

Series: Life to the Full; Sermon: **Jesus is the Word**

Delivered by: **Dr. Josh Moody**, senior pastor; Date: **August 20, 2017**

Bible text explored: John 1:1–18

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

⁹The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹²But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And 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.’”) ¹⁶For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known. [ESV]

Review and application:

This prologue sets the stage for John's dramatic presentation of God's Chosen One (1:34).

1. What (vv. 6-8) was John the Baptist's assigned role?

In a society that honored age (v. 15), how did John make clear that although he was physically older than Jesus, yet Jesus outranked him? (See *Lev. 19:32*.)

2. How (vv. 1-3) does this prologue link John's Gospel to eternity past? (See *Gen. 1:1-4*.)

How was the *Logos* (Greek for “word”) seen as coming from God and possessing his personality? (See *Ps. 33:6; Prov. 8:22-31*.)

Trinity isn't a word that appears in Scripture. But how does this prologue affirm . . .

. . . that Jesus is distinct from the Father?

. . . that Jesus is God in the fullest sense?

3. What two crucial properties (vv. 4-5, 9) are made available to humankind “in him”?

How does this “life to the full” contrast with what Pastor Moody called “the walking dead performing the functions of life without the inner power”?

In what ways does darkness attempt to extinguish the light?

How has God's Spirit provided preservers of light throughout history?

4. Pastor Josh mentioned three common ways people seek meaning in life: mysticism, materialism, and pragmatism. Why does each of these come up short?

How (vv. 10-13) do we obtain the life described here?

5. How (vv. 14, 16-18) was God's glory revealed when God dwelt (pitched his tent) among his people under the Old Testament covenant? (See *Exod. 40:34-35*.)

How was that glory revealed—making God known—when the Word “became flesh”?

Do we relish our right as children of God to receive the fullness of . . .

. . . his grace (unfailing love)?

. . . his truth (faithfulness)?