

Course: Jesus the Son of God

Section Two: Jesus is God the Son.

Lesson Four

Lesson Title: God's Message to Mankind; the Word (logos) of God.

Text: John 1:1-4;

Introduction: Jesus Christ is the eternal Word of God; God's message to a sinful world. A word spoken by a person with authority is important. How much more God's message to mankind that He has spoken by His Son, the Word (logos) of God.

Introductory Story: Greek concept of the Word (logos), John 1:1.

New Testament was written in Greek. John uses 'logos' a word known in Greek thought. Compare Paul in Athens where He quotes from the Greek poets, (Acts 17).

The concept 'logos' means that Jesus is

- The mind of God;
- The wisdom of God;
- The power of God;
- The incarnate God. 1 Corinthians 1:24 'But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.'

Main Points:

1. John begins His gospel with a declaration that Jesus is the Word 'logos'

a) The Eternal Son of God

'In the beginning was the Word' (John 1:1)

'In the beginning...' Beginning - means in this context beyond time - a time beyond which you cannot go.

Jesus is called 'The Everlasting Father' (Isaiah 9:6)

b) He is equal with the Father

'The Word was with God, and the Word was God' (John 1:1)

'The same was in the beginning with God', (John 1:2)

'The Son of God declares the Father' (John 1:18).

c) He is the Creator God (The Word of God).

The creative power of God and the eternal purpose of God.

All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made' (John 1:3).

2. He is God's message to mankind, Hebrews 1:1 - 2:4

The writer to the Hebrews shows the importance of the Gospel because God spoke in the Old Testament by the prophets but now He has spoken by His Son, (1:2).
The importance of the Gospel is seen because the Lord Jesus is:

a) The Creator God 1:2-3, 10-14

'heir of all things'
'he made the worlds'
'upholding all things by the word of his power'

b) The eternal God 1:3

'the brightness of *his* glory'
His glory was veiled in His flesh. No man could see His glory and live.
'the express image of his person'
He is equal with the Father.

c) The Messiah, the Redeemer 1:3

'by himself purged our sins sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high'
A finished work. He sat down.

d) The One who the angels worship 1:6

It is commanded for the angels to worship Him.

e) The One who sits enthroned in the heavens 1:8.

He is the eternal God who sits on the throne.
He has always been there as God and now He is both God and Man.

f) The Anointed One 1:9

He as Man received the anointing of the Holy Spirit because He is worthy and through His redemption we have inherited the promise of the Holy Spirit.

3. Rejection of Jesus, the eternal Son of God

Those who deny the deity of Christ; deny the gospel.

a) Jehovah's Witnesses deny that Jesus is God by misinterpreting scripture.

Jesus said 'the Father is greater than I'
John 14:28 'You have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come again unto you. If you loved me, you would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: for my Father is greater than I.'

Question: What did Jesus mean?

Scripture cannot be isolated from scripture. It must be understood in the light of scripture.
John 14:28 must be understood in the light of Philippians 2:5-11.
Jesus came to earth to do the will of the Father.

He became obedient to the Father but He was always equal with the Father. John 10:30 'I and *my* Father are one.'

b) The Nicene Creed (325 AD) was written as a confession of faith to uphold the teaching that Jesus is God.

'We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, begotten of the Father, only begotten - that is, of the substance with the Father; God from God, Light from Light, Very God from very God, begotten not made, Consubstantial with the Father, by Whom all things were made, both in heaven and in earth, Who for us men and for our salvation came down, and was incarnate, and was made man; suffered and rose the third day; ascended into the heavens; and will come again to judge the quick and the dead.
And in the Holy Ghost.'

The Nicene Creed opposed the teaching of Arianism.

Arianism held that Jesus the Son of God was:

- i) a created being
- ii) Unequal to the Father
- iii) Capable of sin

c) What about the argument that people don't know?

People in false religions may be ignorant of the truth that Jesus is the Son of God but what they are following is a deliberate rejection of the truth.

Example: Islam is a rejection of the truth. It rejects that Jesus is the Son of God.

Quote: Koran 19:88-92

'They say: "(Allah) Most Gracious has begot a son!"

Indeed ye have put forth a thing most monstrous!

At it the skies are ready to burst, the earth to split asunder, and the mountains to fall down in utter ruin, That they should invoke a son for (Allah) Most Gracious. For it is not consonant with the majesty of (Allah) Most Gracious that He should beget a son.'

Muslims will say that the Bible is the Word of God but they follow a religion that denies the Son of God. The Bible says this is antichrist.

1 John 2:22-23 'Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son. Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father:'

The Message of the Gospel has been given to us by the eternal Son of God. The writer to Hebrews expresses the importance of the message:

Hebrews 2:3-4 'How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard *him*; God also bearing *them* witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?'

Summary:

God has spoken by His Son, the logos, the Word of God. The importance of the message is seen in that Jesus is

1. The Word (*Logos*) of God, the eternal Son of God
2. God's message to mankind.
3. There is no other way of salvation for those who reject that Jesus is the Son of God, John 14:6.