

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

Lesson #1 -The Nature of Jesus

Scripture Reading: John 1:1-5

01/06/19

Introduction:

1. Many have different perspectives about the nature of Jesus: (He as a “good man” or a “prophet”, etc.)
2. John begins his gospel by establishing the identity of Jesus.
3. What characteristics define the nature of Jesus?
4. In this lesson we will identify the nature of Jesus and what this means for us today.

I. THE NATURE OF JESUS

A. ETERNAL -Jn 1:1, 2

1. “In the beginning was the Word...” -Jn 1:1
 - a. Genesis begins with similar language. Moses, however, moves forward from the beginning.
 - b. John opens with the beginning and looks back into eternity to see the preexistence of Christ.
 - c. There was never a time when Jesus was not. -cf. Jn 8:58
 - d. Jesus is the “Word”. By word revelation is made known. Jesus came to reveal to man the heavenly Father. -cf. (Co 2:9; Heb 1:1-3; Jn 14:9; Ph 2:5-11)
2. “The Word was with God”
 - a. Jesus and the Father are two distinct beings.
 - b. God is from eternity, Jesus was with God, therefore, Jesus is eternal.
3. “The Word was God”
 - a. From FF Bruce – If both “Word” and “God” had a definite article, then John would be conveying the idea that Jesus and God were completely identical. (ie. One in the same being) This would contradict what he already had said about the Father and the Son (“The Word was with God”)
 - b. “No article appears before *theos* (God), not only to make it clear that it is a predicate nominative, but also to emphasize that he who was affirmed to be the Word is possessed of the essence (nature) of deity.” —Gospel Advocate Commentaries
 - c. Jesus was referred to with as God with the definite article -Jn 20:28

B. CREATOR -Jn 1:3

1. All things were made through Jesus. Therefore, He is the Creator and not a created being as some have wrongfully suggested.
2. Note other passages:
 - a. He created all things -Co 1:15-18
 - b. He upholds all things by His word -He 1:3

C. LIFE AND LIGHT -Jn 1:4, 5

1. All life comes only through Jesus.
 - a. This includes both spiritual and physical life
 - b. E.g. -Scientist have disproven the theory of spontaneous generation.
 - c. Jesus is life -Jn 14:6; 10:10
2. Jesus is the Light of this world -Jn 8:12
 - a. Light is representative of truth and morality
 - b. Darkness represents lies and all forms of evil
 - c. Some love darkness rather than light -Jn 3:21
 - d. When the gospel is preached, the light of truth is revealed -2Co 4:6; Ac 26:18

D. JESUS WAS REJECTED BY HIS OWN -Jn 1:11

1. They knew prophecy -Mt 2:3-6
2. He did many miracles in their midst -Ac 2:22; Jn 20:30, 31
3. They sought to discredit Him -Mt 22:15-ff
4. They sought to kill Him -Jn 11:49, 50

Conclusion:

1. What will we do with Jesus?
2. Will we acknowledge His nature and keep His word?
3. Only by knowing and following His blessed will we ever find salvation for our souls -Ac 4:12