

The Book of John - 5

Introduction: We have arrived at the place where the narrative concerning the book of John begins.

I. Prologue - The Revelation of the Word 1:1-14

A. The Word vs. 1-5, 9-14

1. The **eternality** of the Word. vs. 1a
2. The **co-existence** of the Word. vs. 1b-2
3. The **deity** of the Word. vs. 1c
4. The **Creator God**: the Word. v3
5. The Word is **life** and **the Light**. v4-9
6. The Word was **not recognized by the World**. v10
7. The Word was **rejected by His own**. v11
8. The Word is **received by some**. v12-13

We have moved from **the inconceivable** in contemplating our Lord and Savior, the Word, to a direct presentation of the Gospel.

Verse 5 declares for us the dividing line for all of men.

The Bible says, *“And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.”* **John 1:5**

The fundamental idea of this verse is that the darkness **did not receive or apprehend the light**.

It is the same truth that we find in **John 3:19, 20** *“19 And this is the condemnation, that **light is come into the world**, and **men loved darkness rather than light**, because their deeds were evil. 20 For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov’d.”*

The Lord spoke about this dividing line in **John 5:38-40** where He states, *“And ye have not his word abiding in you: for whom he hath sent, him ye believe not. Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. **And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.**”*

The message in the book of John comes with this question at every turn, **will you believe Him?**

As John introduces the sum of this Gospel record, He declares that there are only two responses to be taken.

And so, as we saw last week, **verse 10** tells us, *“the world knew him not.”*

But then it progresses even further, “his own received him not.” v11

The world did not receive Him; His own covenant people did not receive...the situation is bleak.

But lest we should think that all hope is gone, we find this wonderful truth concerning the Gospel.

Verse 12 tells us, *“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.”*

The Gospel is **available to all**. This is evident by the words stated at the beginning, *“as many as received him...”*

It is by the grace of God, through faith, that we enter into Salvation. (**Ephesians 2:8-9**)

The opposite of this is found in man’s religion which carnally assumes we can work to appease God somehow and erase the debt that we owe because of our sin. If Salvation is by God’s grace, then it cannot be by works. (Romans 11:6)

We see further in this verse that **the authority** or right (that word translated as power) to become the sons of God comes by belief *“on his name...”*

We understand from this verse that **when we believe on His name, we are receiving the Lord Jesus Christ.**

AW Pink - “Believing respects Christ as He is exhibited by the Gospel testimony; it is personal acceptance of what God has said concerning His Son. Receiving views Christ as presented to us as God’s Gift, presented for our acceptance.”

John Philips - “It is not enough to believe that Jesus is a Savior, not enough to believe that Jesus is the Savior. **He must become my Savior.**”

1. We **believe in who the Lord Jesus Christ is.**

He is **the True Light.**

He is **the Lamb of God.**

He is **Immanuel, God with us.**

He is **the only begotten Son of God (uniquely the Son of God).**

He is **the Savior....and He is my Savior.**

2. We believe His words.

He did not just come to display a perfect man, though He is the perfect man, but He came to die for me.

He is fully God and fully man.

He states, *"I and my father are one."* (John 10:30)

He states, *"...Before Abraham was, I am."* (John 8:58)

He states, *"...I am the Bread of Life."* (John 6:35)

3. We believe His works.

John 14:9-11 *"9 Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father? 10 Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works. 11 Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: **or else believe me for the very works' sake.**"*

Just as the Bible has declared **man's responsibility** in their response to the True Light, we have a verse here that shows us the operation of God in saving us. This is demonstrated by three great negative statements and one great positive statement.

v13 *"Which **were born**, (1) not of blood, (2) nor of the will of the flesh, (3) nor of the will of man, **but of God.**"*

The great verbs in **verse 12** are *believe, receive, and become*. But here we see the result...We are born of God.

The first negative statement shows us that **human descent** does not turn us into a child of God.

John 8:39-40 *"39 They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham. 40 But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham."*

You have probably heard the same being stated by others today. It may go something like this, "My dad is or was a preacher."

"My grandfather took me to church every day when I was younger.

The second negative statement shows us that **human desire** does not turn us into a child of God.

No amount of wishful thinking will make someone a child of God.

John Philips said it this way, "I might wish I were the child of a millionaire but that does not make me one."

The operation of being born again is something that only God can do.

Titus 3:5 states, *"5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;"*

The third negative statement shows us that **human design** does not turn us into a child of God.

The Lord Jesus Christ made this clear when He stated to Nicodemus in John 3:5-6 that the new birth is dependent upon the Holy Spirit of God.

*"5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water **and of the Spirit**, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of **the flesh is flesh**; and **that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.**"*

It is a spiritual birth that is required to be a child of God and that birth is "(1)not of blood, (2)nor of the will of the flesh, (3)nor of the will of man, **but of God.**"

10. The Word was _____

*v14 **And the Word was made flesh**, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth."*

There are, in total, four positive statements which we can look see packed in this one verse.

This first is the mystery of the ages. The fact that God became man without ceasing to be God. The Bible tells us that *"the Word was made flesh..."*

In Luke 1:35 the Bible says, *"35 And the angel answered and said unto her (Mary), The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God."*

John Philips - "The birth of the Lord Jesus was unique. When any other child is born into this world, it is the creation of a new personality...But when Jesus was born, it was not the creation of a new personality at all. It was the coming into this world of a person who had existed from all eternity. This was something new in the history of the universe. No wonder the angels awoke slumbering echoes of the Judean hills that night with their anthems of praise."

I think **Matthew 1:23** describes it best, "*23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, **God with us.***"

The Word became flesh...incarnate, which means robed in flesh...

Galatians 4:4-5 "*4 But when the fulness of the time was come, **God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,** 5 To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.*"

The next salient truth that we find is that not only was the Word made flesh, but the Bible says,

"...and dwelt among us..."

In the Old Testament, the Lord Jesus Christ was declared prophetically, that is, by prophecy, but He was also proclaimed typically.

Here in our text, John uses the term σκηνόω skenoo ('dwelt'), which simply means to take up residence or to live with. The idea is that the Word, by His incarnation tabernacled with us.

And this idea is borne out in the Scriptures when we read about the Tabernacle that Moses set up in the wilderness.

From the outward appearance, the Tabernacle was nothing remarkable, for the covering was basic like most tents and whitewashed by the sun. "The only flash of color was at the gate which gave access to the brazen altar and hinted to the hidden beauties within." - John Philips

When the tabernacle moved all of the beautiful golden furniture was carefully covered from eyesight from place to place. "...thus, the glory of the Lord Jesus was hidden glory. When he came to "pitch his tent" among us he did not lay aside his deity, but he veiled his glory..." (John Philips)