

The University Heights Messenger

March 6, 2011

“And The Word Became Flesh”

In *John 1:1*, we read, *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."* What a profound statement! The *beginning* to which John alludes is the one of which Moses wrote, *"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."* (*Genesis 1:1*) The creation moment can be called the *beginning*, for at that moment time began. Yet the mighty Word preceded all of this. In fact, the Word was not created at all. We see this, both logically and grammatically, from *John 1:1*. Since the Word, who was there at the beginning, did not Himself begin in the beginning, then the Word, who was there at the beginning, must be eternal in nature. In *John 8*, the Word Himself, Jesus, powerfully affirmed this fact. Our Lord and the Jews were in the midst of a discussion concerning Abraham. In *verses 56-58*, we read, *"Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad. Then the Jews said to Him, 'You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?' Jesus said to them, 'Most assuredly I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.'"*

Clearly, Jesus is, in fact, the One *John 1:1* referred to as the Word; for when we look to *verses 14 and 18* of chapter 1, we read, *"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth ... No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He declared Him."* There can be no doubt that these verses refer to Christ. Jesus is called *the Word* because a word is both a revelation and an expression of an idea. In our Lord's case, He completely revealed the divine nature to the world. *"For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily."* (*Colossians 2:9*).

Take a moment to read *Hebrews 1:1-3*. Before our Lord came to this earth, to sinful men it would have seemed that God was basically unknowable. They could not directly

approach Him and, for that matter, they could not even see Him. This is no longer true. Our Lord possessed every characteristic of deity. Thus, He could in all honesty and accuracy affirm, *"He who has seen Me has seen the Father."* (*John 14:9*)

Yet, *John 1:1* says much more. The verse also points out to us that, **"The Word was with God."** I read a written debate between two individuals in which they examined this verse. One of the two claimed that the Word was simply one particular attribute of God and with Him only in that sense. It does not take more than a glance at the verse to see that is not what it says. In this narrative, we witness the Word's personality. In just a moment, we are able to see the complete association between the Word and the Father. The Word's association with the Father existed before the beginning, and they enjoyed full equality.

"And the Word was God." The actual phrase translation is, *"And God was the Word."* There are some who prefer to translate this phrase, *"And the Word was a god."* The Jehovah's Witness group for one prefers this translation. However, there is no support for such a rendering in the original language itself or anywhere else in the Scriptures. In fact, such a translation is absolutely false, un scholarly, and denies the Word's eternity. This is yet another example of what happens when uninspired men approach the Scriptures with preconceived ideas and notions. Rather than bending their will to conform to God's, they *force* and manipulate the Scriptures to make them say what they want them to say.

Instead of all of this, let us stick with John's plain and awe-inspiring statement, **"And the Word was God."** This means that the Word possessed God's nature and refutes a couple of misconceptions arisen.

First, if the Word was simply with God in association only, then it could be said that the Word was *inferior* to true deity. However, being of the same nature as the Father, He was therefore His equal (*Philippians 2:5-11*).

The second misconception is one that continues to pop up from time to time and may be presented in the form of a question: "Does this mean that there are actually *two* Gods?" The answer is no, for there is but one divine nature. The Word is Himself God in the same sense and to the same degree that the Father is God. There is but one God--one divine nature that consists of three distinct personalities.

I'd be less than honest if I said I completely understand this. However, I know it to be true because the Scriptures teach it. Since we are not divinity, we will never be able to fully understand God. *"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts."* (Isaiah 55:8, 9) What we *can* do is obey Him and be thankful that *"The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,"* for if He had not, you and I would be without hope.

AL

IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

Jeff Howerton has begun outpatient therapy. This is a positive step and brings him a little closer to getting his life back to normal.

Edith Tirey continues to struggle with health concerns.

Robin Miller has several stress fractures in her heel and will be in a hard cast for about ten weeks.

Linda Hill (wife of Glyn Hill who had been on the list but is now doing well), is suffering from lung cancer. It has metastasized to her brain. They have begun radiation treatment.

Our members: **Jim Edwards, Glenn Davis, Glenn Kimberlin.**

Others: **Vina Krassow, Tom Curtis, Shelly Stewart, Courtney and Aubree Reeves, Tabetta Lynn, Tom Curtis, John Bennett, Dennis Brennan, Robert and Sarah Brundige, Donald Dawson, Jean Gartland, Wes Kidd, Gail Stein, Shannon Gilbert**

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Streaming Bible study every Tuesday at 7.

Our Spring meeting with Mark McCrary is April 17-22 (I had incorrectly listed it as the 10-15 in last weeks bulletin)

Our next special study will be March 26 at 10 AM.

NEWS

Jo Ann and Stephanie Joseph have chosen to work and worship with us here at UHeights. Let's welcome them with open arms!

BIBLE READING SCHEDULE

Sun: Ex 12, Ps 31, Mk 10
Mon: Ex 13-14, Ps 32, Mk 11
Tue: Ex 15-16, Ps 33, Mk 12
Wed: Ex 17-19, Ps 34, Mk 13
Thu: Ex 20-21, Ps 35, Mk 14
Fri: Ex 22-23, Ps 36, Mk 15
Sat: Ex 24-25, Ps 37:1-22, Mk 16

SERMON TOPICS:

Sunday AM. "Once for all" 3
(Matthew 28:18-20)

Sunday PM. "Once for all" 4
(Isaiah 55:8-9)