

“The Eternal Word”

(part two)

John 1: 1-5

Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Joh 1:2 The same was in the beginning with God.

Joh 1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

Joh 1:4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

Joh 1:5 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

William Perkins outline:

In verses 1-2:

I. THE RELATION OF THE WORD TO GOD, as possessing the Divine nature and existing with God before creation.

In verse 3:

II. THE RELATION OF THE WORD TO THE UNIVERSE, as its Creator.

In verse 4:

III. THE RELATION OF THE WORD TO MEN, as being the source of life and light to them.

In verse 5:

IV. THE RELATION OF THE WORD TO FALLEN HUMANITY, as shining in the darkness, though the darkness comprehended it not. (*W. Perkins.*)

We considered the first point under four headings

I. THE RELATION OF THE WORD TO GOD, as possessing the Divine nature and existing with God before creation.

- 1) Unequivocal Eternality
- 2) Unique Relationship
- 3) Unsettling Identity
- 4) Unequaled Immutability

II. THE RELATION OF THE WORD TO THE UNIVERSE, as its Creator.

Joh 1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

We have two sub-points here:

- 1) A positive declaration of the Uniqueness of the Word as Creator.
- 2) His Exclusiveness as creator asserted.

1) A positive declaration of the Uniqueness of the Word as Creator.

“All things - were made by him”

Note 1,

“All things”

Compare:

Col 1:16 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:

Col 1:17 And he is before **all things**, and by him **all things** consist.

Q. What greater proof of the Deity of Christ do we need?

Esp – “for him”

Everything was made for him!!!

Gill:

“that is, for his pleasure, that he may take delight and complacency (satisfaction) in them, and in his own perfections displayed by them; and for his service and use, as the angels, to worship him and minister to him and for others, he sends them to: elect men are made to serve and glorify him with their bodies and spirits, which are his; and even the non-elect are made to subserve his mediatorial kingdom and interest; yea, the whole world is built and kept in being purely on his account”

Compare:

Rev 4:11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

Note 2,

“were made by him”

ESV – “through” – which is an unnecessary change of the text!

“by” means, Cause and Channel.

Compare:

ESV = Psa 33:6 **By the word** of the LORD the heavens were made, and **by the breath** of his mouth all their host.

Also, ESV in Col 1:16 says “by him”

Illus:

I came by (through) such and such a place to get here!

As is so often the modern texts choose a word which has a single perspective and therefore lose the depth of meaning that is in the AV.

We see in the AV the word “by” clearly used in this manner:

Eph 3:9 And to make all *men* see what *is* the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, **who created all things by Jesus Christ:**

Note;

The ESV deletes this phrase, though it is in the majority of GK texts!

Hebrews 1: 1-4 is helpful here! (note the use of the preposition “by”)

Heb 1:1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers **by the prophets,**

Heb 1:2 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;

Heb 1:3 Who being the brightness of *his* glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things **by the word of his power**, when he had **by himself** purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

Heb 1:4 Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath **by inheritance** obtained a more excellent name than they.

2) His Exclusiveness as creator emphasised.

“and without him was not any thing made that was made.”

Chrysostom:

“And that you may not think that he merely speaks of all the things mentioned by Moses, he adds that “without him was not anything made that was made.” That is to say, that of created things, not one—whether it be visible or intelligible—was brought into being without the power of the Son.”

III. THE RELATION OF THE WORD TO MEN, as being the source of life and light to them.

Joh 1:4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

Note 1,

This life is not just from him but IN HIM!!!

He is The Life!!!

Compare:

Joh 11:25 Jesus said unto her (Martha), I am the resurrection, **and the life**: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

Joh 11:26 And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?

Also:

Joh 14:6 Jesus saith unto him (Thomas), I am the way, the truth, **and the life**: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Also:

Col 3:4 When **Christ, *who is our life***, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

Q. Is Christ your life?

1Jn 1:2 (**For the life was manifested, and we have seen *it***, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)

Also:

1Jn 5:11 And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

1Jn 5:12 **He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.**

Note 2,

The Essential need of this life to us who are in darkness.

“and the life was the light of men.”

Compare:

(speaking of John the Baptist)

Joh 1:8 He was not that Light, but *was sent* to bear witness of that Light.

Joh 1:9 *That* was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

Also:

Joh 8:12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

Also:

Joh 9:5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.

IV. THE RELATION OF THE WORD TO FALLEN HUMANITY, as shining in the darkness, though the darkness comprehended it not.

Joh 1:5 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

Note,

There are two points here:

- 1) The Ministry of the Word to Fallen Humanity.
- 2) The Misunderstanding of the Word by Fallen Humanity.

1) The Ministry of the Word to Fallen Humanity.

“And the light shineth in darkness”

H. Melvill:

“The light shone in the CONSCIENCES of men.

A man without a conscience has never been born: never amidst the dreariness of heathenism—a faculty to distinguish right from wrong, to know that the Supreme Being is pleased with righteousness and angered at wrong-doing, and that sin will be punished.

But this light shone in darkness.

Conscience persuades resistance of evil passions, but inclination quenches the light.

Conscience warns respecting the future, but is silenced by the gratification of the present.

Conscience reminds of allegiance owing to a Creator, but the inducements of other masters drown its voice.”

2) The Misunderstanding of the Word by Fallen Humanity.

“and the darkness comprehended it not.”

Or:

“Apprehended not” or “Overcome not”

Augustine:

“But perhaps the foolish hearts cannot receive that light because they are so encumbered with sins that they cannot see it. Let them not on that account think that the light is in any way absent, because they are not able to see it. For they, because of their sins, are darkness.” ...

He illustrates:

For suppose, as in the case of a blind person placed in the sun, the sun is present to him, but he is absent from the sun. This is how every foolish person, every unjust person, every irreligious person is blind in heart. Wisdom is present, but it is present to a blind person and is absent from his eyes; not because it is absent from him but because he is absent from it. What then is he to do? Let him become pure, that he may be able to see God.

(Mat 5:8 Blessed *are* the pure in heart: for they shall see God.)

Scripture shows the real problem is in the heart of man!

Compare:

Joh 3:19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

Joh 3:20 For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.

Also:

Pro 1:29 For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD:

Pro 1:30 They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof.

Also:

Rom 1:28 And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;

App:

Q. Do you daily Worship the God who has made “All Things” and has made you?

Q. Do you acknowledge his Unique and Exclusive rights to your obedience?

Q. Are you consciously aware that your life is sourced in the Eternal Word?

Q. Do you walk in the light of Christ’s life?

Q. Have you made it your life’s goal and end to comprehend and apprehend Christ as he is revealed in the Word of God?

May God bless His Word to our Souls! Amen.