

Who is this Man Jesus?

Part I


He is the “Logos” of God

2020.3.22



TALKINGPOINTS WALKINGPOINTS



A publication of , the adult discipleship ministry of Triangle Community Church.

Talk together about the glory of God’s kingdom. —Psalm 145:11
Love the Lord your God and **walk** in all his ways. —Joshua 22:5

Questions for Community Group Discussion

- What from Sunday’s message interested you? ...made sense to you? ...confused you?
...intrigued you? ...upset you? ...encouraged you? ...and **why**?
 - We’ve **all** heard someone say (when experiencing hard things), “*Everything happens for a reason.*” Guess what—they’re affirming the logos! Based on what you learned about the ancient Greek views of the logos, and the biblical teaching on the logos, how might you engage them in a discussion? Review the **CLAIM** about the “Logos of God” (see Sermon Summary) and study Colossians 1:16-20 & 2:2b-3, so that “what others worship in ignorance, you can proclaim to them” (Acts 17:23)!
 - 116 For **by** Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created **through** Him and **for** Him.
 - 117 He is **before** all things, and in Him all things **hold together**.
 - 118 He is also **head** of the body, the church; and He is the **beginning**, the **firstborn from the dead**, so that He Himself will come to have **first place in everything**.
 - 119 For it was the Father’s good pleasure for **all the fullness to dwell in Him**,
 - 120 and through Him to **reconcile all things to Himself**, having **made peace** through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven...
 - 22b **God’s mystery is Christ Himself**,
 - 23 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.
- What is “the purpose, reason, logic for life”?
- Where did we come from? How did we get here?
- For whom** are we? Ourselves? Someone else?
- Is there life after death? How do we know?
- What are life’s priorities? What’s **most** important?
- Will there be “peace on earth, goodwill toward men”? If so, **how**? (see Ephesians 2:13-16)
- Does **anyone** know “the secrets of life”? If so, **who**? **How** and **where** can I learn them?
- Why** is Jesus “the only way” to God (John 14:6)?

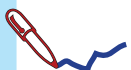
Need help trusting the “Logos” of God?

For customized discipleship, write to:
BiblicalHopeAndHelp@gmail.com

Application-Challenge

- Be **changed** by the gospel—deeply, profoundly, comprehensively, concretely.
- This week, talk to someone who needs to know the “logos”, the meaning, of life.

Take One Step: What is one small, concrete step of obedience you will put into practice this week?



Sermon Summary

Key Text: John 1:1-14

For the next two months we're going to look at the words and works of Jesus as presented in the Gospel of John. John 1:1-4 makes a radical claim. In v. 5-11 that claim is rejected, and v. 12-14 answer the objections to that amazing claim.

CLAIMS about the “Word of God” (1:1-4): [1] The “word of God” is a person, [2] the “Word was with God and the Word was God”, [3] the Word is uncreated; he is without a beginning, [4] this uncreated, divine person, is the source of all life, and, [5] the “Word” is identified as none other than Jesus Christ (v. 14). John uses this term, “Word” (Greek: “logos”), to describe Jesus. “Logos” has an enormous amount of cultural, linguistic, and philosophical historical background. When ancient Greek philosophers looked at the world around them, they saw amazing balance, harmony and order. So they theorized that there must be a spiritual, cosmic principle of order to explain it. They called this cosmic principle of order, “Logos”—meaning “the purpose or reason or logic for life.” They believed that the universe isn't random, but that it shows order, and behind that order must be some rational mind or purpose. It follows that if we align ourselves with that purpose, our lives will go better.

The problem arose when various Greek philosophers couldn't agreed on the purpose of life. The Stoics said, “Keep a stiff upper lip.” Suffering? Death? Coronavirus? Accept it. The Epicureans absolutely disagreed. “No, no, no. It's just the opposite—live selfishly. Seek to fulfill your every desire.” But then along comes the apostle John. He said: “Oh yes, there is a Logos, but the Logos is a ‘he’.” You're looking just for principles, abstractions, constructs. This changes everything!” Since the purpose of the universe is personal rather than impersonal, then love takes on unprecedented importance. The Christian notion of “logos” literally changed the world! It gave humans a new dignity, with the purpose of love. Without the biblical understanding of the Logos, the philosophy of human rights would never have been established. Because of Christianity, Western civilization developed a higher regard for human life than other civilizations which were governed by a different worldview.

REJECTION —however, John 1:5-11 explains the widespread rejection of this claim. Verse 5 says that the darkness did not “katalambano” God's light. John purposely chose this ambiguous word—which can be translated either as “understand” or as “overcome”—because there are two different ways of rejecting Jesus. One way is to be overtly hostile to him, and the other is to misunderstand him. Perhaps it would be best to translate it as “master”. To master something might mean to overpower it, but it also can mean to figure it out, to comprehend it. When it comes to the world's response to Jesus, both are true. Many people are hostile to the Christian claim that Jesus is the Creator of the world and the only way to God.

The gospel **ANSWERS** the world's objections. John tells us that not everyone is a child of God; sonship has to be received (v. 12). This pushes against the popular idea that all human beings are God's children. While God is the Creator of us all, he is not everyone's Father. That privileged position must be received by faith. It's a gift. It's not earned by being good enough, or moral enough. This comes to us solely by God's grace (v. 13). Spiritual rebirth is not accomplished by us; it's all God's doing. God dwelt among us in the person of Jesus, lived a sinless, and bore our guilt so we wouldn't have to (v. 14).

Since I am saved by grace, I have no reason to feel superior to anyone. Thus, no oppression of others. And since God deals with me in grace, I don't need to wallow in my guilt—no need to oppress myself! John tells us Jesus' own people did not comprehend this, so they rejected him. What will you do with Jesus? God has raised us up for these dark days—so be courageous! Share God's love with others. Jesus is the way, the truth and the life. He is the logos of God. Comprehend it. Embrace it. Live it and share it with others.

Talking To Others About This Week's Message

If a neighbor or friend at work asked you, “*What kind of stuff do they talk about at your church?*”, how would you summarize the most important elements of this week's sermon and the key lessons you intend to apply to your life? Can you explain it in **plain language** anyone could understand?

Digging Deeper in Your Daily Quiet Time

*"Five Question Bible Study" (see page below) is a simple way to study any passage.
We can use it to explore Jesus, the Logos of God...*

Monday— Hebrews 1:1-4

Tuesday— Hebrews 4:11-16

Wednesday— Hebrews 6:1-12

Thursday— Hebrews 11:1-6

Friday— Proverbs 30:5-6 & Revelation 22:18-19

Saturday— ***In preparation for worshipping your risen Lord tomorrow with your church family,*** study John 1:19-34.

Need blank copies for doing more

"Five Question Bible Study"?

e-mail: Dan.Clement.TCC@gmail.com

Bible Text: _____

Date: _____



What idea particularly strikes me from this text? [Note in which verse(s) is it found.]



What question does this text raise in my mind—and how would **this text** answer it?



What about Jesus Christ—his character and/or his redemption—relates to this text?



What action must I take as a result of this text? Be concrete and specific.



With whom will I share what I learned from this text?