

The Greatness of Christ

John 1:1-5

Matthew starts with a genealogy that connects Jesus with David and Abraham. Mark starts with the preaching of John the Baptist. Luke starts with a dedication to Theophilus and follows with a prediction of the birth of John the Baptist. John begins with a theological prologue. He wants us to understand Jesus from a divine point of view. John presents the truth that Jesus is God in human flesh, and his words and deeds are those of the God-Man.

The opening verses of John's gospel present several reasons to believe that Jesus, the Word, is God:

Jesus is eternal (1a, 2)

John uses the title, the Word, for Jesus. In verse 14, we learn that the Word is Jesus.

Like the Father, Jesus always was and existed before the beginning of time.

The tense of the verb "was" means "was continuing." There never was a time when Christ did not exist.

Jesus is in relationship with God (1b, 2)

The word "with" means "toward" and implies a face-to-face relationship.

While Jesus is distinct from the Father, he is coexistent with God the Father.

Jesus is God (1c)

Jesus is coequal and coeternal with God the Father.

Jesus is not less of God than the Father was, or the Spirit in his essence. Jesus is fully God and fully man (14).

Jesus is Creator (3)

Jesus was the Father's agent in creating the universe.

Nothing exists that Jesus did not have a hand in creating (Colossians 1:16).

Jesus' work of revealing God began with creation, because all of creation reveals God.

Jesus is the source of life (4)

Every living thing owes its life to the creator: Jesus.

Jesus Christ the Creator provides physical life. Jesus Christ the Redeemer provides spiritual life. Jesus Christ the Savior provides eternal life.

Jesus brings light to a dark world (4b, 5)

Where light goes, darkness is dispelled.

Jesus will be victorious in spite of opposition.

Jesus came to the world with a message of hope, and he came from heaven where he had lived eternally with the Father. God sent his light into the world, but mankind did not understand it, could not grasp it. But the world will never be able to defeat it.

Application

Grow in your knowledge of Jesus Christ and the life he came to give.