

Pt 1 In the Beginning Was the Word

A sermon series in the Gospel of John, by Pastor Byron Chesney at Porchlight Baptist Church www.pbcknox.com

John 1:1-14

- 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
- 2 The same was in the beginning with God.
- 3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.
- 4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men.
- 5 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.
- 6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.
- 7 The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all *men* through him might believe.
- 8 He was not that Light, but *was sent* to bear witness of that Light.
- 9 *That* was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.
- 10 He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.
- 11 He came unto his own, and his own received him not.
- 12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, *even* to them that believe on his name:
- 13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.
- 14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

We just completed our 57 week sermon series through the Book of Romans, and I told you last Sunday I wasn't sure where we would be preaching from next. Well, now I know. We are going to go through the Gospel of John.

I want to start out by giving a few basic facts about the Book of John so that we have a good understanding of what its purpose is and what it is all about.

There are 21 chapters, 879 verses, and 18,658 words in this Book and I have no idea how long it will take us to get through them, but I would say at least a year and a half to two years. We will just let the Lord lead us.

The human penman of the Book of John is non other than the Apostle John, the one whom Jesus loved. Son of Zebedee, brother to James, one of the Sons of Thunder. He's the same man Jesus entrusted the care of his mother to while hanging on the cross. He is the human penman of the Books of 1, 2, and 3rd John and the Book of Revelation.

As you well know, and as I have said several times in the past, the Gospel of John is different from the other 3 Gospel's of Matthew, Mark, and Luke – we call those the Synoptic Gospels.

Synoptic means “*see-together*.” The first 3 Gospels are formatted the same way and tell pretty much the same events. They focus on what Jesus **did and taught**, but the Gospel of John is different. John leaves out a lot of the things mentioned in the Synoptic Gospels. He does not spend time recounting the genealogy of Jesus, his childhood, his temptation in the wilderness, the calling of the disciples, or any of his parables. Instead, he focuses upon “**Who**” **Jesus is**, and the purpose for this Gospel is **so that ALL men might believe on Him and be born again**.

This Book is often combined together with the Book of Romans to use as a witnessing tool. We have copies of John and Romans that we give out. Through these two Books alone you can understand who Jesus and how to be saved and live as a Christian.

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

So, right away we are told something that no other Gospel writer mentions; the Word was God. The word **WORD** used here comes from the Greek word, **Logos**. It is **the personification of God**. In technical terms, it describes the attribution of a personal nature or human characteristics to something nonhuman. In the case of John's writing it is describing WHO Jesus is – the Word. He is the personification of God.

As I've already said, John doesn't provide the genealogy of Jesus the way the other Gospel writers do, instead he goes directly to the source to prove that Jesus is the Son of God and in fact, is God Himself.

2 The same was in the beginning with God.

I have probably mentioned this at least a dozen times in the past year alone, but this lets us know that Jesus has always been. As Pastor Sexton often said in my Seminary days at Crown College – Jesus is always previous. He was there in the beginning with God. The same with the Holy Spirit. All three persons of the Trinity have always been.

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

Long before Jesus was born as a baby in Bethlehem, Jesus was and is the creator of all things. He made all things, and, by the way, He created all things for Himself. That's why the Apostle wrote this **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: 17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.** You were not some “accident” that was born into this world. Jesus created you for himself. He has a plan and purpose for you.

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

It is only because of Jesus that we have life. The Bible says that life comes from Him. Turn with me over to the Book of Genesis and I want to show you something very important.

Genesis 2:7 **And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.**

Please notice that the Bible says the LORD God formed man. That word LORD right there is in all capital letters. There is a reason for that. Anytime you see the word LORD spelt that way in your Old Testament, it is in all caps to signify a difference between the regular usage of the word Lord.

An all capital LORD indicates that the original word in Hebrew is **Ye-Hovah** – or as we say it, **Jehovah**. It means “**the self-existing one**,” it is the Jewish national name for God. It is translated that way over 6,000 times in the Old Testament.

The LORD Jehovah of the Old Testament is the same as Jesus in the New Testament. Now look at that verse again in **Genesis 2:7** **And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.**

If you aren't careful, you will miss this – in this one verse we see all 3 members of the Triune Godhead in the creation of man – LORD (Jehovah) God (the Father) and look at how man is created – he “breathed into his nostrils the breath of life.” Whenever you see the breath of God mentioned, it signifies the Holy Spirit. The word “breath” can be translated as “Spirit.”

That is why Job said this in **Job 33:4** The Spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life.

Now, turn back to our opening text in the Gospel of John and look down at verse 14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

Here we find that this Word that was with God (meaning Jesus) was made flesh. In other words, God robed himself in the flesh of a man and was born as a baby in Bethlehem. This is what we call the incarnate Christ. Or, Christ clothed in flesh.

Now, we've already established the fact that the Word created all things, including man, and he did it for himself. But, why did He have to clothe himself in flesh and come to this earth and dwell among us?

Look back at our opening text

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

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

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

7 The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe.

8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.

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

10 He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.

11 He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

The reason the Word became flesh was so that "all men through him might believe." It says in verse 12 as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name."

So, the Word became flesh so that ALL men might believe and be saved. Notice it does not say so that all JEWS might be saved. The synoptic Gospels focus on the salvation of the Jews by the coming of the Messiah who would set up an earthly kingdom.

In fact, you will find such passages of Scripture in the synoptic Gospels such as:

Matthew 10:5-7 These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not: 6 But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. 7 And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Matthew 15:22-24 And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou Son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil. 23 But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us. 24 But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

Luke 2:25 And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him. - The consolation of Israel meant when the Messiah comes for the Jews.

But the Gospel of John emphasizes salvation for ALL men – not just the House of Israel.

So, the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us that ALL might believe.

Now, turn to **2 Peter 3:9** The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

In the New Testament, you will not find an all capitalized spelling of the word Lord like you do in the Old Testament. Here in 2 Peter the word "**Lord**" is translated from the Greek word "**Kurios**" Koo-ree-oss. It is another title for the Messiah, Jesus.

Peter says that the Lord (Kurios) is **not willing that ANY should perish, but that all should come to repentance.**"

So, the Word came and dwelt among us so that ALL men might believe because it is **not his WILL** that ANY should perish.

We find the **WILL** of the **WORD** is for all to be saved. That doesn't mean that ALL will be saved because not everyone will receive the free gift of salvation. Many will reject the free gift. They will refuse to repent of their sins and turn to Jesus for salvation. But that is **His will**.

How tragic to think of the millions who will refuse God's will to be saved even though He made a **WAY** for them.

So, we have **the WORD, the WILL, and lastly – the WAY**.

Jesus told Thomas over the **John 14:6b: I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.**

Listen friends, Jesus is the exclusive way to Heaven.

2 Corinthians 5:21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

Romans 3:22-26 Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: 23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; 24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: 25 Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; 26 To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.

John 3:35-36 The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand. 36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

Matthew 7:13-14 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: 14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

The world would have you to believe there are many ways to Heaven, but the world is lying to you.

Listen friend, don't be fooled into thinking there is some other WAY.

There is no other way except through Jesus.

Salvation is Not through Buddha, Muhammad, the Catholic Pope, the Mormons, the Watch Tower, Scientology, or even your works. It is only through Jesus.

THE WORD THE WILL, AND THE WAY