

In The Beginning

John 1:1-5

Scripture: Colossians 2:9 “*For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form,*”

Introduction:

Have you ever watched deal or no deal? Howie Mandale does this game show where the contestants pick from a number of sealed brief cases the lowest amount of money while the house banker of sorts tries to tempt them with cash payoffs to stop.

The banker sits enthroned in a room above the show and you can only see his silhouette. Every time I see that show I just want to flip on the light switch and see who that really is.

Some people send anonymous letters because they want to remain concealed in secrecy.

Transitional Statement:

Church, good news. God doesn't hide in the shadows. One of the deepest desires of God's heart is to make Himself known. And He had done that through his Son Jesus.

I. Jesus is the eternal purpose and plan of God.

John 1:1-2

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.

A. It's my opinion that the book of John should be the first book of the New Testament.

1. The Old Testament starts out with “*In the beginning*” explaining the creation of the physical realm.
2. John starts with the same expression “*In the beginning*” but he is going to use it to point to the beginning of spiritual life through the Son of God ...Jesus.
 - a. Using the phrase “*In the beginning*” here at the head of the New Covenant also helps us understand that God isn't changing His mind as He hap-hazardly creates the life and existence of mankind, but is working His will toward His eternal purpose and plan.
 - b. Make no mistake about it, Jesus was God's intention even before the first day of Genesis chapter 1. (1 Peter 1:20)

B. In the beginning was "...*the word*"

1. What does this mean...in the beginning was the word?

a. If you were reading the Greek it would say in the beginning was Logos.

b. Logos, by definition, has to do with a persons mental thought process and reasoning but also includes the verbal and physical expression of those thoughts.

1) Here Jesus is understood to be the Logos of God....basically the very essence of who God is.

2) Colossians 2:9 says it well:

9 For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form,

C. This short verse reiterates the fact that Jesus was with God in the beginning

1. The word "beginning" fundamentally has the connection with origins.

2. Particularly there is no origin of salvation without Jesus the Christ.

a. Because it is His blood shed on the cross of Calvary, that is the redeeming factor (Eph 1:7)

1) Col 1:20 goes on to point out that reconciliation and peace with God comes only through His son Jesus.

b. John 14:6 puts it as a matter of fact that the only way to God is through Jesus.

3. This verse also repudiates the misconception from Col 1:15 that Jesus was one of God's created beings.

D. This text pulls out all the stops when it plainly says the "*word*" was God.

1. It doesn't get much clearer than that

2. Plainly said....Jesus is God.

a. Jesus later goes on to plainly says that He and God are one. (John 10:30)

b. Matthew 1:23 ... taken from Isa 7:14 says:

"BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL," which translated means, "GOD WITH US."

c. And it's hard to find it more plainly put than in 1 John 5:20

20 And we know that the Son of God has come, and has given us understanding so that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

E. The one truth that jumps off the page here is that God's deepest desire is to make Himself knownand He does that through his son.

1. John 14:9 "...He who has seen Me has seen the Father..."

F. It might be worthy to note here that Jesus is God's last word to mankind.

1. All revelation is summed up in Him (Hebrews 2:3; Jude 3)

2. He is both the mind and mouthpiece of God Almighty.

John 1:3

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

A. That is, all existence has happened through Jesus the Christ.

1. Colossians 1:16-17

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.

B. i.e. everything owes its existence to God.

NOTE: By Jesus all things "*were created*" is a middle voice aorist tense verb, meaning Jesus did the creating and it is completed...something that knocks evolution dead on its feet.

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

A. The word "life" is found 47 times in book of John

1. We must recognize it as a major theme.

B. So what is life?

1. When you think of life what do you think about?

a. Happiness?

b. Health?

c. Prosperity?

* These things are certainly a part of life.... but they are physical in nature.

C. God's point here is that the life that will carry us into saved eternity with Him is connected with Jesus, His son.

1. Let's think about the comparison for a minute

a. What does the physical body basically need to survive?

1) Light

2) Air

3) Water

4) Food

b. Interestingly enough as we continue through the book of John, Jesus will be called the light of the world, giving us the breath (air) of life, He is also called the water of life and the bread of life.

D. Listen to the following scriptures:

John 8:12

"Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life."

John 10:10

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

John 3:16

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life."

E. Just as the Genesis began with light, so salvation begins with the light of Christ

F. Jesus' connection with life and light here are in a spiritual context, pointing to a greater truth than the physical realm can demand. They direct us to an eternal place, a place where the eyes have not seen...a place where the mind cannot imagine.... the very presence of living God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

G. Plainly stated, Jesus is the life bringer & light bearer

5 *The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.*

A. Another theme in the book of John is light verses darkness.

1. The New Testament proclaims that God is light (1 John 1:5), and Satan is the power of darkness (Luke 22:53).

2. Of course we understand through scripture the great battle that rages daily between good and evil.

B. But the second half of this verse points to our victorious savior.

1. Here Jesus cast His light on the darkness of evil.
 - a. Understanding the Greek in its context this is saying that the darkness here can't put the light out.

NOTE: "*comprehend*" means to take eagerly, seize or possess, like a battle field concept.

2. But you know there is something that exists between light and darkness, anybody know what it is?
 - a. It's the choice of all mankind.
 - b. It's as if our lives were a room in our homes.....we all have access to the light switch and must daily chose to be in darkness or light.
 - c. The assurance here is that if we keep the Jesus switch turned onHis light will always prevail.

1) John latter goes on to say that those who believe in Christ are called sons of light (John 12:35-36)

C. But to maintain peace in the presence of God, we must continue to walk in the light.
1 John 1:7

Conclusion:

I read a beautiful verse this week I would like to share with you.

Psalms 22:3 "Yet You are holy, O You who are enthroned upon the praises of Israel."

Is your life a praise to Jesus?

-The truth is that our lives lift Jesus up.... To a throne of praise or to a cruel cross.