

Christmas According to John

Who Is Jesus and What Did He Come to Do?

John 1:1-5, 14-18; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / December 18, 2022

I. Who Is Jesus?

A. Jesus Is the Very Centerpiece of Reality and Purpose for Living

John 1:1 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”

The Greek word for “Word” here is “logos” which means “logic.” The kind of logos the Greeks debated over was the reason for life. By the time John was writing his Gospel, they had given up on finding the answer, which spawned two major branches of philosophy:

1. The Epicureans said, “If there are no answers, the only thing to do is to have a good time, live for pleasure, milk this world for all its worth, grab all the gusto you can, and don’t let anybody get in the way of you and your pleasure.”
2. The Stoics sounded a lot nobler. They said, “even if there are no answers and no purpose, you should still live as if there’s right and wrong. Be strong, moral, generous, and good. Otherwise, this world would be an intolerable place.”

Author and atheist Richard Dawkins says in an interview that his view of life is similar to that in Shakespeare’s *Macbeth*: that life is “a tale told by an idiot, filled with sound and fury, signifying nothing.” He then goes on to say: “You can have a very happy and fulfilled personal life even if you think that the universe at large is a tale told by an idiot.”

Notice how Dawkins is backpedaling, trying to remove the despair that is the natural consequence of his philosophical view that there’s no God, no order, no purpose, and no meaning to life.

John’s statement in John 1:1 is as big of a bombshell now as it was then. John is saying there *is* a “logos,” but it’s not a philosophical or abstract concept to be debated. It’s a person—Jesus Christ!

When you know Him, serve Him, and love Him, He’ll fill up your mind, your heart, and your senses with purpose and meaning like you’ve never had before.

2 Corinthians 5:14-15, 17 “For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that One has died for all, therefore all have died; ¹⁵and He died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for Him...¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”

Philippians 1:21 “For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.”

B. Jesus Is the Visible Expression of an Invisible God

John 1:1 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:14 “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us...”

John 1:18 “No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, He has made Him known.”

The Greek word for “made Him known” is the word “exegeomai,” which means to draw something out or to explain something that was not clearly understood. In other words, Jesus explains God and makes Him known to us! Nobody else can do that because nobody else has spent eternity in the presence of the Father.

II. What Did Jesus Come to Do?

A. He Brought Life to a Culture of Death

John 1:4 “In Him was life, and the life was the light of men...”

Jesus didn’t get life from someone. Nobody gave it to Him. He is the very essence of life.

John 14:6 “I am the way, and the truth, and the life...”

B. He Shattered Darkness with an Explosion of Light

John 1:4-5 “In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”

He came into this dark world to show us who God is and to show us what life’s all about.

III. Why Don’t More People See this Great Light and Celebrate It Like They Should?

A. People Can’t Celebrate What They Can’t See and What They Don’t Want to See

2 Corinthians 4:3-4 “But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, ⁴ whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.”

The Greek word for “blinded” in verse 4 is taken from the root word “tuphos” that means to burn or smoke.

The fact that Satan is blowing smoke and working so hard to blind people to the glory of God doesn’t mean that people are innocent victims of his schemes. There’s something else going on that is equally strong as to why people don’t see the glory of Christ:

John 3:19 “This is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.”

NIV “This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.”

There’s a darkness that we choose because there’s a God who we refuse to acknowledge or glorify!

C. S. Lewis, in his autobiography, *Surprised by Joy*, describes his former atheism as a “willful blindness” because he found the concept of a transcendent God—who might interfere with his life—repugnant!

B. God Has to Do for Us What We Could Never Do for Ourselves

2 Corinthians 4:6 “For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”

You did not save yourself and you did not find God. God found you and His sovereign grace saved you when He turned on the spiritual lights for you to see the beauty and glory of Jesus Christ.