

#1 – John 1:1-5

Need: To understand the nature of Jesus.

Aim: To bring to light the true nature of Jesus and establish His authority.

Title: “Jesus Is God”

Prop: In Jn. 1:1-5 took great pains to show us that I. Jesus Is God – 1:1-2 and that He is the II. Creator God – 1:3, III. The Transcendent God 1:4-5 who has revealed Himself to His creation.

Intro: The preeminent theory concerning the creation of the universe was called “**The Big Bang Theory.**” It attempted to explain the creation of the universe. If this theory was indeed true where did the material come from or what source started the initial reaction which caused this “**Big Bang?**” The flaw in this idea was that Newton’s second law which stated that every reaction has a cause. The “**Big Bang**” does not provide a cause, as where here in the Gospel of John we found the source, Jesus the Creator God.

In verses 1-5 of chapter 1, John established Jesus as the Creator God and that He was indeed the transcendent God who came to His creation to rectify the sin problem by dying on a cross for His errant, rebellious and crowning achievement of creation, mankind.

Prop: In Jn. 1:1-5, the Apostle took great pains to show us that I. Jesus Was God – 1:1-2 and that He was the II. Creator God – 1:3, and III. The Transcendent God 1:4-5 who has revealed Himself to His creation in the person of Jesus, that He might deal with the sin problem which plagues all mankind.

Transition: Let's begin with John's first assertion that Jesus was indeed the God-man, God in human form.

I. Jesus Is God – Jn. 1:1

A. “In The Beginning” (1-2)

1. Expansion of Genesis – In verse one, John expanded upon the idea of Genesis 1:1 - **“In the beginning God created the Heaven and Earth...”**

The key to understanding here and the foundation of all we know about Jesus began here, **“in the beginning.”** The expression did not refer to a particular moment of time, but assumed timeless eternity. God being eternal had no beginning and no end.

2. Word – The use of the term **“logos”** the Greek term for (**“Word”**) was a term which referred to the very embodiment of all truth. God was all in all. Jesus referred to Himself as the **“Way, the Truth and the Life.”** Truth was not a philosophical pursuit of an ideal; it was a person, Jesus, God in human form who embodies all righteousness and truth.

Many of the great classical philosophers have given their very lives in the pursuit of truth and pure thought; a Utopia of sorts. But where they all fell short was their failure to consider truth as a person, not a collection of words, thoughts or ideas. Without God we all fall under a philosophical term known as “**nihilism**,” which stated that there is nothing that has inherent value or meaning, with no purpose to life. It was Fredrick Nietzsche who fostered the idea that God was dead. We live, try to get all that we can and die, and that was life in a nutshell. There was no afterlife. Life was what we make of it and then it is over. A person has no value beyond what he or she had created for themselves. Jesus said, **I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.**” Jesus was God and had all the qualities of Deity and if not “**we are to be the most pitied of all men**”, in the words of Paul, “**because we have believed in vain**,” what is not true (I Cor. 12).

B. Beginning, Presence (1b-2)

1. Preexistent Christ – In verse 1b-2 we find a very difficult concept, the idea of a triune God, three Persons, yet One in essence. That concept was a hard idea to comprehend and thus it might seem confusing. Since the time when John wrote these words, theologians have wrangled with an understandable and reasonable explanation. But there was nothing said or written which would make sense to us.

I believe that we are incapable of fully understanding this concept and its reasoning lies within the infinite mystery of God. God's Word teaches therefore I must believe. The Son of God was existent from all eternity. He was and is and will continue to be God in every function, way and form. Without this understanding the rest of the Bible was meaningless. Without God there will there be no hope of eternal life and one will fall into the lifestyle of Nihilism where everything is meaningless. Evolution was scientific outplay of the philosophical idea of Nihilism.

2. Repetition (2) – Verse 2 may seem to be repetitious, and it is just that, but with divine intent. John neatly summarized the great truths of verse 1 by the effective means of restatement. The Word's preexistence, distinctiveness and deity are brought out in the statement, **“He was with God in the beginning.”**

Transition: We understand that the Word was Jesus and that He was, is and always will be God and now in verses 3 we see the activity of God.

