

CHRIST, THE WORD
John 1:1-14

Intro: The Lord Jesus Christ is the outstanding theme of all of Scripture.

The Lord Himself made this clear on a number of occasions while He was here on earth--the most notable of which was His unrecorded discourse with the two disciples on the road to Emmaus after His resurrection. Cf. Luke 24:27.

By the testimony of those disciples, when they were enabled to understand this, it did two things for them:

- 1) It turned their sadness into joy. Cf. vv. 17, 32a.
 - 2) It opened the Word of God to them. Cf. v. 32b.
- See also v. 45 describing what happened later when He was with His disciples--all of them!

So there is nothing more important for our understanding of Scripture or for our joy than to realize this, and to read and hear the Word with this as our objective--to learn of Christ!

This gives some wisdom to what Paul wrote in 1 Cor. 2:3. His life was devoted to the Person of Christ, and to the Work of Christ on the cross.

Paul also spoke of this in his Epistle to the Philippians: see Phil. 3:7 ff.

Cf. our Lord's words in John 17:3.

This should be our objective in reading our Bibles. This ought to be our purpose in preaching. This ought to be the main objective in each of our lives--to know the Lord, to walk with Him, to love Him, to trust Him, to proclaim Him.

Tonight I want to take one of the most important of all of the revelations given to us in Scripture of the Lord: CHRIST, THE WORD.

As such, it appears exclusively in the writings of the Apostle John, but it ties in with other portions of Scripture.

There are three main passages in John's writings: John 1:1, John 1:14, and Rev. 19:13.

John made no attempt to explain this expression, "the Word," but the meaning becomes clear as we look at these and other related passages.

I. THE MEANING OF THE EXPRESSION.

As we read the verses it is clear that John was speaking of

a person.

But, more than that, it is clear that he was speaking of a divine person.

He does not give us the idea that He was the personification of the Word, but that He Himself was the Word! His Name is "the Word."

One reason that John did not explain it was because it did have a relationship with the OT. See Psalm 33:4, 6;
Psalm 119:89;
Psalm 107:19, 20;
Isa. 40:8;
Isa. 55:10, 11;
Jer. 23:29.

Thus, the expression links our Lord inseparably with the Bible, the Scriptures, which are called the Word of God.

And so, as God was communicating with man through the Scriptures to give a message to man, so He was communicating to man through the coming of His Son. See Heb. 1:1, 2.

Jesus Christ then becomes the revelation of God, and in three ways which cannot be applied in the same way to any other person.

A. Jesus Christ is the Wisdom of God.

Cf. 1 Cor. 1:24; Col. 2:3.

He is the Key to all wisdom. Nothing can be rightly understood apart from Him!

B. Jesus Christ is the Revealer of God's Will.

Let us go on in our reading of Heb. 1:1, 2, and include verse 3.

Prophets and Apostles may help us, but only in Christ do we see the completed picture.

C. Jesus Christ is the Revelation of God Himself.

This takes us to John 1:14. See also John 14:9; 17:6, 25, 26.

But now, in order to appreciate this truth even more, let us note what our three main passages teach us.

II. THE EXTENT TO WHICH CHRIST IS THE WORD.

A. He has always been the Word (John 1:1).

This is stated in a threefold way:

1. His eternal existence.
2. His identity distinct from God, the Father.
3. His Deity.

B. He continued to be the Word when He became a man (John 1:14).

C. He will still be what He always has been (in addition to His humanity) when He comes in glory (Rev. 19:13).

Thus we have, 1) what the Word always was,
 2) what He became, and one reason why,
 3) what He always will be.

Concl: What should all of this truth mean to us? Several things.

- 1) It should make us realize that there is no other Person like the Lord Jesus Christ. He is unique among all who ever walked upon the earth. Angels cannot compare with Him, nor can any man!
- 2) It should comfort us to know that in these passages we have absolute proof that, while Jesus Christ became a man, He has never changed, nor will He ever change, in His Person. Cf. Heb. 13:8.
- 3) It should cause us to understand that we can gain the fullest knowledge of God, beyond anything revealed before, through Christ. He surpasses and culminates all that the writers of Scripture were able to give.
- 4) Because He is "the Word," it should be a constant reminder that there is an inseparable link between the Bible, the written Word, and Christ, the living Word. Therefore, if we are to know Christ, and through Him, to know God, it can only be through what is revealed of Him in the Scriptures.

And equal in importance with His Person is the Work that He came to earth to accomplish, His work which centered in His death with all that it means and with all that He accomplished by it.