

John 1:1-13

- 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
- 2 The same was in the beginning with God.
- 3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.
- 4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men.
- 5 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.
- 6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.
- 7 The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe.
- 8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.
- 9 That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.
- 10 He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.
- 11 He came unto his own, and his own received him not.
- 12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:
- 13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

As we look back down the corridors of time, we see that many wonderful visits have been made. In the early days of the world, when Adam and Eve were still in the Garden of Eden, God came down every evening and walked with them through that beautiful garden. That was a wonderful visit.

Later, when the world was sunk in sin, God came down and visited Noah. He told Noah that He was going to destroy the world with a flood, and commanded him to build an ark to save himself, his family, and each of God's creatures. That was a wonderful visit.

Then came the day when God wanted to test Abraham's love. He commanded him to take his only son Isaac, and offer him upon the mountain as a human sacrifice. But God sent a ram to take Isaac's place on the altar. That also was a wonderful visit.

After Paul was thrown to the ground on the Damascus Road, after he had heard the voice of Jesus, he was led into the city where he prayed as a blind man for three days. Then God sent Ananias to open Paul's eyes and tell him what God wanted him to do. This was also a wonderful visit.

But the most wonderful, the most glorious, the most meaningful visit ever made was the one God made on the first Christmas, when He became flesh and visited this world in the form of His Son. You know how Jesus was born of a virgin, led a sinless life, died to pay the penalty we deserve for our sins, was raised from the

dead as proof that his death was sufficient to save us, and that He ascended to Heaven where he now sits beside the Father and intercedes on our behalf.

In these first thirteen verses, John tells how that visit was received. He speaks of four things: the Creation, the Coming, the Crime, and the Converts.

1. The Creation

Verse three tells us that "all things were made by Him; and without Him was not any thing made that was made." Who was John talking about? He was talking about Jesus Christ. We say that God created all things. Yes, but He created them through His Son. Verse 1 tells us that Jesus was in the beginning with God.

Go back to the time when God created the world, and you find Jesus by His side. When God said, "Let there be light," Christ was there. When God said, "Let us make the sea and the dry land," Christ was there. When God said, "Let us make the animals and the fish and the fowls," Christ was there. When God said, "Let us make man in our own image," Christ was there as the agent of creation.

Now man doesn't create anything: he just combines existing material in different ways to build new things from the existing elements. But Christ, as the agent of creation, made everything out of nothing. He simply spoke and it came into being. Man can build a skyscraper one hundred stories high. He can build a bridge that spans a mighty river. He can build a plane that flies 600 miles per hour. But in all of his building, he must use materials already here. Only God can create something out of nothing.

Jesus created the blue heavens above. Jesus created the space between the earth and the sky. Jesus created the water in the rivers, lakes, and oceans. Jesus created the sun and the moon and the stars. Jesus put the flowers in the field and the trees in the forest. Jesus put the fish in the sea, the birds in the air, and the animals on the land. Then Jesus made His masterpiece: man! Jesus created a man and a woman and placed them here on earth.

God the Father was the source of creation, but God the Son was the instrument who brought to pass all that we see in the world. So we see Jesus living with God the Father in the beginning, ages before His wonderful visit to earth as a newborn child on that first Christmas day.

2. The Coming

There came a day in Heaven when God decided to send His Son into the world. Why did He do that? For one reason only - He saw that men and women were lost and going down to Hell and He wanted to provide a way of salvation for them. So God sent His Son into the world that through Him we might be saved.

He came as a baby. He grew up to be a man. He went about doing good, He performed many miracles and taught the great truths of God. Finally, He was crucified upon Calvary's cross. In His crucifixion we see God's purpose being fulfilled. Christ didn't come primarily as a doer of good deeds or a teacher of great truths. He came to die for sinners! Romans 5:8 says, "God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

Especially at Christmas time we hear people telling why they think Jesus came into the world. Some say that He came to bring peace to the nations. If that is so, His coming was a failure, because we have never had peace on earth.

Some say that He came to set an example of brotherly love for us, teaching us to do kind things for others. If that is so, His coming was still a failure, because men still hate one another as much as ever.

If these people would just go to God's word, they would find the reason for His coming clearly spelled out for them. John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." That's why He came!

Several years ago a young doctor went to China as a medical missionary. Soon he was confronted with a disease which was killing many people, and for which he knew no remedy. This disease was not listed in any medical book. There was no laboratory in China where he could do research work.

So this doctor did a daring thing. He studied patient after patient and filled his notebook with a list of their symptoms. Then he filled several tubes with the germs of this disease and took a ship for America.

Just before he landed in New York City, he took these deadly germs into his own body and then hurried to John Hopkins Hospital. He presented himself as a guinea pig to the professors at the hospital. They studied the disease and found a remedy. By the grace of God this young doctor lived and carried the remedy back to China where hundreds of lives were saved because of his sacrifice.

But that is just a slight picture of what the coming of Jesus meant. He saw men dying in sin. And what did He do? He came and

took our sin in His own body and died of the disease on the cross. That is the purpose of His coming. He came to die that we might live forever.

3. The Crime

The crime is listed in John 1, verse 11, "He came unto his own, and his own received him not." This is mankind's blackest sin, the world's greatest crime.

The men who start wars and bring sorrow and death upon millions of people are committing a crime. The man who murders commits a crime. The man who steals commits a crime.

But here is the greatest crime - Jesus came with His hands full of blessings, holding them out to the men and women of His day. But they rejected Him. They turned their backs upon Him. Then they finally killed Him.

He comes to men and women today, even as He did then, but like the innkeeper, they have no room for Him. Yet we know who He is and what He can do for us. Those men of old didn't know those things. Surely our crime is greater than theirs.

Everyday it seems I read in the newspaper how some man shot and killed another man. And I say to myself. "How foolish he was. What did he hope to gain. He has no life left. Either they'll execute him or he'll spend the rest of his life in prison." But as foolish as that killer may have been, the men and women who reject Jesus Christ are greater fools. They have nothing waiting for them but death and Hell!

4. The Converts

But now we come to the bright side of the picture. Verse 12 says, "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:"

It does not say as many as live good lives. It does not say as many as do good deeds. It does not say as many as join the church. It does not say as many as are baptized. It says, "But as many as RECEIVED him, to THEM gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:"

There is just ONE way for you to become a child of God. You must receive Jesus Christ as your savior.

There are many people who admire Him. There are many people who think He was a great man. There are many people who think He was a great teacher. There are even many people who accept that

He is the Son of God. And many people love to hear songs and sermons about Him. But they have not received Him in their hearts and that is the one thing they must do to have eternal life.

Romans 10, verses 9 and 10 say, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

And what do these become who receive Jesus? They become the children of God. And, oh, the marvelous things that God will do for His children! He will wash away their sins. He will give them peace of heart and mind. He will walk down life's pathway with them all the way. He will be with them in the hour of death. He will take them home to Heaven at the close of life's day.

For the children of God there is a land where there is no night, no death, no sorrow. It is a land where we shall have our loved ones, not just for a little while, but forever. I am glad that Jesus visited the world and made all of this possible. I am glad that He went to Calvary for us all, and I am glad that He can visit any open heart, bringing joy and peace and eternal life to that heart.

Hallelujah! Amen!

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