***"The Word was made flesh"***

***John 1:14***

Pastor Michael Lynn / West Hampden Baptist Church

*December 19, 2021 a.m.*

Introduction: John wrote this Gospel in order to lead people to a personal belief in Jesus, the Messiah, Who is the Son of God. He states this purpose in John 20:31, *"But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; & that believing ye might have life through His name."* John goes back to the beginning as he opens his book, strikingly similar to Genesis1:1, as he declares, *"In the beginning was the Word, & the Word was with God, & the Word was God."* In verse 14 is John's account of the birth of Christ, which is quite different than that of Matthew & Luke (no genealogy in John). John emphasizes the prior existence of Christ, as he states, *"And the Word was made flesh...".* This necessarily implies that Christ existed before, as already stated in verse one. As we celebrate Christ's birth this season, might we look at that event through John’s eyes. Note with me here in this verse 3 things: (1) the incarnation of Jesus Christ, (2) the manifestation of Jesus Christ, & (3) the revelation of Jesus Christ.

I. The **Incarnation** of Jesus Christ - *"And the Word was made flesh..."*

A. The *"Word"* defined (1:1-3)

1. The personal existence of the Word:

a. *"Was the Word"* - He is the eternal wisdom & will of God as well as the express image of

God's purpose -- "...the *"Word"* points to the truth that it is of the very nature of God to

reveal Himself. A man's word is the means whereby he reveals what he is thinking"

(Morris).

b. *"Was with God"* - He is a separate person in the Godhead; *"with"* speaks of both

accompaniment & relationship.

c. *"Was God"* - He is God. -- "The Word does not by Himself make up the entire Godhead;

nevertheless the divinity that belongs to the rest of the Godhead also belongs to Him”

(Tasker).

Note: Compare & contrast the 2 Greek words for *"was"* - see John 8:58.

2. The eternal existence of the Word:

a. *"In the beginning"* - when the world began (Genesis 1:1), the Word was already in

existence.

b. The world was *from* the beginning (*“was made”* > “came into being”).

c. The Word was *in* the beginning (cf. Psalm 90:2).

B. The *"Word"* described (:3 & 14)

1. As Creator (:3) & see :10.

a. Colossians 1:16-17 b. Hebrews 1:2 c. Isaiah 40:12, 28 & 41:4

2. As Carnate ("flesh") (:14).

a. "Incarnation" - (1) endowment with a human body; appearing in human form;

(2) Theol. - the taking on of human form & nature by Jesus conceived of as the

Son of God (Webster).

b. *"Made flesh"* - "...a strong, almost a crude way of referring to human nature” (Morris).

Literally, “became flesh” – taking on humanity (see Hebrews 2:14-18).

c. Flesh speaks of mortal man, frail & transient: Isaiah 40:6, *"...is as grass."*

Summary: “This reality is surely the most profound ever because it indicates that the Infinite

became finite; the Eternal was conformed to time; the Invisible became visible; the Super-

natural One reduced Himself to the natural. In the incarnation, however, the Word did not

cease to be God but became God in human flesh; i.e., undiminished deity in human form as a

man (I Tim. 3:16)” (MacArthur).

II. The **Manifestation** of Jesus Christ - *"dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory…"*

*"Dwelt"* – “to pitch one's tent” or “to tabernacle” -- 2 applications: His temporary sojourn &

His “tabernacled” presence (cf. God's divine presence in the O.T. tabernacle & temple).

A. He was beheld (cf. I John 1:1-3, seen with physical eyes, not a vision):

1. The *"glory"* of Christ was seen in His lowliness, to live & suffer for men, His miracles

& in His suffering the cross of shame (cf. John 12:23ff, & 13:31). "The sun is still the

fountain of light, though eclipsed or clouded; so Christ was still the brightness of His

Father's glory, even when He dwelt among us in this lower world" (Henry).

2. "For though the glory of Christ could have been seen by all, it was unknown to the most

because of their blindness... It (the majesty of God) was indeed hidden under the lowliness

of the flesh, yet so that it still sent forth its glory" (Calvin). Compare II Cor. 4:4.

B. He was begotten – “only, unique, one of a kind”:

1. The only Son of God by nature; we are sons of God by regeneration (1:12).

"No other is or can be the Son of God as He is" (Morris).

2. "...as the Son of God He was the sole representative of the Being & character of the One

Who sent Him... the word *"begotten"* in the sense of unoriginated relationship” (Vine).

He possesses all the attributes of the Godhead; eternality is one of them.

III. The **Revelation** of Jesus Christ - *"full of grace & truth"*

A. The Source of grace & truth (cf. Exodus 33:18, 19 & 34:5-7):

1. *"Grace"* – “that which causes joy;” good-will, kindness, "undeserved favor."

a. "In the Christian understanding of things grace is especially seen in that God has pro-

vided for man's spiritual need in sending His Son to be man's Savior."

b. Compare & contrast mercy with grace.

2. *"Truth"* - used 25 times in John's Gospel.

Truth is (1) the opposite of falsehood, & (2) closely linked with Jesus, 14:6.

a. Truth cannot be fully known apart from God.

b. Truth is required of men by God. See Psalm 51:6, *"Behold, Thou desirest truth in the*

*inward parts..."* & John 3:21, *"But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds*

*may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God."*

B. The Supplier of grace & truth:

1. John 1:16 - "God's grace to His people is continuous & is never exhausted. Grace knows no

interruption & no limit... Grace means an ever deepening experience of the presence & bless-

ing of God" (Morris).

a. Ephesians 2:8-9, *"For by grace are ye saved, through faith..."*

b. I Corinthians 15:10, *“But by the grace of God I am what I am: & His grace which was*

*bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all: yet not I,*

*but the grace of God which was with me.”* (saving, sustaining, serving grace?)

2. John 8:32, *"And ye shall know the truth, & the truth shall make you free."*

a. The Guide to truth - John 16:13, *"...the Spirit of truth, is come, He will..."*

b. The Gospel of truth - Colossians 1:5, *"...word of the truth of the gospel."*

Conclusion: What comes to your mind as you reflect upon the Christmas story? Can you fathom the mystery of the great Creator becoming your Savior? It is significant that John presents Christ as *“the* *Word.”* A word is the expression of someone seeking to communicate with another. “The Word, Jesus Christ, is God’s expression (revelation) to mankind. A word presupposes a response” (Custer). What is your response to the *“Word of God”*? Is your response one of faith (John 3:15-16) & obedience? Have you experienced the grace of God when confronted with the truth of God? Have you repented of your sins & by faith trusted in Christ as your only hope of salvation? If not, why not call upon Him today to save your soul, & receive life's greatest gift?