

“Christ the Creator”
John 1:3
(Preached at Trinity, February 24, 2016)

I'm supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord's Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

Disclaimer: These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I'll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. Tonight we continue the amazing Gospel of John. As I pointed out before, John makes statements in these early verses that are beyond our comprehension. J.C. Ryle wrote: “Nowhere in the Bible shall we find such clear and distinct statements about our Lord Jesus Christ's divine nature. Nowhere shall we find so many expressions, which for want of mental power, no mortal man can fully grasp or explain.”
2. In the opening verses of this Gospel John tells us several truths for us to believe about Christ.
 - He is eternal – “In the beginning was the Word”
 - He is a person distinct from the Father – “The Word was with God”
 - He is God – “the Word was God”
 - He is Creator – “All things came into being through Him”
 - He is the source of all spiritual life – “In Him was life”
3. These opening verses give us some of the clearest teaching on the Trinity.
4. Jesus had no beginning. He was eternally one with the Father. But John then tells us that Jesus was not inactive. He was involved in the work of creation.
John 1:3 NAU - "All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being."
5. This is another grand declaration of the deity of Christ. In the Bible God is always the Creator. In **Verse 3** we find that Jesus is Creator thus Jesus is God.
6. We'll look at two things from this verse tonight
 - A. The first thing we'll look at is the work of creation
"All things came into being through Him"
 - B. The second thing we'll see is the extent of creation
"apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being."
- I. First of all, let's look at the work of creation
"All things came into being through Him"
 - A. John is affirming that Creation was the work of a triune God
Genesis 1:26 NAU - "Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image"
 1. Old Testament references to God generally refer to God the Father.
God (or the Father) is described as the Creator
Genesis 1:1 NAU - " In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."
Psalms 102:25-27 NAU - "Of old You founded the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands. ²⁶ "Even they will perish, but You endure; And all of them will wear out like a garment; Like clothing You will change them and they will be changed. ²⁷ "But You are the same, And Your years will not come to an end."

2. The Holy Spirit was active in creation – Genesis 1
Genesis 1:2 NAU - "The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters."
 3. Here John is declaring that Jesus was the Creator
 This is consistent with Paul's words
Colossians 1:15-16 NAU - " He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 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."
- B. There was a time when there was nothing but God – the triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
1. God chose to create. He commanded the world into existence by the power of His Word.
2 Corinthians 4:6 NAU - " For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ."
 2. God created all things **ex nihilo** "out of nothing"
 3. God brought the whole world from nonbeing to being – all physical matter had a beginning – God was the Agent of its beginning
John 1:3 NAU - "All things came into being through Him"
 4. One of the clearest testimonies to theism is the existence of matter. There is no way something can come into existence from nothing.
 5. He spoke all things into existence
Genesis 1:3 NAU - "Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light."
Psalms 33:6-9 NAU - " By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, And by the breath of His mouth all their host. ⁷ He gathers the waters of the sea together as a heap; He lays up the deeps in storehouses. ⁸ Let all the earth fear the LORD; Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him. ⁹ For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast."
 5. John is saying that Jesus commanded all things into existence
- C. Creation is an expression of the Divine essence
1. He reveals His plurality
 2. He reveals His independence – "In the beginning was the Word"
 Nothing existed but God
Herman Bavinck – "What moved God to call this world into existence? To the question of why things exist and are as they are there is no other and deeper answer than that God willed it." (*In the Beginning*, 50)
 3. He reveals His power, His wisdom, His beauty
 4. He also reveals His goodness
 We daily enjoy the goodness of God's creation
 (water, metallic ores and minerals, plants, animals, oil)

- D. As we contemplate the topic of the Genesis creation and all thing coming into being the Bible teaches that it took place in the space of 6 literal days.
 “In the beginning was the Word . . .”
1. That beginning marked the beginning of time and the beginning of six days of creation.
Exodus 20:11 NAU - "For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy."
 2. Genesis 1 describes the days as literal days – having an evening and a morning which is typical of all days
Genesis 1:5 NAU - "God called the light day, and the darkness He called night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day."
 3. There is no reason to stretch these days into millions or billions of years
 - a. God created a mature earth. He created mature trees, not seedlings
 He created the stars in such a way as they were visible even though it would take lightyears for their light to reach the earth
 - b. Some respected Christian leaders struggle with reconciling the science of observation with the details of God’s Word.
 James Montgomery Boice said, “If the earth and the universe look old when they actually are not, why should any of our observations be trusted?”
 - c. But doesn’t our observation tell us the virgin birth is impossible?
 Doesn’t our observation tell us the resurrection is impossible?
 - d. God has given us minds and the ability to reason. But our ultimate source of truth is God’s Word – it must prevail above observation and experience. And God’s Word tells us He created in six days.
 This is not to say that our faith is a blind faith or credulity.
 4. In the beginning Jesus the Creator brought all things into existence.

II. The Extent of Creation –God created all that exists

John 1:3 NAU - "All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being."

- A. Genesis 1 says God created the heavens and the earth. This is what John is telling us here - "All things came into being through Him"
1. By heavens we are to understand everything above the earth
 - a. The immensity is amazing
 There are over 200 billion stars in the Milky Way Galaxy
 Scientists estimate there are 125 billion galaxies in the universe
 The distance from edge to edge of the average galaxy is 600 thousand trillion miles
 The distance between the galaxies is 20 million trillion miles
 - b. Our sun is just an average star. If the sun were hollow it would hold a million earths
 The interior of the sun is 27 million degrees

2. By earth we are to understand everything upon this planet
There is also amazing diversity
 - a. There are over 1 million species of insects
 - b. There are over 4600 species of mammals
 - c. There are over 7000 species of reptiles
 - d. There are over 4000 species of amphibians
 - e. There are 25,000 recognized species of fish
- B. He also created the unseen things
Colossians 1:16 NAU - "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."
 1. He created the holy elect angels and the fallen angels – Satan and the demons. They are all under His sovereign dominion
 2. He also created the vast microscopic unseen world.

Conclusion:

1. John wants us to understand the sovereign dominion of Christ. He has no beginning—everlasting to everlasting. He has all authority.
2. Jesus was the second person of the triune God who created all things. He created us.
Paul said of Him:
Acts 17:28 NAU - "for in Him we live and move and exist"
3. John is making the amazing declaration:
This One who is the Savior, God's only begotten Son; the One in whom I want you to believe, is the One who made you.
Romans 11:33 NAU - "Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!"
4. Jesus entered into the human condition. He has experienced all that we experience. But long before we came into being He designed every aspect of our being. He has ordered our life and every function of our body. He knows how our minds function.
5. How amazing that this God invites us into a relationship with Him. And that we can have everlasting life with Him. This is the good news of John's Gospel.
John 3:16 NAU - "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."
John 5:24 NAU - "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life."
John 6:40 NAU - "For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day."
John 20:30-31 NAU - "Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name."