**Studies in the book of John - I AM the Word**

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In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God- children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God. The word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:1-15)

**Introduction**

Who is Jesus? Is he just a good teacher? Is he just a religious man? Is he just a great leader or prophet? John 20:30-31 says “Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.” John was a first-hand witness, and had a first-hand experience when he was with Jesus. All of us see Jesus. But we may see him from different aspects, rather than who he really is. *Isaiah 53:2 says “he had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.”* Jesus was a common man.

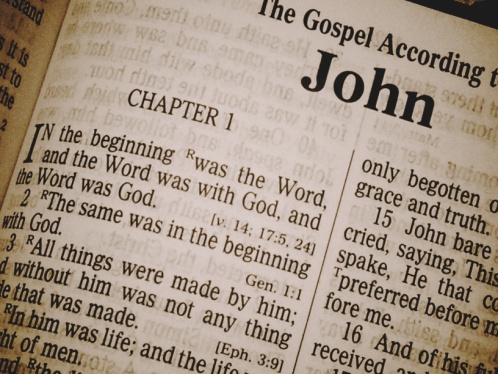
In our society today, Christianity has become a very convenient religion. We may come to church and do the things we do in church for the ‘feel good factor’. However, we often forget that being a Christian means to turn our lives 180 degrees around. When we become a Christian, we are no longer of the world. However, though we are no of the world, it is very hard to take the world out of us.

John tells us of Jesus’ inner life, identity and motivation.

**The Big Idea**

If you truly understand who Jesus says he is, would that change the way you live?

1. Jesus is Eternally God

“In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God. He was with God in the beginning.”

Genesis 1:1 “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” (John 1:1-2)

“This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time,” (2 Timothy 1:9)

Jesus existed even before the universe was created. He was from the beginning. Before Jesus was born, John described him as Logos, which means the Word.

The Word is an expressed form of that comes from the mouth to the ear, which means that Jesus was a communication from God to us. ‘Logos’ means ‘the reason why’. John took this idea and placed it on Jesus. Therefore, Jesus is the reason for everything!

Revelations 19:13 “He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God.”

2. Jesus is Essentially God

The Word was WITH God (John 1:1)

‘Logos’ cannot be God if it is not with God. Therefore, Jesus HAS to be God.

The great doctrine of the Christian faith is THE HOLY TRINITY. The bible says that it is a mystery of faith, and that we can never truly understand it. Though, when we read the bible, the Holy Trinity will come out. God is three, but God is one. This is the great mystery of the Christian faith. People have come up with countless explanations and illustrations about it, but none of it can fully explain what it exactly is. We don’t fully understand it, but because Jesus said it, and because the scripture points us towards it, it is something we must continue to hold on to.

Jesus has a relationship with God even before he was in the flesh. He perfectly reflects everything that is God. Jesus is part of the Holy Trinity.

3. Jesus is Equally God

The Word WAS God (John 1:1)

God lived in the humiliation of the human body, but yet he loved us enough to come as Jesus so that he could die for our sins.

(John 1:14) The word became flesh. Jesus came so that he could live in the humiliation of being human. It takes being perfect to die for all our sins. That is why he may be tempted in every way, but yet he was without sin. He declared this so boldly, that the Jewish leaders wanted to stone him for blasphemy.

**The Big Idea & Conclusion**

* -How would believing in who Jesus says he is change our lives?

Is it in the way we come to church or in the way we live our lives, we are carrying the glory of God. Coming to church, serving or tithing is only part of the whole picture.

* -When Jesus comes, he means to turn our lives 180 degrees around. He is not calling us to a convenient faith, he is calling us to be something bigger than ourselves.

Jesus never intended for anyone to say that he is a great prophet.

“I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: I’m ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don’t accept his claim to be God. That is one thing we must not say.”

“You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronising nonsense about him being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.”

-C.S Lewis

“If Jesus is not God, he is a liar and a lunatic. If Jesus is God, he is Lord.”

-Josh McDowell-

John leaves us no choice but to confront the deity of Jesus. Christian Faith is not a convenient faith. You cannot accept his teachings, and not accept him as God. If it is really true that he is not God, Paul says that we are to be the most pitied. And all that was sacrificed is for nothing. That is why Paul is willing to stand his ground so firmly that Jesus is God and he is willing to die for his faith. Same goes for the other apostles.

