

The Word among Men

John 1:14

We are quickly approaching Christmas Day; it is just few days away. As we look forward to that wonderful time, I am reminded of the joy and excitement of the past. I still enjoy Christmas, but there was something special about it as a child. I remember closely examining each of the carefully wrapped gifts laid under the tree, wanting to see which ones had my name on them. As a child it seemed as if the day would never come, and we were hardly able to contain the excitement when it finally arrived.

Our text verse today reveals a very similar situation. In fact, it deals with the greatest gift ever given and received on that first Christmas morning so long ago. Like most children of today, the world lay in wait, anticipating the coming of Christ. The prophets had spoken of His coming for thousands of years, and the day had finally arrived. While many never recognized the significance of Christ's birth, some did. Those who recognized Him as the Christ were bursting with excitement and anticipation as well.

While John doesn't record the details of His birth like Matthew and Luke, he does speak of the miracle of Jesus' birth and the great impact it had on humanity. I want to consider the [divine characteristics](#) of Jesus as we think on: [The Word among Men](#).

I. The Preeminence of His Being (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.](#) It is interesting to note that John doesn't mention the name of Christ until [v.17](#). He opens with a reference to the Word and our text refers to Jesus as the Word. This was not done to create confusion or to be deceptive; this was done to reveal the divine preeminence of Christ. He is the living Word.

- Take a moment to consider the great discovery in [vv.1-5](#). John declares [the Word was in the beginning](#), revealing the existence of the Word prior to time. In essence the Word has always been. [The Word was with God and the Word was God](#). John also reveals the Word existed in the very presence of God, and yet possessed the same attributes of God, literally being God. He then declares that [all things were made by Him \(the Word;\) and without Him nothing was made](#). So the Word, Jesus Christ our Lord, stands as Creator of all things.
- [The Word, Christ the Lord, is life and the Light of men. This Light shined forth in the darkness, and yet the darkness did not comprehend the Light.](#) Isn't it amazing to consider the first thing God spoke into existence was light and Jesus is also described as the Light? The world cannot exist in darkness; it must have light to survive. Mankind cannot live apart from light. So it is

with our spiritual condition as well. In order for man to live, he must have Light! Jesus our Lord is the preeminent God!

II. The Person of His Being (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.** John now declares the Word, the preexistent, preeminent God, Christ our Lord, was made flesh. He literally laid aside the glory He possessed in the presence of the Father, veiled His deity in a robe of flesh, took on human form, and was born of a virgin womb. On that faithful night, the angels declared: **For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.**

- As we consider the person of Jesus Christ, we must remember this was no ordinary birth and no ordinary child. He was conceived in a virgin womb by the Holy Spirit. He was the eternal God-Man, being fully God and fully man. God Himself had come to earth in the form of a man. He lived His life much as we do today. He knew what it was to feel pain, hunger, joy, happiness, discouragement, etc....He lived life as a Spirit filled man and yet He was God. He identified with every struggle and trial we would ever encounter. The eternal God was made flesh and lived on this earth as a man.

III. The Presence of His Being (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.** Jesus not only took on the form of a man, being made flesh; He also dwelt among men upon the earth. The word *dwelt* is very interesting. It literally has the idea of “*pitching a tent.*” Some say that Jesus was made flesh and “tabernacled” among men. He came to earth and lived among sinful men. His life was not lived hidden away from others. He did not inhabit a palace with servants attending to His every need. He walked, lived, and worked among men. In fact, Jesus lived a very humble life, not coming to be served, but as a servant of men.

- While dwelling among men He cared for them, healing their diseases, easing their pains, calming their storms, and even raising their dead. His was a life of eternal significance. I stand amazed that God Himself would come to dwell among men. The miracle of His birth is beyond ability to explain or comprehend, but the fact that He came at all is the greatest miracle!

IV. The Power of His Being (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.** Bear in mind that Jesus “tabernacled” among men. This brings to mind the Tabernacle of old. It was there that the very presence and power of God dwelt. The Shekinah glory of God dwelt within the Tabernacle, hovering above the mercy seat. However, His great glory was hidden behind the veil.

The average person was not allowed behind the veil, and even the high priest was allowed only once a year, and that after great preparation. To a great extent, the glory of Christ was veiled within the tabernacle of His body, but John declares humanity beheld His glory as He walked upon the earth.

- The idea of beholding in the text does not imply a casual glance, but an intense, continuous consideration. God had come in flesh. The King of glory walked among men. Although Jesus never revealed His entire essence and glory, He revealed Himself as the Christ, the promised Messiah, Savior of the world. Those who lived and walked with Jesus saw tangible proofs that He was in fact the living God. His great wisdom and authority testified of His deity. His power over humanity and creation itself declared His omnipotent power and deity. God Himself declared His approval of Christ before men. God had come to earth, and His glory and power were on display for the world to see!

V. The Purpose in His Being (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.* While we have considered much from this verse, we must not overlook the final phrase. John speaks of a very significant aspect of the coming of Christ. This reveals the purpose for His coming. John declares Jesus, the Word, is full of grace and truth. Ever since the fall of Adam in the Garden of Eden, men have been seeking to approach God based on their own merit. The Word declares we are all born in sin, condemned and guilty before God. It reveals we have no means within ourselves to obtain the righteousness required by God. While men had tried centuries, their efforts had proven futile.

- Truth is settled; it never changes. Truth declares our guilt and need for One other than ourselves. Christ came as the remedy for our need. Knowing our need, long before man was ever created, the Godhead had a plan. Jesus Christ would come, manifested in the flesh, to offer Himself the atoning sacrifice for sin. Although we were guilty and undeserving, God provided the means of salvation for our sin. In Christ the unmerited favor of God was offered.
- It is easy, especially at this time of year, to focus primarily on the birth and life of Christ. While those are wonderful and significant events, we cannot forget the purpose for His coming. Christ came to earth, in the form of a man, to die for our sin. Simply coming and revealing Himself as the Christ would not have been sufficient. In order for sin to be atoned and redemption made, he had to bear our sin and endure the wrath of God in death on the cross. There the God-Man offered His sinless body as the fulfilling and eternal sacrifice for sin. The babe of Bethlehem had grown into a man and died for the sin of the world on a lonely hill outside Jerusalem.
- While some thought the life of Christ was over following Calvary, His glorious resurrection proved otherwise. He rose triumphant, securing eternal life for all the saved. As we ponder the first

advent of Christ, the miracle of His birth, let us not forget the victory He secured and the promise of His second advent. Just as before, He will come as promised. He came the first time as a humble babe, to die for sin. He will come again in power and great glory to judge sin and bind Satan for eternity!

Conclusion: I am certainly thankful for the privilege we have to celebrate the miraculous birth of our Savior, but we must be careful not to leave Him in the manger. Some are even tempted to leave Him on the cross. May we never be guilty of that either! He lived a life of purpose, fully satisfying the demand of God for redemption as He died on the cross, and He rose triumphant to secure eternal life for every believer. We have much to celebrate this Christmas, and every day throughout the year!

Christ came to provide for our redemption. He came to save us from our sin, reconciling those who believe to God. Who is Jesus to you? Is He just a man you've heard about at Christmas, or is He your Lord and Savior? If you are yet unsaved, respond to His call and believe on Him by faith. If you are saved, I pray you are reminded of all He is and are committed to service and worship of our Lord and King!