

## “Understanding Who Jesus is”

John 1:1-5

Sunday, January 21, 2018

**Introduction:** There are four books in the Bible called the Gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. The reason they are called “Gospels” is because they tell the good news of Jesus’ atoning work.

- The word “Gospel” means the unveiling of God’s righteousness which is good news.
- The gospel is not that all are saved because Jesus died for them.
- The gospel is the good news that Jesus died in our place and that by hearing of His sacrifice we may believe and be saved.
- When we preach the gospel, we are declaring two things simultaneously.
  1. God is angry with sin.
  2. God’s anger has been appeased by Jesus Christ death on the cross.

Matthew, Mark and Luke are called the synoptic gospels because they give a synopsis (a general summary) of the life of Jesus. The word *synoptic* comes from two Greek words which mean to see together. The gospel of John is different.

- No genealogy is given.
- No birth account is given.
- No boyhood years is given.
- No description of Jesus' baptism is given.
- No mention of Jesus' temptations is given.
- No mention of the transfiguration is given.
- Nothing about the Lord's Supper is given.
- No Gethsemane is mentioned.
- No ascension is given.

Most of what John records is omitted in the synoptics. The big thing in John is that the visible Jesus we see shows us the invisible God.

**Text:** John 1:1-5

**T.S.** What do we learn from these verses?

## **1. We learn that Jesus is God (1:1-2).**

- “In the beginning” refers to eternity past.
- Some interpreters translate “In the beginning” as “Before there was a beginning the Word had been.”
- It is like a repetition of Genesis 1:1 which refers to eternity past.
- In 1 John 1:1 we read, “That which was from the beginning” which refers to the beginning of gospel preaching when people first heard about Jesus.
- John called Jesus “the Word” rather than some other name.
- A word is a unit of speech by which we express ourselves to others. But John is not writing about speech. John is writing about a person. That person is the Lord Jesus Christ.
- God fully expressed Himself to mankind in the person of Jesus Christ (Hebrews 1:1-2).
- John says that the Word was “with God.” The Greek word is “pros” which means literally “toward” implying face-to-face relationship.
- John said, “The Word was God.”

**Application:** Jesus is the visible part of the Father. Jesus is God.

**Illustration:** Jesus said, “I and My Father are one” (John 10:30). Jesus said, “He who has seen Me has seen the Father” (John 14:9).

**Illustration:** That Jesus lived on earth is not questioned. What is questioned is that He is God.

## **2. We learn that Jesus is the creator (1:3).**

- Notice in verse three that it is stated two times.
- Jesus was not created; rather Jesus participated in creation (Colossians 1:16).

**Illustration:** Those who only believe in a “historical Jesus” which refers to His thirty-three years on earth do not understand that Jesus’ life had no beginning and will have no end.

## **3. We learn that Jesus is life (1:4).**

- The word “life” appears thirty-six times in the Gospel of John.
- Life is the central theme of the Gospel of John.
- The Greek word is “zoe.”

- Zoe means “God’s kind of life.” Life that is supernatural, overflowing, abundant, overcoming, different, and eternal.
- This is the life that is in Him and this life is light.

**Application:** When we become believers, His life is transferred into us and it produces light.

#### **4. We learn that Jesus is the life changer (1:5).**

- Jesus transfers His life into you and your life becomes light that shines regardless of the darkness you encounter.
- His life produces light.

**Application:** You have His life in you to “overcome” whatever darkness and disappointment that you encounter.

**Illustration:** People try endless things to overcome life’s difficulties and disappointments. Some are sinful and some are not. In the end, none of them work. The only life changer that works to overcome darkness in your life is Jesus.

**Conclusion:** The song many of us learned in church as children was “This little light of mine.” I still remember the song.

“This little light of mine I’m going to let it shine, this little light of mine I’m going to let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.”

**Invitation:** Do you have Jesus in you? You can’t have a light that shines without the light being in you. Is there a decision this morning that you can make that will let His light shine from you?