God Incarnate!

John 1:1-14 (text v. 14).

You will not find a more concise and profound statement of Christ's deity or incarnation than what we read in our text. It could not be clearer—Jesus Christ is God in the flesh.

Jesus is called "THE WORD." He is given this title also in 1 John 5:7— "There are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one."

- He is the FIRST Word (John 1:1, 14).
- **He is the FINAL Word** (Rev. 19:13-15). Men are awaiting another word, but there will be no other Word. <u>Jesus has the last word</u>.
 - → A word is composed of letters—Jesus Christ is "Alpha and the Omega."
- 1. Words are a means of COMMUNICATION—Words transmit information.
 - The title "the Word" shows <u>God has something to say!</u> God wants to communicate with us (Heb. 1:1-3).
 - The main difference between our God and false gods is **our God speaks**, whereas the gods of the world are mute.

Ben Bernanke, the chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, can speak and create dramatic swings in our economy. World leaders can speak and bring about international war. But when God speaks worlds have been created (Gen. 1)!

- 2. Words are a means of MANIFESTATION. The thoughts in my mind are hidden from everyone else. But if I put a thought into words, that thought is manifested. Words reveal my thoughts and desires.
 - From the very beginning God has had a plan of redemption, but if He never spoke, it would never be known.
- 3. Words are means of REVELATION. Your words reveal your character... your education... your nationality... and, your heart's condition (Mt. 12:34).

- As our words reveal our hearts and minds, so Jesus Christ is the Word that reveals God's heart and mind to us (v. 18).
- I. God CAME TO us (v. 11— "He came unto his own, and his own received him not.").
 - The Creator of all things came down from heaven to where we are. We could not go to where He was, so He came to us.
 - A. He came willingly. He was not forced to leave heaven.
 - B. He came knowing He would be rejected (v. 12).
 - C. He came to Bethlehem knowing the road would lead to Calvary where He would be crucified at the hands of wicked men. He said to His disciples, "What shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour" (John 12:27).
 - ➡What if He had not come?
 - There would be no New Testament.
 - The Old Testament would be incomplete.
 - We would be without a Savior
 - We would not be indwelt by the Holy Spirit.
 - There would be no church
 - We would still be lost and in our sins.
- II. God BECAME LIKE us (v. 14—"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us...").
 - → Hebrews 2:14— "For asmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same..."
 - By the virgin birth He became what He never was before, while at the same time remaining all that He has ever been! He is wholly man and wholly God all at once in one body of flesh!
 - He was made a man in all parts, but apart from sin!
 - He was never the <u>sharer</u> of man's sins—but He became the <u>bearer</u> of man's sins on the cross!
 - A. He became like us to SAVE us. "But when the fulness of time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law..." (Gal. 4:4,5).

Paul wrote, "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners" (1 Tim. 1:15).

- 1. God is spirit, therefore He could not die. He had to become flesh to die for man's sins and suffer in man's place.
- 2. Hebrews 2:9— But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels *for the suffering of death*... that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.
- 3. He "made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross" (Phil. 2:7-8).
- B. He became like us to SYMPATHIZE with us.
 - Hebrews 2:17—"It behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest."
 - 1. He came not to judge us or condemn us, but to give His life a ransom to redeem us.
 - 2. He came not to be ministered unto, but to minister.
 - Hebrews 4:15— For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.
 - ➡ This is the kind of priest we need—
 - 1. One who has walked a mile in our shoes...
 - 2. One who has experienced what we have experienced...
 - 3. One who has faced every trial and temptation we will ever have to deal with!
 - 4. One who knows what it is like to hurt and feel pain... hunger/thirst... loneliness... weariness/sleep... weep tears.
- C. He became like us to SIT upon David's throne.
 - ▶ Jesus was promised to sit upon the throne of David (2 Sam. 7; Luke 1:32). He could not sit on David's throne unless He was made of the seed of David. Romans 1:3— "Concerning his Son

Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh;"

- D. He became like us to SATISFY the law. He did what we could not do in our flesh.
 - Romans 8:3— For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:
 - 1. We were condemned by the law because we could not measure up to it.
 - 2. The only way God could not condemn us was to incarnate Himself in human flesh, fulfill the demands of the law, and take our condemnation.
 - 3. The "law of double jeopardy" states that a man cannot be condemned twice for the same crime. Since Christ took your condemnation and you are "in Christ," God cannot condemn you.

III. God REVEALED His glory to us ("...and we beheld his glory...").

The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork" (Ps. 19:1). A few nights ago I was in my backyard waiting for my dogs to do "their business." As I stood there I looked up at the starry sky and was awed by the marvel of God's handiwork! What an awesome display of the glory of God.

While "the heavens declare the glory of God," that is nothing compared to the glory that was displayed when the Creator of the stars came to the earth to live among us as a man and die for our sins on a cross! So we can sing with the angels on the morning of His birth, "Glory to God in the highest!" (Luke 2:14).

- A. The BLENDING of His attributes"...full of grace and truth."
 - Artists tell us beauty is made up of **curved lines** (symbols of the feminine), and **straight lines** (symbols of the masculine). The curved represents the **concept of grace**, while the straight denotes the **idea of truth**. Thus grace and truth won-

derfully combine in one glorious personality of the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace brought Him to Bethlehem. Truth lead Him to Calvary.

- Grace speaks of devotion—truth speaks of doctrine.
- Grace speaks of warmth—truth speaks of wisdom.
- Grace speaks of salvation from sin—truth speaks of the condemnation of sin.
- Truth indicts the sinner—grace invites the sinner.
- B. The **BALANCE** of His attributes.
 - 1. No one spoke as graciously as Christ—yet no one denounced sin more strongly than Christ.
 - 2. No one had more compassion than Jesus—yet no one rebuked hypocrisy more fervently than He did.
 - We see the curved lines of grace as He looked into the face of the crushed and broken woman of the street, and said, "...Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more" (John 8:11). Then we see the straight lines of justice, righteousness, and truth, as He challenges her accusers, "...He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first." (John 8:7, 9).
 - We need both in our life.

SUMMATION: A spoken word always needs a response. God has spoken by His Son and in the Scriptures. How will you respond? Will you receive Him (v. 12)?

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