

THE WORD BECAME FLESH

John 1:1-14

Introduction:

One of the important passages regarding the Incarnation of Christ which gets very little air-play at Christmas time is John 1. Matthew and Luke record in some detail certain events surrounding the birth of Jesus Christ. Mark takes a different approach, completely ignoring His birth, starting right in with Jesus' baptism and the beginning of His ministry.

John also does not specifically mention the birth of Jesus, but he begins his gospel with some important and profound statements about Jesus coming to earth. As we wrap up this Christmas season, I want us to consider how we can keep the Spirit of Christmas alive throughout the year, by looking at the significance of the statement in John 1:14 – “The Word became flesh and dwelt among us...”

This morning, a significant portion of my message is going to involve reading to you a segment of a Discovery Series booklet from Radio Bible Class. The booklet is entitled, “God in the Stable: Reflections on Christmas” and the section I am going to read is called, “The Heart’s Treasure.”

But before we get to that, I want to share some thoughts on John 1:1-14. I want to focus our thinking on the concept of...

The Word Became Flesh

First of all we must look at what the Bible says about the “Word.” *Read v. 1-2.* “In the beginning was the Word...” When we see or hear this term we generally think of a message, a book, or the collection of letters that make up words which tell us something. It is that, but what John is referring to is so much more than that.

The Word, as John speaks about here is more than a message, more than a book—it is a person. In fact the Word is the second person of the Trinity, the Son of God. There are three important statements made here in this verse regarding the Word. *Read vv. 1-2 again.*

- He is Pre-existent – Eternal. In the beginning, he was already there.
- He is Co-existent. He was with the Father in the beginning.
- He is Divine. He was and is God—of the same essence, one with the Father.

He is the eternal, pre-existent, co-existent Son of God, one with and equal to the Father in every way. Not only that, but... He is the creator of everything. *Read v. 3.*

Discuss this concept – The Word (Christ) is the Creator

- My struggle with where the Son fits into Creation.
- The creation account – “And God said...”
- The continuity between the spoken Word, the written Word and the walking Word (Ron Sallee)—they are one, equal and indistinguishable.
- When God spoke everything into existence, it was his Word that accomplished the creation. And his Word is the eternal Son. I know that is a difficult concept to get your head around.

There is an interesting verse in the book of Psalms—one that has fascinated me for years. Yet it is only recently that I put it together with “the Word” of John 1:1.

“By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host.” (Psalms 33:6 ESV)

In that verse we see both the Son (word of the LORD) and the Spirit (breath of his mouth). *Expand and mention the use of “the Word of the Lord.”* – 256 times in the Bible. Many times seems to refer simply to a message from God, but there are other places where it goes beyond that. For example when God came to Samuel as a young boy:

1 Samuel 3:21 – “And the LORD appeared again at Shiloh, for the LORD revealed himself to Samuel at Shiloh by the word of the LORD.”

This is a concept that has been working itself out in my mind for several months – the Word is not just a name that John attaches to Jesus. Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God is in fact the very embodiment of the Eternal Word of God. When God speaks, His Word is active and accomplishes His will – see Heb. 4:12.

Not only that, but the Word is the very source of life itself. *Read v. 4 and comment briefly.*

Well, now you may be asking, what does all of this have to do with Christmas and the incarnation? Well, jump down to v. 14 – *read it.*

That is what Christmas is all about. The eternal, pre-existent Word, the Son of God, co-existent with the Father, became flesh. He became one of us. He became flesh and dwelt among us—pitched his tent with us. “Dwelt” – same word as in 2 Cor. 5:1-2 – this earthly tent, our body. He took upon himself our humanity. God became man, without giving up his deity.

In order to help us understand what this means for us, and how we ought to respond to this truth, I want to now read to you a chapter from the booklet I mentioned earlier.

The Heart's Treasure

The booklet is called, “God in the Stable” and this chapter is entitled, “The Heart's Treasure.”

(To read this, go to

<http://web001.rbc.org/pdf/discovery-series/god-in-the-stable.pdf>

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Conclusion

Read v. 14 again. When we begin to understand the significance of the coming of the eternal Word in human form it is a life-changing thing. It changes our perspective on everything—the significance of Christmas, the sacredness of the Holy Scriptures, the reality of the baby in the manger.

As we enter into another year, let us keep and cherish this Treasure of Christmas in our hearts at all times and worship Him with awe and joy.