



“Greeting Team”

For Sunday, March 20

Remember: Meet in the coat room @ **10:30 am** for brief prayer & then go “welcome” people! NOTE: Keep an eye on the auditorium for those who slipped past!

Greeters this week:

Randy Ehlers Sunday Night

- 1st— Erickson Thursday PM:
Jen Hagler Thursday PM
- 2nd— Justin Taylor Sunday Night;
- 3rd—Randy Ehlers Sunday Night;
- 4th—Curt Mastbergen Sunday Noon;
Tackett Sunday Night

Small Groups @ MBC

*Offer Spiritual
Accountability
And Instruction*

Announcements

1. A Great Website: Check out www.thegospelcoalition.org Biblical resources on current issues!
2. A Great Read: “*The Trellis & The Vine*” by Marshall & Payne (196 Pages. Subject: Making Disciples)

The Word Became Flesh!

The opening verses of John’s Gospel reveal that *“The Word became flesh and took up residence among us. We observed His glory, the glory as of the One and Only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth”* (John 1:14). And, even though John doesn’t mention Jesus by name until v.17, it’s quite clear that the “Word” is a person; and, that Person is Jesus! In v.15 he writes that John the Baptizer testified who the “Word” was; and, we know that he testified about Jesus! So, here’s the point; John says in that first phrase, in v.1, *“In the beginning was the Word...”* So, Jesus, the “Word”, existed in eternity before the beginning of everything! I think it’s fascinating that the Spirit of God led John, the Apostle, to introduce his Gospel with the same 3 words as opened the book of Genesis— *“In the beginning...”* And, the Genesis account went on to say that, *“...God created the heavens & the earth...”*; and, that becomes even more significant as you get further into John’s 1st chapter. It is no accident that both books begin the same way. So, John locates Jesus, in relation to time; that He was before time. At the “beginning” of everything, including time, Jesus already existed. Jude concludes his short little book like this: *“To the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen”* (Jude 1:25). The Apostle Paul wrote Timothy that God gave us grace, in Jesus, *“...before time began...”* (2 Tim 1:9). Before there was time & matter there was Jesus! He’s the eternal One! Go back to the 1st chapter of John’s Gospel; and, John also testifies that, *“...(Jesus) the Word was with God & was God...”* (v.1). And, in the next verse, he continues, *“...He (Jesus, the Word) was with God in the beginning...”* (v.2). The essence of His identity is found in that one brief phrase— *the Word was God!* And, while that phrase is incredibly simple, its weight couldn’t be any heavier! It boggles my mind to think that Jesus— a man; a historical figure that walked on this planet— was GOD! Before He took on the nature of a man; before He became flesh, He existed eternally as God! He fellowshiped with the Father & the Spirit before the universe came to be! When time & space began, Jesus was already there. And, if that isn’t enough to hurt your brain, the next thing John says about Jesus, the “Word”, is equally astonishing. Look at the next verse: *“All things were created through Him, and apart from Him not one thing was created that has been created”* (v.3). And, then look at v.10: *“He was in the world, and the world was created through Him”* Let the magnitude of that thought just sink in for a bit; that, Jesus, the “Word” who was made flesh, was the Creator of everything! Jesus, the “Word”, who was born in a dirty old manger!



Jesus: Your Maker

Jesus, the “Word”, who lived a perfect life; who taught us; and, who died for us because of our sin, is the One who created everything! Jesus, your Savior, your Lord, and, your Friend, is also your Maker! Someone put it like this: *“The most obvious and important connection John makes is this: The God who created the universe is the One who was found lying in a Bethlehem manger. John wants us to know that the ‘Jesus’ he introduces is the Messiah promised in the Old Testament. More than this, the Jesus who is the Messiah is the Jesus who is God. Our Lord did not ‘begin to be’ in Bethlehem. He did not even have His origins in Genesis 1 and 2 when God created the world. He was there; He already existed when the world was created. He was there with God. He was there as God.”* Now some debate this! The Jehovah’s Witnesses, the Muslim faith; and, all brands of Arianism reject the Deity of Jesus! They reject the Biblical account!