

Introduction:

- John 1:1-18. *“In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”* (John 1:4-5, ESV)
- The Apostle John uses the word ‘life’ 36 times in his Gospel, 17 times in his letters and more than any other NT writer. Life as it is used by John refers to eternal life, the Gift of God through His Son.
- John 1:1-18 is like a theological perspective of the Christmas story. God becoming a man for the purpose of saving men.
- Remember we are talking about the meaning of Christmas. Last week: A child is born! God is with us! He will save us! We are still on that theme but from a different angle.

I. In Him Was Life! Jn 1:1-4**A. John Introduces us to the Word!**

1. In the beginning was the Word. He was before the world began. Before the beginning began He was there. John like Gen 1 is writing about a new beginning!
2. John stresses this again in Jn 8:56, Jesus in rebuking the Pharisees says of himself: *“...Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.”* (John 8:58, ESV)
3. What do we learn about the Word?
 - a) The Word is another name for the one we call Jesus.
 - b) Word was with God. The Word is in total relationship to God.
 - c) Word was God. Nothing higher can be said about the Word.
 - d) All things were made through Him. He was not made! He was God.
 - e) This at any rate can be said: “the Word” points to the truth that it is of the very nature of God to reveal himself Morris, L. (1995). *The Gospel according to John* (p. 66). Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. He reveals Himself through His Word. “If you have seen me you have seen the Father.”
 - (1) The knowledge of God that the Word brings is not merely information. It is life. The Word is creative. Morris, L. (1995). *The Gospel according to John* (pp. 66-67). Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.
 - (2) The readers of John's Gospel who are reading this for the first time would have seen the Word in terms of a Supreme Being which we know to be Jesus vs. 14.

B. John describes the Word

1. In Him was Life! Jn 6:63 The Word and Life are constantly associated together in the book of John.
 - a) Jn 3:16 we have everlasting life
 - b) Jn 6:51 He is the bread of heaven come down to give us life.
 - c) Jn 10:28 I give them eternal life and they will never perish again.
 - d) Jn 10:18 I have authority to lay down my life and raise it up again.
2. In Him was Zoe! Greek word meaning vitality.
 - a) The opposite of Zoe is death.
 - b) “Life is not a thing but the vitality that characterizes all living things.” Kittel, G., Friedrich, G., & Bromiley, G. W. (1985). In *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament, Abridged in One Volume* (p. 290). W.B. Eerdmans.
 - c) The true life of God is indestructible. Therefore it is called eternal life.
3. Christmas is about the fact that Life was coming into a world of death and darkness.
4. John's view of Life:
 - a) Is that it is to be seen as new life, spiritual life, eternal life.

- b) It is the opposite of death.
- c) John's view of Jesus is: Jesus is the life and light bringer!
- d) In Him was life! *"For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself."* (John 5:26, ESV)

C. John defines the Word that became flesh.

1. It is different than just having physical life. He has Life before He becomes flesh and dwells among us.
 2. He was filled with Life before He became the babe in Mary's womb.
 3. *"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth."* (John 1:14, ESV)
 4. John says, we have seen His glory! Glory as of the only Son from the Father!
- D. Jesus is the eternal Son and Logos (Word)! He has life in himself. So when John says in Jn 1:4, *"In him was life,"* he means spiritual life, eternal life, life that saves from judgment.

II. **The Life Was The Light Of Men** i.e. at conception there is spark of light.

A. Why does John say this? Because when we find life... that life becomes light to us.

1. i.e. "The light just came on!" AhHa! We see! We understand. We are no longer in the dark. Wow! Life! We do not have to live as dead men.
2. The Life literally becomes revelation (light) to the one who sees and believes!
3. When He comes we receive Life and death must go. We receive light and darkness must go.
4. Jesus came to provide us with the great opportunity to exchange: His Life for our death. His Light for our darkness. *"Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'"* (John 8:12, ESV) Light comes with new Life!

B. "We don't really know what spiritual death and life are until we relate them to light and darkness and blindness. People aren't dead because they can't walk or talk or think or feel or even see with physical eyes. They are dead because "seeing they do not see" (Mt 13:13). John Piper.

C. The Life makes seeing possible!

1. Amazing Grace: *"I once was lost but now am found was blind but now I see."* "Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved. How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed."
2. When death is replaced with life, darkness is replaced with light. In Jn 8:12, Jesus says, *"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."*

III. **The Light Shines In The Darkness**

A. Shines: "This word means "to manifest, "to show," intransitively "to shine," "to light up," "to become visible," "to appear." Kittel, G., Friedrich, G., & Bromiley, G. W. (1985). In *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*.

Abridged in One Volume (p. 1244). W.B. Eerdmans.

1. The Light, lights up the darkness! The Life manifests or makes visible in the darkness.
2. IE. Consider the crucifixion, and cold stone tomb. It does not get any darker or any more full of death. YET KaBOOM! The revelation that Jesus is alive! Death could not overcome Him, Life!

- B. “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.” (John 5:24, ESV)
1. The darkness cannot katalambano - Gr. to seize, lay hold of forcefully. Darkness and death could not lay hold of or seize Life!
 2. What does God do to keep the darkness from overcoming the light? How does the light triumph in a world where everyone is dead and blind? Verses 12–13 give the answer:
 - a) “*But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God*,” (John 1:12, ESV) To those:
 - (1) Who receive him
 - (2) Who believe in His name.
 - (3) He gives the right to become children of God.
 - b) 1 Jn 5:11-12. “*God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.*” In him was life. So if you have him, you have life. If you reject him, you reject life.
 - c) Jn 5:40: “*You refuse to come to me that you may have life.*”
 - d) Jn 10:10: “*I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.*”
 - e) John 10:28: “*I give them eternal life, and they will never perish.*”

Conclusion:

- God’s answer to the spiritual deadness and spiritual blindness and darkness of our sin ravaged lives and world is the new birth!
- Jesus said it to Nicodemus, “*Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”*” (John 3:3, ESV) Born from above.
- If you can’t see it you can’t receive it. And if you can’t receive it, you can’t enter it.
- Therefore God sent His Son into our world as the Light of Life, to lay down His life for us. Now if those who genuinely have life would let it shine...others would see! And receive Him!
- Apart from believing in Jesus, we are all dead. But if you want to live forever and not “come into judgment,” you need Jesus, the gift of Life.
 - If you have the Son you have Life!
 - If you have the Son you have Light!

