

John 1:1-14 Christ Alone 6/10/18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through 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 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. ⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. ⁹ The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,¹³ who 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 became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

(Pastor prays)

I love this passage and so should you. Of all the beautiful and clear descriptions of Jesus in the Bible, this one is the most majestic in its language and glorious in its prose. Here in this passage all the hope and glory of Jesus shines at its brightest. Here is why we worship Jesus alone and trust Jesus alone. John 1 comforts me when I hurt, strengthens me when I'm weak and sobers me when I doubt. John 1 presses us to mission and pushes us to witness. Here in these few verses we find the reason behind our worship and the joy in our songs. Here, Jesus is identified in all His glory and majesty, in all His grace and truth.

John 1 tells us that Jesus is the unique son of God from all eternity. This is why we believe in Christ *alone*. By calling Jesus "the Word" in verse 1, John is stating that Jesus is active in creation, shown in revelation and singular in redemption, that there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.

Here, the Bible is clearly identifying Jesus as God. Here is King Jesus. He is eternal, sapient, and equal with God. He is the creator of all things, giver of all life and the true light that enlightens every man. He was prophesied and predicted. He was shunned and

rejected. He is the unknown knowledge-giver who's full of grace and truth. In this gospel, John will call Jesus the word, light, and life. He will call him son of man, son of God and lamb of God. He is telling us that Jesus is the long-awaited Messiah, the true king of Israel and the only real Savior.

The sermon today has one aim and one aim only – to show you that *Christ Alone* is worth your affection and love, your time and devotion. He is here to burn away the trifling trashy things that are keeping you down. He is the last Adam who came to redeem you from the pit and restore the image of God in you. And I want you to see that you can have joy by God's grace *alone* through faith *alone*. Today is Christ Alone.

Christ Alone Is Worthy of Your Life

This morning I'm going to do what I always do. That is opening the Bible, reading it and then telling you what this means for God's people. But I just want to tell you as I preach that this is not some sort of scientific experiment. I'm not just reading to you from a book. I know this *personally*. In fact, my two points I'm going to say personally because this is what they mean to *me*. Number one:

Christ Is My Anchor When Life is Storm-Tossed

That's when you feel it the most, the anchor, I mean. You need grounding. Notice what John is doing in verse 1. When you read it you see that John 1 sounds just like Genesis 1. The first three words of John are identical to the first three words of Genesis. He does this on purpose, telling us that before there was any time or matter or stars in heaven, there was the word, Jesus Christ the Son of God. In this one verse John is making several important affirmations about Jesus, affirmations that are important for our everyday life.

He Is Eternal.

Verse 1 – *In the beginning was the Word*. However far back you set the beginning of things, Christ was there before that. He was there before your marriage, before your children, before your parents. The uncreated self-sustaining Savior, the rock that is Christ is the rock that always has been. It's the rock you can stand on. He is eternal. His love is infinite, His forgiveness is bottomless, and His grace has no end.

He Is Unique.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God. Pros Con????? Theon. He was facing God. The idea is of two distinct persons looking toward one another. What does that do for us doctrinally? It means that we are a trinitarian people believing in one God in three distinct persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. God the Father planned salvation. God the Son accomplishes it. And God the Spirit applies salvation when we pray. We pray to God the Father on the merits of God the Son in the power of God the Spirit. God the Father adopts us through Jesus the Son and we are sealed by the Holy Spirit. Our triune God saves, sanctifies and seals us through the eternal work of Jesus the Son, slain before the foundation of the world, and because of this, Jesus is utterly unique, comprehensively unique, astoundingly unique and worthy of all praise. He is eternal. He is unique.

He Is God.

Look again at verse 1. *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.* Here is where we depart from every other monotheistic religion in the world. Judaism. Islam. All true churches worship Jesus as God and, if not, then it's not really a Christian church.

I spent two weeks in Mozambique, a mostly Muslim country, and this is the stumbling block. Jesus is God and when you get to know Jesus in His sinless life, death on the cross and resurrection – when you believe that about Jesus— then you get to know God. All of this to say it is vital that we anchor our lives into the deep rock that is Christ. When I understand that He is eternal, that however far back I go in my history, there He is forgiving my past, erasing my shame and healing my wounds, then I can handle what I'm in today.

He is eternal. That means that however far I can look into the future, He is there to bless me in good times and sustain me in the bad times and to discipline me and teach me in the hard times. He is eternal. That means I can stand here in the now and deal with it, whatever “it” is, in a way that honors Jesus.

He is unique. That is to say that the one I believe in, the Jesus of the Bible, He's not just a prophet. He's prophet, priest and King. He has all the qualities of God because He is God. He is omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent and eternal. He is immutable, sovereign, glorious, and the soon-coming King. He not only has the attributes of God, He can do what God can do.

He creates all things, sustains all things, and in Him all things hold together. He heals sickness, removes shame, forgive sin, redeems the past, protects the future and raises the dead. And He's worthy of our worship. John tells us that He fulfilled all the prophecies, completed all the types and answers all the questions. He is the lamb of God, the ladder from heaven to earth, the new temple and the new birth. He is the serpent lifted up in the desert by Moses and the bread that came down out of heaven from God. All of these things point to an important doctrinal truth. He is unique and He is God and I can anchor my life in Christ when my life is storm-tossed. He is my anchor.

Christ Is My Hope When Things Seem Hopeless

When you read verses 3-4, you are reminded of the all-encompassing magnitude of the Jesus we believe in. Lets read verse three. *All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.*

Now think of that for a minute. Anything that fits in the category of "made" belongs to Jesus. This is a theme that runs throughout the New Testament. Paul picks up this theme in Colossians 1:16-17. *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. ¹⁷ And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.*

Do you see what the New Testament writers are doing? They are telling us to get our eyes *up* and to actually see who our Savior is. The writer of Hebrews tells us in Hebrews 1:3, *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.*

Abraham Kuyper said, "There is not one square inch of the entire creation about which Jesus Christ does not cry out – "This is mine; this belongs to me." You see your Savior is

your maker, and if you reject Jesus then you reject God. He is our creator and our hope. Verse 4 tells us, *In him was life, and the life was the light of men.*

Think about it with me for a moment. The bare essentials of human life are light (the sun) air, water, and food. John tells us the Jesus gives us the essentials for life. John 3 says Jesus is the *breath* of life, John 4 says He is the *g* of life. John six calls Jesus the *bread* of life. John 8 says He is the *light* of life. And in John 14:6, Jesus says, “*I am the way, the truth and the life and no one comes to the Father except through me.*” And it is Christ alone who is worth your life. The things and people you have trusted for hope and happiness have continuously let you down, and today one and only one stands ready to receive you, to forgive you and redeem you. Grace alone. Faith alone. Christ Alone.

The Bible teaches us that God is good and holy and created everything including mankind, all of us in this room. You were created in the image of God. That image of God within you and me has been disfigured by our own sin to the degree that we are separated from God.

Jesus Christ, who was fully man and is fully God, lived perfectly, earning righteousness that you and I can't do. Then Jesus took the wrath of God in the place of sinners. The wages of sin is death, and Jesus died on the cross for us. Then God raised Him from the dead, He ascended into heaven, and He sits at the right hand of God and rules the entire universe.

We can never *work* our way to Heaven but the work of *righteousness* has been done in Christ. The work of *salvation* has been done in Christ, so what is left for you is to *believe*.

To believe means turning from sin, knowing that it is wrong, and turning to Christ, believing that Jesus saves.

(Pastor explains The Lord's Supper and prays)