

“The Meat of the Matter”

John 1:1-18

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“...In spite of its poetic ring, the reader should be forewarned that this Prologue is one of the most complex theological statements in the Bible. An entire seminary semester’s course could be taught on these eighteen verses. Study of this text takes time, but those who ponder these magnificent words will learn that God will reward His children who diligently and prayerfully seek for understanding.”

~ Gerald L. Borchert

Below is part of a quiz given by Thayer S. Warshaw in 1964 to high school students. See if you can fill in the blanks.

“They shall beat their swords into _____.”

“Many are called, but few are _____.”

“The truth shall make you _____.”

“Pride goeth before _____.”

“The love of money is _____.”

The apostle John wrote his account of Jesus’ life to reveal the identity of Jesus so that we might respond in belief.

In John 1:1-18, there are four reasons to believe that Jesus Christ is God:

I. Jesus Christ is eternal; He has no beginning and He will have no end.

John 1:1-2 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God.”

John is telling us, the Jesus who he is going to tell us about had a story that preexisted His birth.

II. Jesus Christ is the Creator; all things were made by Him.

John 1:3 “All things were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made.”

John exposes that the God of the Bible acts, and the act is a work of creation of what we can see and touch.

Colossians 1:15-17 “He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷ And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.”

III. Jesus Christ is the Source of life so what you do with Him has implications for your life and death.

John 1:4-13 “In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. ⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness, to bear witness about the Light, that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the Light, but came to bear witness about the Light. ⁹ The true Light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world did not know Him. ¹¹ He came to His own, and His own people did not receive Him. ¹² But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.”

Darkness stands no chance with Jesus. His presence ultimately drives it away.

IV. Jesus Christ, though completely human, fully reveals the Father.

John 1:14-18 “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John bore witness about Him, and cried out, ‘This was He of whom I said, “He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.”’) ¹⁶ For from His fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, He has made Him known.”

A. He can be known

Christianity stands apart from the world religions. Jesus is not “a son of God” or “a prophet.” The claim which is pivotal to all of His defeat of sin is that Jesus is God. God can actually be known. Looking at Jesus, we are invited to come near and see that God comes for us and invites us to know Him.

John 8:24 “...unless you believe that I am He you will die in your sins.”

John 8:58 “Jesus said to them, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.’”

B. Jesus invites you to know Him

Knowing Him involves seeing that God's final word to you is Jesus. He is your only hope for forgiveness and right standing before Almighty God.

John 20:30-31 “Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ 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.”