



Calvary of Albuquerque

The World's Most Important Word - John 1:1-5

From the Series, Believe:879

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MESSAGE SUMMARY

It may be difficult to say what the most important word is in any language, but not for the Apostle John. He begins his gospel with the identification of Jesus as, "The Word." Starting with the very beginning of beginnings, John shows us the fundamental truths about the Jesus that he writes about in the rest of this book. The language is simple and unmistakable and yet the truths presented are deep and extremely profound. Let's see how John presents Jesus and Who Jesus is according to one who was closest to Him.

OUTLINE

- I. In Relation to God (vss. 1-2) *Jesus Existed Always!*
- II. In Relation to the Universe (vs. 3) *Jesus Created Everything!*
- III. In Relation to Mankind (vss. 4-5) *Jesus Illuminates Everyone!*



Questions for Home Fellowships:

1. Who did you understand Jesus to be while you were growing up? How has that understanding changed? Who do you believe Jesus to be now?
2. How can the Word be *with God* and also *be God*?

As it appears in the passage, how would you define *light*? Why is light an appropriate metaphor for the work of Jesus?

DETAILED NOTES

John's premise is that the most important word, the word itself, is Jesus! He is the only hope of all humanity for salvation. (Acts 4:12, Philippians 2:9)

- I. In Relation to God (vs. 1,2) Jesus existed always!
 - A. In the beginning (Genesis 1) Jesus was already continuing to exist
 - B. Word
 1. In the Jewish world - they explained what God did by his word. His word was responsible for everything. Memra - Aramaic (from the Targum-Aramaic translation) self expression of God, replaced the name of God itself.
 2. In the Greek world - Logos - order of the universe the ordering principle, omnipresent wisdom by which all things are steered.
 3. John embraced secular and religious people by describing Jesus as the Word.
 - C. With God (Philippians 2:6)
 1. Face to face (pros ton theon)- intimately associated with the Father, in intimate fellowship with him, but separate from the Father, individuals in the Godhead. (Jesus gave up this intimacy for a time at the incarnation John 17:5)
 - D. Was God - to say He is less than God is blasphemy. 2 John 7, Galatians 1:6 John 1:10, 11
- II. In Relation to the Universe (vs. 3) Jesus created everything
 - A. All things were made through Him.
 - B. Without Him nothing was made that was made.
 - C. Since He is the manufacturer He is the one to go to when something breaks down.
 - D. He is the Image of God Colossians 1:14, Revelation 4:11, Philippians 2:9(icon - take something invisible and make it visible)
 - E. He is both the Source and Goal of Creation. Matthew 5:6
- III. In Relation to Mankind (vs. 4,5) Jesus Illuminates Everyone
 - A. In Him was life (zoe- spiritual life, eternal life, quality of life 54x in Gospel of John)Life of God
 - B. Everyone is DOA-born spiritually dead, but Jesus came to give life.
 - C. That life was light. It illuminates, goes out and shines. 21x light in John
 - D. Affects everyone (vs9) Every person has light that makes them responsible.
 - E. Men love darkness rather than light. John 3:19.
 - F. Kata lambano - comprehend, extinguish, - People don't want life-giving light. All the darkness of hell cannot put out the light of

Christ.

As we continue through John Jesus will become brighter. In relation to God He is eternal, in relation to the universe He is all powerful, in relation to mankind, He is Vital.

Figures Referenced: Philo, Charles Steinmetz, Henry Ford

Publications Referenced: *The Words You Should Know*, by David Olsen, *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, by CS Lewis

Aramaic Terms: Memra (word)

Greek Terms: logos (word), pros ton theon (face to face, toward each other, in the presence of), icon (image), zoe (spiritual life)

Cross References: Genesis 1:1, Matthew 6:6, John 1:10-11, 3:19, 17:5, Acts 4:12, Galatians 1:6, Philippians 2:9, Colossians 1:14, 2 John 7, Revelation 4:11

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