II. Creator God – Jn.1:3

A. Creation Serves of Evidence

1. Romans 1-3 – In the book of Romans chapters 1-3, Paul gave a clear and concise argument about God's existence which can be clearly seen through the creative genius of creation.

For example, I look out at the mountains each day through my somewhat **clouded** office window and just marvel at the grandeur of the Rockies, a blip on a multitude of blips of God's power. Then my gaze turned to the plant life outside my window and I continue to marvel. All of creation screams the existence of God. Man has no excuse. But science has sought preeminence in our thought, in that everything that exists came from the formula time plus chance = life. There was no genetic or archeological evidence of macro-evolution, primitive life to complex life. There were no links between species as all are under the law of creation, having young after their own kind as Genesis mandated.

2. Jesus – Creator (3) – The word “**made**” here in verse 3 has the meaning “**became**” rather than “**constructed.**” The action referred to was an actual event rather than a process. The visible universe with all its complexity owed its origin to the creative Mind and Power of God. Apart from the **Word**, existence of life was impossible. The priority of Christ over creation was taught here and it also was mentioned in Colossians 1:16 and Hebrews 1:2. By the word of His power, God spoke all things into existence in a moment, an instant. There was no long term process, of millions of years; God spoke and creation came into existence.

B. Foundational Truth

1. Jesus is God – Without this perspective that Jesus was God in human form, all foundational truth is removed. The Son of God became man and lived among us to provide a way back to God, because He was the very embodiment of eternal Truth and Life. He alone was the giver of life, both physical and spiritual whereas the way of man leads to death, eternal separation from God. If there was no God, there was no meaning, nor purpose to life. It was His existence that gave us Truth and Life, and life more abundantly.

2. Jesus Is Creator – Several years ago Cathy and I bought a big-wheel trike for Caleb at Christmas. I wanted to buy the display model, but nevertheless they would only sell me the kit. As I laid out all the parts I, could see the basic structure but some of the parts didn't make sense. So when all else failed I opened the instruction manual. With my wife's reading and communicational skills, my father-in-law's help, and a couple of hours of frustration voila, it worked!! It even had a gun which shot nerf balls, which I quickly disabled after having several bounced off my head. The design was evident, but it took an instructional manual to put it together so it worked.

In life, we come with an instructional manual called the Bible, the Word of God. But we also have a direct “**phone-line**” to the Creator. He fully understands all the complexity and challenges of human life. Jesus designed each of us with a distinct purpose and in the uniqueness of our personality He enables us to fulfill that purpose. He controls all things. He is the Creator so He knows all about us, far better than we ourselves understand ourselves. The problem is that we try to stumble through life without the divine instructional manual and God’s continual access through the avenue of prayer, thus we fall into adverse circumstances of our own making which can cause injury, stress, anxiety and an uncontrollable spiral downward which leads to death. We need to read God’s instructional manual for life.

Transition: With these foundational truths in place, we see Jesus as the Light of all mankind as He is the God-man.

III. The Transcendent God – Jn. 1:4-5

A. Life and Light (4)

1. Life – The term “**life**” was uniformly used throughout the Gospel. Whenever it appeared, it either referred to the principle of physical life, or, most often, to spiritual life. Frequently it was coupled with “**eternal**” to denote the quality, power and destiny of the believer’s life.

It occurred 36 times in the Gospel of John. The life was embodied in Christ, who demonstrated perfectly what eternal life was by His career. Christ was the “**Life**” that was the “**Light of men.**” In Him God’s purpose and power was made available to all men. He became their ultimate hope.

