

John 1:1-18 – The Eternal Word

A. Introduction

- John's gospel was written by the Apostle John in Ephesus around 80 AD.
- The first three gospels had already been written, so John writes to supplement their account of the life of Jesus. 90% of John is unique.
- His theme is "*life in the Son*". Faith is "*confidence based on evidence*".
- **John 20:30-31** - John writes to enable his hearers to trust in Christ and find eternal life in Him.
- **John 1:1-18** is the sublime introduction to the whole gospel.

B. 1:1-13 - The Son brings Life and Light

1) Declaration (1-5). Jesus is identified as the Word of God. "*Word*" is used to describe God in action – creating, revealing and saving (Genesis 1:1-3; Psalm 33:6; Isaiah 55:11). John tells us that the Word is a Person.

- **John 1:1-2** tells us three things about Jesus:
 - ⇒ **His eternity** – The Word was continually in existence.
 - ⇒ **His personality** – He lived in intimate relationship with the Father.
 - ⇒ **His deity** – He is co-equal and co-eternal with the Father (John 17:5; 24). Behind the universe is an eternal relationship of love.
- **John 1:3-5** refers to the unique work of Jesus.
 - ⇒ **Creation** (3) – The universe owes its existence to Christ.
 - ⇒ **Animation** (4) – He is the source of all life.
 - ⇒ **Illumination** (4-5) – He bombards the universe with the light of revelation in creation and conscience (Romans 1:18-20).

2) Confirmation (6-8). This is incredible – where is the evidence? In the gospel John will present a series of witnesses – including the Father, the Spirit, the Scriptures and the miracles of Jesus. He begins, as do the other gospels, with the witness of John the Baptist.

3) Application (9-13). Jesus polarizes people. The world and his own saw the light but they rejected it (9-11). But those who believed the light received the gift of life which enabled them to become God's children (12-13). The Son shines in their hearts and imparts spiritual life to dead souls.

C. 1:14-18 - The Son brings Grace and Truth

- 1) Declaration (14).** John now makes an even more amazing statement. At a particular moment in history the Word became a real human being. He did not cease to be the eternal Son in fellowship with the Father, but He took a real human body and soul uniting two natures in one Person. This is referred to as the *Incarnation* (Galatians 4:4; Philippians 2:2:5-11; 1 Timothy 3:16). God met with His people in the Wilderness in a tent made of skins known as the Tabernacle. (Exodus 40:34-38). Today He meets with us in a man clothed in human skin. In Christ God reveals His grace and truth as He did to Moses at the time of the building of the Tabernacle (Exodus 34:6-8).
- 2) Confirmation (15).** Again John the Baptist witnesses to Christ – pointing to his superiority (1:26-27) He also tells us that God became a man in order to die in our place as the Lamb of God (1:29)
- 3) Application (16-18).** Christ brings God's measureless grace into the lives of his people. God is for His people and we cannot exhaust the supply of His grace (16). Jesus has an intimate relationship with the Father and is the full and final revelation of the character of God. What is God like? He is exactly like Jesus.