

17/012/2023 - Carey Baptist Church 10.30am
John 1:1-18

Good morning & thanks for the reading. Let me add my welcome too.

Thanks for the invite to share the Word of God. Hope & pray that you & your loved ones are keeping safe and well by God's Grace.

Carol service! What a blessing to share the Word of God in this beautiful Sunday morning at the Carols at Carey Baptist Church.

1/ John's Gospel is unlike other books, has a very intimate relationship with Jesus. Only about 5 or 6 miracles written where we can't find them anywhere else in the Bible. And here he starts by saying "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning."

2/ You see, the scripture is very clear that our God is beyond the beginning. Our God existed in three in one and then came the beginning. Jesus existed before time, before the creation and before everything else. This proves that the Word is the creator.

3/ Who is this Word or the Logos in Greek? Matthew 1:21 says - "*You are to give HIM the name Jesus, because HE will save his people from their sins*". You see, it is all about **Jesus!**

4/ This clearly shows that the Word was Jesus and that HE is God incarnate.

5/ Then John goes on to say that "*Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made*".

Genesis 1: 26 states - Then God said, "*Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness*". Proves the point what John describes here that all things were made through our Lord Jesus.

6/ No other religion or belief could make this declaration of the relationship to God and to the creation, because that would not be the truth. Only Jesus could do that, because that's what HE was, and is and is to come.

7/ Jesus was there when things began. If I state it in another way, Jesus has been there before the beginning. HE himself says this in a later chapter of this Gospel, in John 17: 4-5 "*I have brought you glory on earth*

*by finishing the work you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you **before the world began.***

Here's another declaration later in the chapter in John 17: 24 *"Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me **before the creation of the world.**"*

Jesus clearly saying here that HE was with the Father before everything began.

8/ This could be mind-blowing and beyond our comprehension! But that's fine because it proves that HE is God and these are Godly things which mere humans would not understand. That is why we call HIM our God the Father. That's the nature of God. We saw the beautiful conversation between the Father and the Son in Genesis 1:26 talking about creating man in Their image, this was in Spirit of God and then creating everything from scratch. These are Godly things and that's why so many people murmur or question saying that they would not understand these things, yes, good for you that you don't understand, which shows that God is bigger than you could even imagine.

9/ In v4, he says that *"in HIM was life, and that life was the light of all mankind"*. Here's the answer to death. Are you afraid of the spiritual death? The eternal separation from God our loving Father? Then Jesus is the answer. John is talking about the "Life eternal". Here in the original text he is using the Greek work 'Zoe', which means life but much more than we know. It means the uncreated life which is only in Jesus.

10/ We humans walk in Spiritual darkness. And only Jesus can bring light to our lives. We heard today in one of the readings in Isaiah 9: 2 *"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned."*

11/ Here's something interesting, *"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it"*. Without knowing science, it's proof that the Holy Scripture is breathed by God the Holy Spirit. Because, what John says is so true that even today we could experiment that.

12/ You get into a dark room or switch-off the lights. Then in that pitch dark, light a candle or switch on the lights and the whole room is lit! And, think about this, could darkness do the same thing? What I mean is, could the darkness overcome the light, however dark it could be?

13/ The well learned theologians suggest that what the Word of God refers to as darkness is 144 times darker than what we experience today as darkness. Just imagine being in that darkness.

14/ But, we are no more in darkness. Why? Because the Light of the world is within us. "HE who lives in you is greater than the one who lives in the world." Jesus is the 'Light.

15/ Therefore, wherever you go, you brighten up the environment or people will notice the glow and glorify our Father in heaven. Why Father and not us? Because the light comes from God! It does not come from us. It's not of us, but it's of HIM. The Lord Jesus Christ.

In Matthew 5: 14-16 *"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."*

16/ We are called and commissioned to be the light of this dark world. We listen and read all about darkness these days, unfortunately. And we get frustrated which really leads to anger. Isn't that true? Aren't you angry with people or the organisations or the leaders that they are not doing what they should be doing?

17/ But we are not to be angry as man's anger will never let the light shine. It will do the opposite of extinguishing it. It will be like lighting a lamp and put it under a bowl.

18/ Therefore, in this beautiful season of Christmas, let's determine ourselves to shine the light. Let people see and notice the life that Jesus has deposited in you by HIS Holy Spirit. Scripture tells us to demonstrate the Gentleness and the meekness of Jesus Christ, by being humble and loving. Because we serve a merciful God who gave HIS life even when we were dead in our sins. So we fight our common enemy but loving our brethren who is created in the image of God.
Amen.