

PROCLAIMING CHRIST THIS CHRISTMAS

CHRIST IS THE PRE-EXISTENT GOD (VS 1-2)

- 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
2 He was in the beginning with God.

CHRIST IS THE CREATOR (VS 3)

- 3 All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

CHRIST IS LIFE AND LIGHT (VS 4-5)

- 4 In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. 5 And the Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it

(John 1:1-5, LSB).



PROCLAIMING CHRIST

The Gospel of John is a unique Gospel as we compare it to the three gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke). The three Gospels are called the synoptic Gospels. They are called synoptic gospels because they all have the same summarised narrative Gospel stories, presentations and intentions. For example, the Gospel of Matthew started with the genealogy of Christ the King, born by a virgin birth. In the Gospel of Mark, started with the preaching of John the Baptist, who faithfully proclaimed Christ is the Messiah. Third, in the Gospel of Luke, the author started his gospel with the story of the birth of Christ. Then, followed by the birth of John the Baptist. A few months after that, the birth of Christ. But the Gospel of John began with theology, the Deity of Christ. John the Beloved began his gospel narrative not from the genealogy of biblical men and women but from Christ, the pre-existent God, the Son of God. Christ is the centre and focus of the Gospel. Not just like his three friends, Matthew, Mark and Luke, where they presented Christ as King, Christ as Servant and Christ as Man.

With this in mind, the main Greek word in the Gospel of John is “believe” or “Pisteuo.” The words “to believe” were mentioned more than 100 times in the four Gospels. In the Gospel of John alone 50 times. If we include the word “love” or “agape” in the letters of John 40 times. But Pisteuo was a more significant word in the Gospel of John. Many scholars have written commentaries, expositions, journal articles, dissertations and even taught



HISTORY OF ISLAM by Ozan Aydin

Highlights:

I'm very happy to be of service to Faith in Christ Church and which took interest in my own life experiences and my knowledge of Islam religion, theology and life.

I felt honoured to have the task of teaching and helping fellow church members to learn more about Islam as a religion being applied in Sydney.

I'm grateful that the presentation was received well and that many came and asked a lot of questions. To God be all the glory!

and preached the book. All of them agree that the main theme of John's Gospel is Jesus Christ is God, and we need to believe and love Him. John the Beloved being inspired by the Holy Spirit presented his first chapter and in his first verse, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God" (John 1:1). The Gospel of John is an important book every believer of Christ should read because it presents and proclaims who Christ is and the works of His salvation to the dying world. Those who believe in Him will love God and love others.

Now John presented Christ as Logos (The Word) who was with God and who was God. He was the message of salvation. He was the reason the world exists. He was the reason we exist. We are created in the image of God with the purpose of glorifying Christ here on earth. By His word, He created the heavens and the earth. He existed before the world began. The Word who became flesh is the Saviour and the Messiah of the world and no one else. He is the First and the Last. Christ was "the Word became flesh" (1 John 1:14). He is life and the light of the world. The Word has been used in the four gospels, but in this particular Gospel, the Word was a personal pronoun. It is the name of a person, Jesus Christ, the Saviour Messiah.

We know we are in the season of Christmas, and we always love the Christmas season and its festivities. But let us be reminded that Christ was born here on earth by a miraculous virgin birth. Mary had a divine conception by the Holy Spirit who overshadowed her. We need to understand the reason why God sent His only begotten Son to the world is to save you and me from the wrath of God and His condemnation of the world to hell. Therefore, those who believe will receive eternal life. The eternal kindness of God will be upon them forever. However, as believers in Christ, while waiting for His return, let us remain faithful to our calling to love and obey Christ His words and others. That is why Christmas is not about 12 days of Christmas or Santa Claus is coming to town; It is not about exchanging gifts and feeding the poor. It is about the Christ. The King. The Messiah. The Eternal Word came down to earth to save you and me.