

Jesus, The Beginning  
John 1:1-3

The Book of John is one of the most favored books of the bible for preachers and teachers such as myself and for good reason. I'm convinced that the Holy Spirit designed it especially for the way that it presents the Person of the Lord Jesus to our human minds.

While yes, we do need all of the Books of the Bible for us to fully grasp all that God wants us to know about the Lord Jesus, the Book of John is special in that it presents Him and His Character and His Attributes in such an intimate and Personal manner that it causes us to want to know more, creating in us a special kind of "hunger and thirst" within our souls, much like the Psalmist David described when he cried out in Psalm 42,

<sup>1</sup> As the deer pants for the water brooks,  
So my soul pants for You, O God.

<sup>2</sup> My soul thirsts for God, for the living God (Psalm 42:1-2)

Folks, this very desire takes place within my own soul as I read and study this precious Book of John, and I hope that it will do the same for you.

Today, we'll begin our study of these truths given here in the Book of John first by reading the simple, but very profound first three verses of chapter 1 and then we'll talk about them. Listen as I read,

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup>Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. (John 1:1-3)

As simple and as straight forward as these first few words are, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning." It would seem that we should be able to grasp them without difficulty, and to some extent we can, but then again, for the most part we can't. We can't! And why is that?

It's because our minds do so need to be able to fit these thoughts and ideas into our usual manner of rational understanding before we can reasonably think through them and comprehend them.

But these Words here in John chapter 1 just aren't rational words and they won't fit into an order for common reasoning. Their meaning can't be comprehended with ordinary sensibilities.

They fit more within the category described later on in John chapter 6 verse 63 when Jesus said, "The words I have spoken to you are Spirit and they are Life."

These words that I just read for us are Spirit. And they are far more perceived by our spirit than understood by our rational mind. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning."

We know from sitting in our church pews all our many years that the "Word" spoken of here doesn't refer to just syllables uttered from the mouth of God, but they are instead speaking about the very living person of the Lord Jesus. And God confirmed that later for us in verse 14 by saying,

<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14)

But again, even these words are contrary to rational thought. A "Word" becoming flesh and dwelling among us", it just doesn't fit our rational senses.

To comprehend them better we need to go back another step in our understanding of exactly what these scriptures are telling us about the Lord Jesus.

These words tell us about a "beginning", a "beginning" long before Jesus' human birth, long before the "Word became flesh" a "beginning" even before the "beginning" spoken about in those first few verses of the Book of Genesis. Those words . . .

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup>The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. (Genesis 1:1-2)

Note simply that these words in the Book of Genesis speak about the creation of the heavens and the earth, but the words that we are studying here in the Book

of John speak first and simply about the presence of God, not creation. Those words again,

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was with God in the beginning. (John 1:1-2)

These words tell us a simple but profound story, a story about a “time”, actually before time as we know it even began. A “time” before the creation spoken about in Genesis chapter 1 actually took place, a “time before time”, a “time” when there was only God.

And here in this Book of John, we are being told that “God” was not only God the Father, but He was also God the “Word”. They were both there together in the beginning, One “God”, but separate from each other, “God the Word” and “God the Father”, two Individual Persons “with” each other.

And yes, this truth is so profound and so incomprehensible that our human minds can never fully grasp an understanding of it. But by “faith” and through the help of God’s Holy Spirit, we can trust that these words are true.

Here, simply put, we have God’s plainest explanation about the existence of the first two beings within the Holy Trinity, God the Father and God the Son. And then, graciously, He fills in the remaining part of the mysterious existence within the Trinity with verse 2 of Genesis chapter 1 when He tells us,

And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. (Genesis 1:2)

It was then that the creation of the heavens and the earth began. And here, in verse 3 of our passage in the Book of John, we’re told that this creation as we see it today was all created by this one “God” in the Trinity, the One who is called the “Word”, the Lord Jesus. Listen again,

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup>Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. (John 1:1-3)

We are being told here that Jesus, a man, a human being in our eyes, was first, back there in the beginning “God”, “God”. And as “God”, He was the “Voice of God”, “The spoken Word of God”, the fully divine revelation of God the

Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit who would there in the beginning simply by the power within His voice, speak all of creation into existence.