As I thought about this, John’s words spoke of the manner of spiritual life. Physical life was present in those who read these words, but the spiritual part of them was dead, something only God could reveal. There was more to being a person than just mere physical life, which can be snuffed out in a moment’s time. John spoke of spiritual life which Jesus came to give to all who believe, eternal life. The body will die but the spiritual part of us lives on, either onto eternal life, or eternal, perpetual death. “**Death**” literally meant separation. We were born with a death sentence because of sin. Without the life rendering, saving grace of God, we are all destined to experience eternal death, as the body will be resurrected, destined to eternal death for ever and ever, banished from God’s presence.

2. Light – Only when light appears in the form of the person of Jesus does one recognize the darkness which surrounded them. Spiritual light which Jesus provided made one aware of the presence of darkness in one’s life and promoted the idea of want in the person who sees.

Transition: John used the metaphor of light in verse 5 to summarize Jesus' life and ministry.

B. Summary of Jesus Life and Ministry (5)

1. Context – Verse 5 was a summary of Jesus' life. He came into the world to show what God was like and to offer the gift of eternal life, which was His to give because of His sacrificial death and physical resurrection. Jesus holds the keys of death and life. Death for the believer was a passage to life everlasting. Death for those who reject Jesus was the passage way to eternal torment. In this life of 70 plus years the choice was ours to make.

2. Power of Light – The Light shone and still shines brightly today in a dark world through those who have trusted Jesus as Lord and Savior. It was this Light, a reference to Jesus, and even though there was darkness, the life and work of Jesus shone brightly. Even though it shone upon the darkness of men's heart, as we will see in this Gospel, not all accepted it nor did all comprehend what Jesus had to offer. It was this rejection that sent Him to the Cross and His ultimate triumph of Resurrection.

So then if Jesus was the Word, which He was, then all that He spoke carried the authority of God's truth. And thus must be understood and obeyed. It is the word from God Himself.

When I wrote a research paper for a seminary assignment, which was a lot, in my study of the subject matter I usually did so with a dictionary in hand, both English, Greek and or Hebrew, coupled with either a Greek or Hebrew Lexicon. I did so because many scholarly men used words which were not present in common English. When writing they also interspersed Hebrew or Greek, German and sometime Latin in the sentence structure assuming that one was well versed in Greek, Hebrew or German. I didn't have much of a problem at the time in reading and understanding Greek, so I could understand the thought. But Hebrew was a totally different thing. When either prefixes or suffixes were added the original word changed dramatically. And since my skill was somewhat limited, I was constantly looking up the root word in my Hebrew lexicon which would provide me with the original word, and many times it would lead me to the Hebrew dictionary to find out what the term meant. It was often a tedious process. Although the procedure was hard, it created in me a sense of the purpose and meaning of God's Word. Although some passages still escaped me as to interpretation, I have enough of God's Word about personal behavior which should be evident in life because God's light has shined on me as I have trusted Christ as Lord and Savior.

To have this hope we all have the foundation of who Jesus was, is and always will be; a platform on which to build a life which gives stability:

The Eternal Word, the Son of God. Without that foundation, everything else is meaningless. But I have faith as faith was never the issue here. Hope without God as the central focus, makes faith meaningless. If Jesus be not God, our faith, our hope is worthless. Both depend upon what we believe and if it be not Jesus, hope and faith are worthless.

With this foundation understood, the entire Bible has meaning and therefore we must study everything Jesus said and did as they were acts of God for the benefit of mankind. The ultimate work of God was salvation through the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus.

So Jesus was God and the Word of God is our instruction manual. As a parent I often wished that each of my children had come with an instruction manual. Because they didn't I have bad knees. In the challenge of life are we trying to assemble and direct our lives without God's instruction manual? How is that working for you?

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1. Expansion of Genesis
2. “Word”

B. Beginning, Presence (1b-2)

1. Preexistent Christ
2. Repetition (2)

II. Creator God – Jn.1:3

A. Creation Serves of Evidence

1. Romans 1-3
2. Jesus – Creator (3)

B. Foundational Truth

1. Jesus is God
2. Jesus Is Creator

III. The Transcendent God – Jn. 1:4-5

A. Life and Light (4)

1. Life
2. Light

B. Summary of Jesus Life and Ministry (5)

1. Context
2. Power of Light