

CHRISTMAS, THE COMING OF THE EVERLASTING ONE

John 1:1

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: Christmas is the time we focus on the birth of Christ. We think of shepherds, wise men, Mary, Joseph, angels and lots of other things, but in the midst of it all, there is the Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of the Living God.

In his gospel, John presents the Lord Jesus in several wonderful ways:

- He is the Word - *1:1-3, 14*
- He is the Light - *1:4-13*
- He is the Son of God - *1:15-18, 30-34, 49*
- He is the Christ - *1:19-28, 35-42* (The Anointed One or the Messiah)
- He is the Lamb of God - *1:29, 35-36*
- He is the King of Israel - *1:43-49*
- He is the Son of Man - *1:50-51*

Jesus is the God-Ladder between heaven and earth, revealing God to people and taking people to God.

Matthew presents Him as the Sovereign (King).

Mark presents Jesus as the Servant.

Luke presents Him as the Son of Man.

John, however, presents Him as the Son of God.

I. JESUS' SPECIAL EXISTENCE AS THE EVERLASTING ONE

- *"...In the beginning was the Word..." (John 1:1); Ephesians 3:9; Colossians 1:16-17; Revelation 1:18*

1. His durability -

- He was before Adam, Eve, Cain, Abel, Abraham, Moses, Joshua or any other person nameable.
- All creation owes its existence to Him.

2. His declaration -

- *"...the Word..."*
- Words reveal one's mind and heart.
- The bible is the written "word" of God, but Jesus is the living, fleshly Word of God.
- *Revelation 22:13* - Jesus calls Himself the "first and the last."

II. JESUS' SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP AS THE EVERLASTING ONE

- *"...and the Word was with God..." "...and the same was in the beginning with God..."*

1. Jesus spoke of the glory that He had with the Father before coming down here, even before the world ever was - *John 17:5*
2. People are judged by the kind of company that he/she chooses.
 - Holy people stay around holy people.
 - Kind people want to be around kind people.
 - Loving people speak well of others and like to be around others who do the same thing.
 - Critics like to be around other critics.
 - People who want to run things in the church like to be with others who want to do the same thing.
 - Who you like to be with tells the kind of person you are.

3. Think about who Jesus was with in eternity past before the earth was ever created.
 - If you want to know anything about God, ask Jesus.
 - *John 1:18*

III. JESUS' SPECIAL IDENTITY AS THE EVERLASTING ONE

- *"...and the Word was God..."*

1. He is God as predicted by the prophets.

- *Isaiah 9:6*

2. He is God as interpreted by the Epistles.

- He is presented as the Creator and Sustainer of all things.

3. He is God as experienced by the Christian.

- Christians know He is God because of what He does in their lives.

IV. JESUS' SPECIAL POWERS AS THE EVERLASTING ONE

- *"...all things were made by Him..."*

- Jesus said, *"...let there be light..."* and there was light, etc.

- Everything in the world has God's label on it, "Made by the Son of God, Jesus Christ."

- Only God can bring something out of nothing.

- Just think, the one lying in Bethlehem's manger some 2,000 years ago had created everything, yet there was no room for Him - yet HE created it all!

V. JESUS' SPECIAL QUALITY AS THE EVERLASTING ONE

- *"...in Him was Life..."*

- Our parents gave us earthly life but no one had to give Jesus His existence because He IS LIFE.

- *John 5:26; 1 John 5:12*

- Remember when Jesus commanded Lazarus to come out of the tomb? Jesus is the source of LIFE.

- We are dead in trespasses and sins but Jesus Christ gives us LIFE because of our faith in Him. To have Jesus is to have life.

VI. JESUS' SPECIAL LOVE AS THE EVERLASTING ONE

- *"...He was made flesh and dwelt among us..."*

- Why did Jesus come? Was there something He wanted to learn? If God is all knowing, what was there He needed to know and had to become one of us to learn it?

- Jesus became flesh because of His love for us.

- His love brought Him down because He saw our deadly situation.

- It was love that put Him on the cross.

- It was love that brought Him out of the tomb.

- Christmas, incarnation, the virgin birth, all tells us that God loves us and held nothing back for when we were on our way to hell, Jesus came and gave His all for us.

VII. JESUS SPECIAL OFFER AS THE EVERLASTING ONE

- *"..He came unto His own, and His own received Him not, but as many as received Him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name..."(1:11-12)*

1. The offer of life - v.4

- Our greatest need is eternal life.

2. The offer of light - v5

- Our way is dark and we need to see rightly.

3. The offer of "sonship" -

- *"..as many as received Him to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name..."*

CONCLUSION:

1. Jesus is the reason for Christmas.
2. Jesus was before Christmas.
3. Jesus will always be.
4. Jesus came to bring salvation, eternal life to mankind and to show the love of God.
5. Whatever Jesus offers, He will make sure that you can have it and will always be around to take care of you.

(Partly from a sermon by Dr. Tom Walker, Pastor, Zion Hill Baptist Church, Marion, N.C. - 12/12/02)