

John 1: 1-4
Park Community Church
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John 1:1-4

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.

The author answers this one great question...Who Jesus is???

A Prelude to the Question...

- We have deep inside of us...a desire to know where we have come from? Why this world exists? What will our end be? These are the questions of our human existence
- The fact that we ask such questions makes us different from everything else in this life...

"It's like in the great stories Mr. Frodo, the ones that really mattered. Full of darkness and danger they were, and sometimes you didn't want to know the end because how could the end be happy? How could the world go back to the way it was when so much bad had happened? But in the end it's only a passing thing this shadow, even darkness must pass. A new day will come, and when the sun shines it'll shine out the clearer. Those were the stories that stayed with you, that meant something even if you were too small to understand why. But I think Mr. Frodo, I do understand, I know now folk in those stories had lots of chances of turning back, only they didn't. They kept going because they were holding on to something...That there's some good in the world, Mr. Frodo, and it's worth fighting for." Sam Wise Gamgee

There are truths, that are beyond us, transcendent truths, about beauty, truth, honor, etc. There are truths that man knows exist, but they cannot be seen - they are immaterial, but no less real, to us. It is only through the language of myth that we can speak of these truths. J. R. R. Tolkien

According to John...Jesus is these 3 things...

He is...In the Beginning...He is "Eternal".

- A parallel to the beginning of the Hebrew Scriptures...
 - o *"In the beginning was the Word." The words "in the beginning" are identical in Greek to the first two words in the Greek Old Testament: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." That's not an*

accident, because the first thing John is going to tell us about what Jesus did is that he created the universe. That's what he says in verse 3. So the words "in the beginning" mean: Before there was any created matter, there was the Word, the Son of God.

- No Birth Narrative...
 - There is no birth moment in John which is important...he is endeavoring to make us aware that the incarnation is not about Jesus Christ being born into a new place...it is a transformation or rather a revelation of Jesus into a form that we could grasp...this is the great grace of the incarnation...the Incarnation is the grace of God revealed to us...a people who were not aware of our need for God.
 - *The mystery of Christ, that He sunk Himself into our flesh, is beyond all human understanding...Martin Luther*
- *John 20:31- "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.*
- *Jude 1:24-25 "Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, **before all time and now and forever.** Amen.*
- *2 Timothy 1:8-10- "Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, **which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel,***

He is...The Word... He is Relational...He is "With"

- *Why did he choose to call Jesus "the Word"?*
- *"Or to put it more simply: What God had to say to us was not only or mainly what Jesus said, but who Jesus was and what he did. His words clarified himself and his work. But his self and his work were the main truth God was revealing. "I am the truth," Jesus said (**John 14:6**)."* John Piper
- *"I like good strong words that mean something." Louisa May Alcott in Little Women*

This "Word" ...

- "Was with God"
- "Was God"
- "All things made through him"

Proverbs 8:22-31 ESV

*"The LORD possessed me at the beginning of his work,
the first of his acts of old.
Ages ago I was set up,
at the first, before the beginning of the earth.
When there were no depths I was brought forth,
when there were no springs abounding with water.
Before the mountains had been shaped,
before the hills, I was brought forth,
before he had made the earth with its fields,
or the first of the dust of the world.
When he established the heavens, I was there;
when he drew a circle on the face of the deep,
when he made firm the skies above,
when he established the fountains of the deep,
when he assigned to the sea its limit,
so that the waters might not transgress his command,
when he marked out the foundations of the earth,
then I was beside him, like a master workman,
and I was daily his delight,
rejoicing before him always,
rejoicing in his inhabited world
and delighting in the children of man.*

He is "The Life" ...He is Gracious...He is "Love"

- "In him was life"
- "That life was light to us"
- How do we define life???
 - This is an impersonal life...
 - *"Science can teach us, and I think our hearts can teach us, no longer to look around for imaginary supporters, no longer to invent allies in the sky, but rather to look to our own efforts here below to make the world a fit place to live" – Bertrand Russell, Why I Am Not a Christian & Other Essays on Religion & Related Subjects*
 - This is a universal life...
 - *The way is not in the sky. The way is in the heart. Buddha*

- *The whole secret of existence is to have no fear. Never fear what will become of you, depend on no one. Only the moment you reject all help are you freed. Buddha*
- This is an eternal life...
 - Life is ultimately understood as inherently relational...we are made from love...by love...for love.

*“Batter my heart, three-person’d God ; for you
As yet but knock ; breathe, shine, and seek to mend ;
That I may rise, and stand, o’erthrow me, and bend
Your force, to break, blow, burn, and make me new.
I, like an usurp’d town, to another due,
Labour to admit you, but O, to no end.
Reason, your viceroy in me, me should defend,
But is captived, and proves weak or untrue.
Yet dearly I love you, and would be loved fain,
But am betroth’d unto your enemy ;
Divorce me, untie, or break that knot again,
Take me to you, imprison me, for I,
Except you enthrall me, never shall be free,
Nor ever chaste, except you ravish me.”*

— *John Donne*

John 14:1-7 ESV *“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”*