**Fact: Jesus IS God**

You are here to worship the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. He will come back one day and judge the world. Are we ready for that?

We often take our discipleship too lightly, thinking that our faith is a ‘passport to heaven’. Being a Christian is not about us, it is always about Him. The Christian faith must not be centred around us.

“I did not go to religion to make me happy. I always knew a bottle of Port would do that. If you want a religion to make you feel really comfortable, I certainly do not recommend Christianity.”

-C.S Lewis-

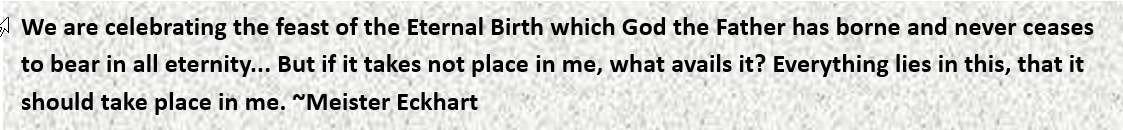
Question: Would you follow Jesus even if your life is not getting any better?



We tend to equate ‘blessings’ as ‘our way’. When things do not go our way, we backtrack and rethink our faith. Yes, God definitely wants to bless us abundantly. But Jesus never promised a problem-free life, He promises us that even in your circumstances, you will live above it. Hold on to the truth that Jesus is God in spite of our circumstances. It is a blessing when God disciplines us. He is a sovereign God.

“Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.” (Romans 5:3-5)

God sometimes allows difficulties into our lives. We need to make Jesus the starting point of our faith. Not blessings and rewards. Circumstances are not the primary guideline for our faith. Our trust is in the gospel truth. Circumstances may not be easy or comfortable but the bible paints a picture of reality. As Christians who understand the lordship of Christ, we can choose to recognise who God is, what he has done in the past, what he is doing now and what he is going to do in the future. We can choose to put him in the right perspective.

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**Pray:**

* All the people of God will equip themselves with the Word so that they may not be confused by literature circulated by other religious groups which portrays Jesus as a prophet and not the Son of God.
* God will give boldness to His people to state and stand firm about their Faith in Jesus.
* We will seek the Holy Spirit for direction every day to lead us to do God’s calling in sharing the Word.
* We will be clear of the idea that Jesus is eternally, essentially and equally God
* People of God will continue to persevere during difficulties in their lives and trust God to deliver them from all circumstances.

***Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? (Romans 8:35)***

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*2 APRIL 2016*

**Pray:**

* The people of God will make time to come especially to be a blessing and be blessed.
* God will convict the hearts of the chosen ones to step up and avail themselves for God’s plan.
* God will speak to those involve in missions to reach out to CG members especially the NextGen to draw them into the mission field.
* God will instil the spirit of unity & raise up committed leaders to lead the candidates for MCPP 1 & 2 to step up for this seminar.

***Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. (Mathew 28:19)***

Description: /data/data/com.infraware.PolarisOfficeStdForTablet/files/.polaris_temp/image23.png**MALAYSIA MY NATION: THE PEOPLE OF GOD IN EAST MALAYSIA**

**Young and new believers.**

**Pray:**

* God will stir the hearts of the young and new believers to desire to equip themselves in His Word to prevent wrong ideas about Jesus being put into their thoughts.
* People of God will pray for His hand of righteousness to prevail and enable the matured people of God in East Malaysia to step up and speak the Truth about Christ and refute wrong messages being circulated.
* Holy Spirit will convict the hearts of young and new believers about Jesus being the Son of God.
* People of God will use the coming Good Friday and Easter celebration to reinforce the message of Christ to the young and new believers.

***If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the son of God, God lives in them and they are in God. (1 John 4:15)***

* **A TRANSFORMED WORLD: Qatar**

***Open Doors for the Gospel among indigenous people***

**Pray:**

* For the people of the land to be open to the Gospel.
* For the government leaders to change to a policy of religious tolerance for the Gospel to be heard.
* God will raise up leaders to lead and mobilize church planting among indigenous people.
* Breakthrough and efforts by the Christian business leaders in sharing their victories through Christ.

***Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.” (Mathew 19:26)***