

Message One

CHRIST—THE ETERNAL WORD OF GOD

Scripture Reading: John 1:1-3, 14; Heb. 1:2; Rev. 19:13

- I. Christ is the eternal Word; the Word is self-existing, without beginning—John 1:1-2; cf. Heb. 7:3:**
- A. John 1:1 says that the Word was in the beginning; this reveals that the Word is eternal.
 - B. The Word is Christ as the definition, explanation, and expression of God—John 1:1, 14.
 - C. The Word was always with God and always had God in Him; He was never separate from God.
 - D. Christ's deity is eternal and absolute, from eternity past to eternity future; He is with God, and He is God—Heb. 1:8, 11.
- II. The creation came into being through the Word—John 1:3; cf. Heb. 1:2:**
- A. In God's creation there was no labor, only speaking—Psa. 33:6, 9:
 - 1. Through Christ as the Word all things came into being— Gen. 1:3, 6, 9, 14, 20, 24, 26.
 - 2. Apart from Christ as the Word nothing has existence—John 1:3; Col. 1:16.
 - B. The principle is the same in the new creation—through the Word all things come into being—cf. 2 Cor. 4:6-7:
 - 1. Although we are men of the old creation, the Bible tells us that we must become men of the new creation—2 Cor. 5:17.
 - 2. According to our human concept, this type of change requires a great deal of work; however, it does not require very much work at all; it is accomplished through the Word, which is Christ—Rom. 10:8-9; cf. 1 Pet. 1:23; 2:2; Eph. 5:26.
 - 3. This should strengthen and confirm our faith; whenever we take the Word, something not being comes into being—cf. Rom. 4:17.
- III. Life is in the Word; when we receive the Word, we receive the life within it—John 1:4.**
- IV. The very Christ who was the Word was incarnated for our enjoyment—vv. 14, 16-17:**
- A. As the Word before His incarnation, Christ was mysterious; however, when He was incarnated, He became so real to us.
 - B. Before His incarnation, He was intangible, invisible, and untouchable; by becoming flesh, He became solid, real, visible, and touchable—cf. 1 John 1:1.
 - C. When the Word became visible and touchable, He was full of grace and reality—John 1:14b:
 - 1. Grace is God enjoyed by man; when Christ was in the flesh with the disciples, they not only saw and touched Him, but they also enjoyed Him—v. 16.
 - 2. Grace is God enjoyed by man, and reality is God realized by man in that enjoyment—v. 17.

Focus: *Christ as God's eternal Word expresses God, causes us to be His new creation, and becomes real to us in incarnation as grace and reality.*