that you need. If you have never met Him, He desires to have a personal relationship with you. If you are saved and are not enjoying the fullness that He brings, He desires you to live more abundantly. Why not listen as He speaks to you today and come to Him?