And no, that is not an easy explanation to understand of what God means here when He calls Jesus the “Word”. But dear Christian, to the best of our human understanding, that is exactly what God is saying to us.

And then to further complicate our meager ability to understand His Divine nature, we find here that Jesus was not only the “spoken Words and thoughts of God the Father”, He was also ever and always a separate person, somehow the same with the Father, but a completely separate Person.

These words clearly tell us here that He (Jesus) was in the beginning with the Father, “with the Father”. Separate yes, but yet He and the Father were “one”. Not just “one” in a figurative sense, like one in purpose, but literally “one”.

Folks, you and I have been believers for so long that we have forgotten just how complicated this can sound. And if it’s so complicated for you and me, how much more is it completely incomprehensible for the “unbelieving” mind. There is no wonder that the “wisdom of the wise of this world” can make no sense out of it.

That is why our Lord reminds us that such truth can only be discerned by the Holy Spirit who lives within those of us who have received Him as our Savior and Lord!

I recall some years ago as I watched news analysts interviewing some so-called religious experts about the movie, “The Passion of the Christ”. There was a silly and pathetic dialogue that passed between them. Men and women with PhD’s in religious studies who knew absolutely nothing about the God they were analyzing, thinking that they were sounding so intelligent and so believable with their wonderful words of wisdom flowing and dripping from their lips, but all the while, their explanations falling so pitifully short of real truth.

They didn’t realize that they looked more like little children who didn’t understand the rules of a game they were playing, as if a ball was bouncing all around them, but they didn’t know what to do with it, they didn’t know how to respond to it. So they just made up their own silly rules, looking so pathetic and foolish in the process.

But sadly, that same response can hold true for even some of those of us who believe. God is the creator and designer of all that we are, and He has defined all of the rules that govern it all. And if and as we try to redefine His plan and make up our own set of rules, we also can look, sound and act very, very foolish with our attempts.

Again, the main sticking point is that God's truths and His ways are not rational, they are Spirit.

Believers and unbelievers alike can easily go astray of God's plans and purposes if we aren't constantly aware of that. We will never be able to neatly fit God's rationale into our own. Our minds are simply too small.

I listened as those so-called religious experts tried to explain why Pilate acted the way that He did towards Jesus and towards the Jewish priests. And all of their explanations sounded so plausible to themselves and to anyone who wanted to think as they thought.

But folks, the only real truth lies in the simple words of scripture and in the plan that God had made with Jesus before the foundation of the earth was ever laid, the plan for the redemption of men and women through the shed blood of the Lord Jesus.

That's the only real truth and that truth doesn't fit very well into the rationale of human wisdom.

Jesus was a real man who came to this earth for the expressed purpose of dying on that cross and offering Himself as the propitiation for our sins. But He was also the God who from eons past had coexisted with God the Father in the eternal courts of the Trinity. He created the very ground that He would stumble and fall over as He carried His cross. He created Golgotha, the place of His death.

And yes, it's hard for even us who have been believers for so long to fathom such thoughts, that beaten and broken man, being the very creator of all that exists, but He was folks and He is.

It was and it is as simple as these words here in John 1 are saying, but do you and I truly and completely believe that it is all true? Listen again!

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup>Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and that life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. (John 1:1-5)

Your and my problem begins when we wander over into the “need” for rationale. Hanging around in “Christian academic circles”, I have heard it said often that, “God wants you and me to love Him with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength, with special emphasis on the “mind’”, to love God with all of our mind.

And that is true. The rational mind is an important vessel of God. But I find that the academic approach to explaining God and His ways often spends more time attempting to disprove His “Word” than to appreciate it.

We will read with full unquestioned acceptance of the historical fact that George Washington was our first president, but very quickly be willing to hedge in our acceptance of just how and when Jesus created this earth, was it in six literal days or was it in six figurative days or was it as our evolutionist’s say, billions of years.

When we insist that the incomprehensible become rationally comprehensible, just so it can fit within our particular mental capacities, then we are sure to end up with a foolish blend of truth and nonsense.

