

The Beginning, the Word and God

So as to avoid living 2015 without being clear on what it is we are doing “here and now,” what it is we SHOULD be doing here and now: **at the beginning of this new year**, perhaps another of the twelve-month, 365-day experiences we are given to experience, let’s take some time and make some effort to consider **the beginning of all things**.

John 1:1-5 ESV In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

TWO THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT JESUS CHRIST FROM THE GOSPEL OF JOHN, here at the start of another year.

I. He was (and is) God.

John 1:1-3 ESV In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

Notice: “*in the beginning...*”: stated twice in the first two sentences.

“THE GENESIS ECHO.” (**Gen. 1:1** In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.)

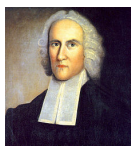
ALSO in **Genesis 1**: THE BIBLE’S FIRST INDICATION (HINT) OF “THE TRINITY”

Genesis 1:26 ESV Then God said, “**Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. ...**

So the Son of God was ‘already there’ with God in the beginning.

He is the Creator, NOT a created thing.

Here he is not called “the Son of God.” He is called “the Word.” **Q.#1 Why is Jesus Christ called “the Word”?**



Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758) from *An Unpublished Essay on the Trinity*

... as God with perfect clearness, fullness and strength, understands Himself ... that idea which God hath of Himself IS absolutely Himself. This representation of the Divine nature and essence IS the Divine nature and essence again ... Hereby there is another person begotten, there is another Infinite Eternal Almighty and most holy and the same God, the very same Divine nature. And this Person IS the second person in the Trinity, the Only Begotten and dearly Beloved Son of God; He IS the eternal, necessary, perfect, substantial and personal idea which God hath of Himself; and THAT it is so seems to me to be abundantly confirmed by the Word of God.

Who finds that confusing???



Matthew Henry (1662–1714)

The plainest reason why the Son of God is called the Word, seems to be, that as our words explain our minds to others, so was the Son of God sent in order to reveal his Father’s mind to the world. (As some sons do.)

SO THEN... **Q.#1 Why is Jesus Christ called “the Word”?**

A.#2 Because he was (and is) God.

As Christians, we either REVEAL ACCURATELY to people the nature of God and his mind and heart by revealing accurately the nature and the mind and heart of Christ, OR we MISREPRESENT CHRIST and so MISREPRESENT GOD. **THIS is why IT’S IMPORTANT FOR US to understand AS WELL AS WE CAN exactly who and what Jesus is.**



This might get us thinking about **Enzo Anselmo Ferrari** (1898- 1988)
He made great cars: e.g. the 1962 Ferrari 250 GTO [Just 39 of them!]



Signore Ferrari wouldn’t permit just anyone to own one of these cars.

“If you wanta owna one of my cars, you gonna first aska me if I gonna let you. And then I gonna tella you if you ARE or if you are NOTTA gonna owna one of my cars.”

NOT just anyone drives one of his cars. Only Signore Ferrari’s sort of car owner. To fail to represent him and what he stood for ACCURATELY is to MISrepresent him and what he stood for.

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Scripture references: HOLY BIBLE, **English Standard Version**, © 2001, CROSSWAY PUBLICATIONS

THERE IS ANOTHER REASON WHY IT'S REALLY IMPORTANT THAT WE KNOW WHO AND WHAT JESUS IS.

Colossians 1:16,17 ESV For **by him all things were created**, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all **things were created through him and for him**. And he is before all things, and **in him all things hold together**. Not only **the maker** BUT **the sustainer** of every created thing.

Hebrews 1:2,3 ESV ... his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, **through whom also he created the world**. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and **he upholds the universe by the word of his power**. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Word, is the person who holds everything together.

Now this brings us back to JOHN 1: **John 1:4,5** ESV In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

2. He was AND IS the one and only source of everything good and right and true.
John 1:4

John 17:1-3 ESV ... he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

To fail to know God and to know Jesus Christ is to miss out on life.

To remain in the dark. To live without goodness and righteousness and truth.

TWO THINGS TO DO ABOUT JESUS CHRIST FROM THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

a) Receive him (*that is*, "believe in his name")

John 1:11-13 ESV He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did **receive him**, who **believed in his name**, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

(Maybe the best way to understand this "*receiving and believing*" is to compare it to getting married: to the richest, wisest and most virtuous person in the world. At which time you might find yourself saying: "*THIS is the life. NOW I'm really living!*")

We begin this new year of Sundays focusing on the words of Jesus Christ, who is the WORD, from the Gospel of John.

From now until Easter. **John 20:30,31** ESV Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that **by believing you may have life in his name**.

John 1:4,5 ESV In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. This new life that is the result of receiving Christ "shines in the darkness." And the darkness is no match for it. So receiving the gift of life from Christ changes everything.

b) "Walk with him" (*that is*, live each day [of 2015], "one step at a time," with the goodness and righteousness and truth of God.

Ephesians 5:8-10 ESV ... at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord.

John 6:66-69 ESV After this **many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him**. So Jesus said to the Twelve, "Do you want to go away as well?" Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God."

John 1:4,5 ESV In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

So let us walk with him (*that is*, live each day [of 2015], "one step at a time," **with the goodness and righteousness and truth of God**.)--- and let us never stop walking with him --- every day of 2015, for example. And as the weeks of this new year begin to roll, you might find yourself saying: "*THIS is the life. NOW I'm really living!*"

NEXT SUNDAY: January 11, 2015. **John 1:14-18** (Jude St. John)

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DIGGING DEEPER

From the schedule of sermons in this new series, introduce yourself to (or re-acquaint yourself with) the particular words of Jesus Christ that we will be studying in Sermons 3-9. Take some notes on what you can see that the Lord is saying about himself. And pray that the Spirit of Christ will further enlighten us all as we study these words of Jesus Christ in these three months.

WLA Sunday Sermons			JANUARY 4 – MARCH 15, 2015
THE WORDS OF JESUS CHRIST, <i>According to John</i>			
Jan 4	1.	John 1: 1-5	Mike
Jan 11	2.	John 1:14-18	Jude
Jan 18	3.	John 6:35 <i>"I am the bread of life..."</i>	Mike
Jan 25	4.	John 8:12 <i>"I am the light of the world..."</i>	Jude
Feb 1	5.	John 10:9 <i>"I am the door..."</i>	Mike
Feb 15	6.	John 10:14,15 <i>"I am the good shepherd..."</i>	Jude
Mar 1	7.	John 11:25,26 <i>"I am the resurrection and the life"</i>	Jude
Mar 8	8.	John 14:6 <i>"I am the way, the truth and the life" ..."</i>	Mike
Mar 15	9.	John 15:5 <i>"I am the vine..."</i>	Jude

John 16:12,13 ESV

"I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak..."