

Subject: *Receiving God's Son*

Scripture: *John 1:1-14*

Christmas is all about Christ. This world has tried to take Christ out of Christmas. You can't have Christmas without Christ any more than you can have music without notes or mathematics without numbers or language without words. How we need to get back to those words in our beloved Christmas carol, "Joy to the world, the Lord has come, let earth receive her King."

This Scripture is simple, yet sublime. God reveals some of the deepest and most profound truths. In this opening to the Gospel of John, we read about the Word and we know from verse 14, the Word refers to Jesus. We see that the Word was revealed to all people, the Word was rejected by many people, and the Word was received by some people. Those who receive the Word, the Lord Jesus Christ, receive the greatest possible blessings.

1. The Greatest Truth

The God who made us has come to this world and became one of us. The greatest truth is the truth about Jesus, who He is and what He does for us.

- **Jesus is the eternal Word**

John 8:58 Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.

Micah 5:2 whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting. The Gospel of John is different from Matthew and Luke in that there is no genealogy of Christ. John made the point that Jesus is the eternal Word.

- **Jesus is the divine Word**

He was with the Father and equal to the Father. Jesus has all the attributes of God.

John 14:7-9 ⁷ If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him. ⁸ Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us. 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?

- **Jesus is the creating Word**

Colossians 1:16-17 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: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. *Hebrews 1:1-2* God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds.

- **Jesus is the shining Word**

Jesus is the source of life and light. Darkness is the realm of Satan. Jesus is the Light of the world. In verse 5, the text says "the darkness comprehended it not." That means the darkness did not overcome it. Light always overcomes darkness. In verse 9, the Bible says that Jesus lights every man. How is that so? He gives the light of creation and the light of conscience. Every person knows there is a God and every person knows right from wrong. And every person is responsible for the light they have.

- **Jesus is the incarnate Word**

“The Word became flesh” (Jn. 1:14) means that Jesus, the eternal Son of God, became a man. He did not give up His nature as God, but He took on the nature of man. The infinite One became finite. The eternal God was confined to time, and the invisible God became visible. He “dwelt” (literally, pitched His tent) for 33 years among men, and during that time we beheld his glory. “Beheld” means “carefully observed.” This is not a casual glance, but a full examination. Like the glory of God that dwelled in the Old Testament tabernacle and temple, the glory of God was seen in the life of Jesus. Charles Spurgeon said, “You may study, look, and meditate, but Jesus is a greater Savior than you think Him to be, even when your thoughts are at their highest.”

2. The Greatest Tragedy

Last Sunday morning we heard a beautiful song, “Welcome to Our World.” The sad truth is that many people do not welcome Christ.

- The world did not recognize Christ
- The world did not receive Christ

He came unto His own things, the things He had made, and they received Him not. He came unto His own people, the Jews, and they received Him not. They had the Scriptures, they had the prophets, and they had the pictures (object lessons). They should have been looking and waiting for Him and they should have recognized Him and received Him. *Isaiah 53:3 He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.* What was the problem? They did not recognize Him and they did not receive him for two reasons: they were ignorant, and they were arrogant. They were not looking for a suffering servant as their Messiah. They were only interested in a reigning ruler. They wanted a Messiah who would meet their physical needs, but they didn’t want a Messiah who would make any spiritual demands. When Jesus came and preached repentance and told them the demands of discipleship, they were not interested and rejected Him. They didn’t want Jesus messing up their religious system.

3. The Greatest Transaction

To receive Him is to believe on His name. The name of Jesus stands for all He is and all He does. *Acts 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.* To receive Him means to acknowledge His claims, trust Him completely, and surrender our lives to Him. To receive Him means to take Him as He is and be committed to Him forever. “Receive” is the same word used in *John 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.*

4. The Greatest Transformation

All who receive Christ are born of God. Receiving Christ is a transaction that involves a transformation. It is called the new birth or being born again. This birth is something that God does in us and for us, not something we do for ourselves or someone else. It is not of blood (human descent), nor of the will of the flesh (human desire), nor of the will of man (human determination), but of God. Being born of God means a new life, a changed life. If you truly receive Him as Lord and Savior, you will never be the same.