The simple answer to our dilemma of understanding is that before we can truly know God with our “mind”, we have to accept Him fully with our faith. Because it really is true that without faith it is impossible, absolutely and completely impossible, to know God.

No sense can ever be made out of this Gospel except through the eyes and the ears of faith, listening to the Spirit, God’s Spirit, ministering to our spirit to give us understanding. Jesus said those words in John chapter 16. He said . . .

<sup>13</sup> . . . when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. <sup>14</sup>He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. <sup>15</sup>All that belongs to the Father is mine.

That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you. (John 16:13-15)

When we read and listen and see through the eyes of faith, all of this will “come alive” to us, and we can believe it with our whole heart, soul, mind and strength.

Let me say all of this again so that we are sure to grasp it. Here in John chapter 1, the Words are plain and pure. In the beginning, before all of time and earth and heaven and even angels, there was only God. And God was one person in three persons. That’s incomprehensible to us but it’s true, absolutely true.

And one of those three persons was Jesus who would later be born as a “Man”, a human Son of the Father, also incomprehensible to us but true.

He was there in the beginning with God and He was God, the same as the Father, but separate. Yes, incomprehensible but true.

And yes, Jesus was the begotten Son of the Father, and He was also the “Word”, the spoken power of God that had the ability to imagine and to create all that there is in existence, also incomprehensible but true.

Jesus, this “living Word of God” carefully crafted and created all that there is in existence, “Through him all things were made, without him nothing was made that has been made.”

In Hebrews chapter 11 verse 3, we’re told that,

<sup>3</sup>By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God’s command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.  
(Hebrews 11:3)

God’s “command” here folks is His “Word”. And His “Word” is the very person of Jesus speaking creation into existence “out of nothing”, “out of nothing”, just by His “Voice”, His “Command”, His “Word”.

John 1 verse 3, “Through him all things were made, without him nothing was made that has been made.”

Also, in the Book of Colossians chapter 1, we’re told that,

<sup>16</sup>For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. <sup>17</sup>He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. (Colossians 1:16-17)

Why is it so important for us to fully believe and trust that these Words here in John chapter 1 are absolutely true without any variance, that Jesus was the One who was with God the Father, that He is wholly God, without beginning and without end.

We must accept and believe it firstly because it is "Truth", absolute "Truth". And then we must believe it because these Words in John chapter 1 are foundational to the core of all that we must believe to be saved. They establish that Jesus was not "just a man", a simple human being like you and me. But He was also God, Deity, at its highest level, co-equal with God the Father and God the Spirit, and able to have the "Righteousness" needed to pay our debt of sin and to save us eternally.

Cults like the Jehovah's Witnesses and the Mormons relegate Jesus to the level of being only a man, a divine man yes, but still only a man. But folks, that's not enough. Jesus needs to be God, truly God, and He is! "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

That truth given here in these words of John chapter 1 establishes Jesus as having the power and the authority to do all and to be all that He says He is. And because He is who He is and because He has fulfilled all that He came to do,

<sup>9</sup>Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup>that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:9-11)

And because Jesus is who He is and because He has fulfilled all that He came to do, we will someday stand alongside the Apostle John in heaven and see and hear, as we're told in Revelation chapter 5,

<sup>11</sup> . . . the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. <sup>12</sup>In a loud voice they sang:

“Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,  
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and  
glory and praise!”

<sup>13</sup>Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the  
earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing:  
To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and  
glory and power, for ever and ever! (Revelation 5:11-13)

This “Lamb” is the very same Jesus that walked among us and shed His own  
blood on that cross as a ransom for us. He is the Alpha and the Omega, the  
beginning and the end.

You and I are not required to comprehend Him or to explain Him, but we are  
required to trust in Him.

As we're told in Romans chapter 11

<sup>33</sup> Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!  
How unsearchable his judgments,  
and his paths beyond tracing out!

<sup>34</sup> “Who has known the mind of the Lord?  
Or who has been his counselor?”

<sup>35</sup> “Who has ever given to God,  
that God should repay him?”

<sup>36</sup> For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the g  
lory forever! Amen.

Pray with me.