

**Series:** John: That You May Believe

**Sermon:** Behold and Believe

**Scripture:** John 1:1-18

**Teacher:** Jeff Norris

**Date:** April 7, 2024

**John 1:1-18 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

<sup>2</sup> *He was in the beginning with God.*

<sup>3</sup> *All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.*

<sup>4</sup> *In him was life, and the life was the light of men.*

<sup>5</sup> *The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*

<sup>6</sup> *There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.*

<sup>7</sup> *He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him.*

<sup>8</sup> *He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.*

<sup>9</sup> *The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.*

<sup>10</sup> *He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him.*

<sup>11</sup> *He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.*

<sup>12</sup> *But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,*

<sup>13</sup> *who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.*

<sup>14</sup> *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.*

<sup>15</sup> *(John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”)*

<sup>16</sup> *For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.*

<sup>17</sup> *For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.*

<sup>18</sup> *No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.*

### **The eternality of Jesus. (v. 1-2)**

- "What is it like in eternity? What's there? For millennia, the human imagination has groped and guessed, peering into the darkness. And in that darkness it has dreamed of dreadful gods and goddesses, of devils and powers, or of space and ultimate nothingness. Staggered by immensity, we are left terrified of what might be. If there is a God behind it all, what is he like?

Jesus. That is the Christian answer. He is like Jesus Christ."

- Michael Reeves, *Rejoicing in Christ*, p. 13

- "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." (v. 1)

- John 17:5 (ESV)

*And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.*

- "Here, then, is the revolution: for all our dreams, our dark and frightened imaginings of God, *there is no God in heaven who is unlike Jesus*. For he is God. "Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father," he says, for "I and the Father are one" (Jn. 14:9; 10:30). God cannot be otherwise."

- Michael Reeves, *Rejoicing in Christ*, p. 14

- "Let us then be rid of that horrid, sly idea that behind Jesus, the friend of sinners, there is some more sinister being, one thinner on compassion and grace. There cannot be! Jesus is the Word. He is one with his Father. He is the radiance, the glow, the glory of who his Father is ... If we do *not* go to this Word to know God, then all our thoughts about God, however respectful, worshipful or philosophically satisfying, will be nothing but idolatry."

- Michael Reeves, *Rejoicing in Christ*, p. 15

- "We must take God, not as considered abstractly and simply, but God in Christ; for other notions of God are terrible."

- Richard Sibbes, *The Works of Richard Sibbes*, 2:230.

### **The creator Jesus. (v. 3, 10)**

- Prov. 8:27-30 (ESV)

*When he established the heavens, I was there;  
when he drew a circle on the face of the deep.  
when he made firm the skies above,  
when he established the fountains of the deep,  
when he assigned to the sea its limit,  
so that the waters might not transgress his command,  
when he marked out the foundations of the earth;  
then I was beside him, like a master workman;  
and I was daily his delight,  
rejoicing before him always.*

- Colossians 1:16-17 (ESV)

*For by him all things were created, on heaven and on earth, visible and invisible,  
whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities -- all things were created  
through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold  
together.*

### **The light of Jesus. (v. 4-5, 9)**

### **The witness to Jesus. (v. 6-8, 15)**

### **The invitation of Jesus. (v. 11-13)**

### **The incarnation of Jesus. (v. 14)**

- “John also had something else from the Old Testament on his mind as he wrote: the tabernacle, the tent where the Lord would come and be with his people in the wilderness, and where his glory would be seen. For when John says that the Word “made his dwelling among us” (Jn. 1:14), he puts it strangely: more literally, he writes that the Word “pitched his tent among us.””

- Michael Reeves, *Rejoicing in Christ*, p. 13-14

### **The glory of Jesus. (v. 14)**

- 2 Corinthians 4:6 (ESV)

*For God who said, “Let shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the  
light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.*

### **The nature of Jesus. (v. 16-17)**

### **The revelation of Jesus. (v. 18)**

- Hebrews 1:1-3 (ESV)

*Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.*

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