

John 1:2-5 - "Eternal Logos: Creator of All, Giver of Life and Light"

Study Guide

A sermon by Josef Urban

Text: John 1:2-5 (NKJV)

² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. ⁴ In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

"The Gospel of John begins with high Christology, and with a high view of God, and with a high view of Christ as God. It is so much unlike much of the theology that is so popular today. Much of what is taught today is centered around man. Modern anthropocentric philosophy has usurped the place of biblical theocentric theology. In the ancient teachers – the Fathers, the Reformers, the Puritans – God was big and man was small. But in the modern writers, curiously, God has become smaller and man has become bigger. Before, it was all about God; the significance of man was derivative of his place within the context of God's universe. Now, it seems to be all about man; and the significance of God is derived from His ostensible pragmatic adaptability to the universe of man. We've got it all backwards. The prologue to the Gospel of John sets us straight." – Josef Urban

"The Father being thus in the Son, and the Son in the Father, all the glorious properties of the one shine forth in the other. The order and œconomy of the blessed Trinity in subsistence and operation, requires that the manifestation and communication of the Father to us be through the Son." – Benjamin Keach (1640-1804)

Questions for sermon reflection:

1. What is Theocentricity? Why do you think it is important for our understanding of theology to be Theocentric rather than anthropocentric?

2. Why is it important to believe in the deity of Christ for salvation? (See John 8:24)

3. In John 1:1-2, what is the significance of the verb "was"?

4. Explain the significance of the term 'subsistence' as it is used in Christian theology of the members of the Godhead Trinity. Be sure to mention how it differs from '*ex*-istence' as a technical term in historical Christian parlance.

5. The sermon quotes R.C. Sproul who said, "There is no maverick molecule in the universe." What does this mean in light of God the Son's Creatorhood of the universe?

6. The sermon mentions the liberal chant of protest, "My body, my choice! My body, my choice!," used to defend a woman's desire to abort her child. How does Christ's Creatorhood nullify the validity of this rant?

- 7. John 1:4 says, "In Him was life" (cf. John 5:26). The sermon asserts that this refers to the aseity of the Son of God. Explain what that means and why it is significant.
- 8. Verses 4-5 say, "The life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness." To what motif is this light imagery alluding, and how does it apply spiritually in Christ?
- 9. What is one of the major contributing factors to a low view of sin and a superficial understanding of the gospel that seem to be so prevalent in modern evangelicalism?
- 10. The sermon says, "Jesus Christ is the only One who is sufficient to meet our needs, because He is our Maker and the infinite source of all good." How does Josef apply this truth to the human heart, ear, eye, mind, soul and body? Can you think of other ways the all-sufficiency of Christ meets *your* deepest needs?

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